HARNESSING THE LIGHTNING

Inventive Skill Steadily Broadening the Field of Electricity.

WHAT THE PATENT OFFICE RECORDS SHOW

Electrical Inventions Pouring Into Headquarters in Washington—Some Recent Patents—Luxuries that Cost a Small Fortune.

Electricity dominates invention nowadays. A steady stream of new ideas relating to the mysterious fluid is pouring into the patent office. Yet this branch of research is only in its infancy. Before long, if progress continues at its present rate, says the Washington Star, the work of the world will be mainly done by electrical apparatus.

Already electricity contributes enormously to the luxury of the rich. The household establishment of Mr. Gorgius Midas is fairly run by harnessed lightning. The walls of the dwelling are threaded with a maze of hidden wires, the currents distributed over it being controlled by switches and automatic regulators. A complete electric plant in the basement furnishes lights and runs an elevator which has no attendant, being perfectly controlled by push buttons.

On waking in the morning Mr. Midas summons his valet by a push button, and presently is notified that his bath is ready. His ablutions are accompanied by a mild scrub with an electric brush, which produces a pleasant tingling sensation and is healthful for the skin. Emerging from the tub he rubs himself to a glow with an electric towel, which is woven on a loose web of very fine wire so as to be perfectly flexible. Towel and brush are connected with a small storage battery and the current may be made as gentle as desired. The same remark applies to a comb that hangs by the shaving glass. Nobody has yet invented an electric razor, but that will come in time.

Mr. Midas uses an electrical toothbrush for the benefit of his gums, and then, feeling fit for a little exercise, he devotes five minutes to handling a pair of light dumb bells. These also are electrical, and give a series of mild shocks to the person employing them. The gentleman is now ready for his breakfast. His coffee is drunk out of a cup of precious metal, which is readily attached to a little battery beneath the table by hooking it on to the end of a fine wire. In his left hand he holds a small electrode that terminates another wire. The act of drinking closes the circuit and the liquid conveys the electricity to the alimentary canal and stomach. This is not only excellent for digestion, but it renders more palatable the fluid taken from the cup, because the electricity stimulates the organs of taste.

Having finished breakfast and read the morning paper, Mr. Midas takes his hat and cane and starts down town for his office. The stick has a massive gold head and would be a prize for a sneak thief, but it reposes safely in the hall rack, which has an alarm attachment, so as to give instant notice in case a coat or anything else on it is removed. The cane referred to is itself electrical, sending pleasant thrills through the body of the user. Leaving Mr. Midas to pursue his way to business, it will be as well to return to his wife. She is musically inclined and spends most of the morning in playing on a piano, which is so contrived that she receives a series of shocks while manipulating the keys, thus undergoing a treatment for rheumatism incidentally to the performance. Upstairs the children are playing with dolls that are made to dance by electricity.

MECHANICAL SERVANTS A POSSIBILITY.

All this might be considered rather far-fetched were it not that patents have been taken out for every one of the devices described in this article. To such a point has electrical service been carried that some day one may see in common employment such automata as are spoken of in the romance of "The Coming Race"—mechanical servants actuated by push buttons, which will glide noiselessly about, attending to their work and never "talking back." When Mrs. Midas is ready to go out she summons her carriage by touching an electric bell that communicates with the stable. Instead of walking downstairs she calls the elevator by a push button. Though without an attendant, it responds to her touch, pauses to take her aboard and carries her to the first floor. The closing of the door behind her releases the elevator and places it at the control of whoever else may want it.

Mr. Midas occasionally has an engagement at his club that keeps him out late. It is so this evening. At the close of business hours he drops in at a gilded saloon in the neighborhood of his office to get a cocktail and to have his shoes shined, the latter process being performed by an automatic contrivance. He drops a nickel into a slot, sits down in a chair and puts his feet upon two supports provided for the purpose. An electric motor actuates the brushes—first a brush that carries blacking, supplied from a reservoir, and then polishing brushes. On his way home several hours later, the night being dark, Mr. Midas wishes to know the time. His watch is provided with a very small electric light bulb. In his other waistcoat pocket, connected with the watch by a chain which serves as a conducting wire, is a little battery. An instant's pressure upon a charm that is attached to the chain closes the circuit, ignites the lamp and illuminates the dial.

When Mr. Midas reaches home he has no trouble in finding the keyhole. He pushes the button and an electric light shines through a round hole in the door, illuminating the keyhole. As he enters the house all is silent. The only noise he hears as he passes his wife's room is that of the baby's cradle, which is being rocked by electricity. He retires to rest and dreams that he is shipwrecked on a desert island, where savages amuse themselves by tatooing him with very improper pictures, so he will never again be able to appear in civilized society. The process is infinitely more painful than the modern method, by which a needle, actuated by electricity, jumps up and down and makes punctures so rapidly that a line is described with it almost as fast as if drawn carefully on paper. Thus the sketch is outlined, and is filled in with a similar machine carrying five needles and making a stripe one-eighth of an inch wide. The needles are dipped in vermillion red. To turn out a tatooed man in this wise, all ready for exhibition, costs only $200.

ELECTRIC BOATS.

Of course, Mr. Midas has an electric pleasure boat. The power for running it is contained in storage batteries concealed under the seats. Electricity is rapidly coming into use for navigation. It is said that electric boats are replacing gondolas in Venice. A new invention is an electric float for the life saving service. It is sent out through the surf to a distressed vessel, being propelled and steered from the shore and carrying an electric lamp of several hundred candle power. An improved life buoy is provided with an electric light, so that it may attract the attention of a drowning person when it is thrown overboard. Canal boats are now run by electricity, and the Baltic ship canal is to be equipped with 25,000 electric lamps. It is expected that some day ships may be propelled by electricity drawn from the ocean, the latter furnishing the motive power as well as a medium of transportation.

The records of the patent office show that electricity is constantly invading new fields. It has been ascertained recently that certain vegetables may be grown to advantage under the electric light. When the sun is not shining the lamps are turned on, and the plants are not allowed any time for sleep. Lettuce and various flowers, such as fuchsias and petunias, thrive wonderfully under this treatment, developing rapidly and luxuriantly. Experiments have shown that equally favorable effects may be secured by the direct application of electricity to the plants through wires. In this manner the production of certain vegetables has been doubled and even quadrupled. The galvanic current has been applied to seeds, causing them to sprout more quickly. Electrified peas, beans and sunflowers germinate in half the time required for the sprouting of seeds not thus treated.

Medical science could not get along without electricity nowadays. If it is suspected that a person has anything the matter with his stomach the physician obliges him to swallow a small light bulb, which illuminates him inside so that the presence of any disease or foreign body may be perceived. This idea was originated by a Frenchman, who used to induce fishes in an aquarium to swallow a light bulb on the end of a wire, when in the dark their anatomical structure would be perfectly revealed as they swam about. By similar means the entire face is illuminated, a light being introduced into the pharynx behind the nose. Doctors at present use an electrical machine somewhat like that of a dentist for drilling through diseased bone and for various other operations. They also employ electricity for cautery.

The dirigible balloon of the future will undoubtedly be run by an electric engine. Colonel W. R. King, United States army, is the inventor of an electro-magnet, which has been mounted on top of a fort at Willett's Point, near New York. It is the most powerful magnet in the world—a horseshoe made of two cannon and a metal bar, with miles of insulated telegraph wire wound around the muzzles of the guns for spools. A current is supplied from a dynamo. It is claimed that the magnet will derange the compass of an enemy's ship at a distance of six miles. A new application of electricity is for a jail cell, the walls of which are composed wholly of bars, giving as much light and ventilation as possible. The bars are hollow pipes, carrying heat in winter, and are connected with a battery. If a prisoner saws through one of them the circuit is broken, and an alarm sounds.

VARIOUS ALARMS.

Patents for alarms are in great variety. One of them is set off by escaping gas. Another is designed as a safeguard for Mr. Hayseed. His effort to blow out the gas lifts a delicately balanced electrode, closing the circuit and giving notice in the office of the hotel. An alarm in the office of a cemetery gives notification of any attempt to rob a grave. There are several devices for connecting railway tracks with wires, so that no train can enter a block while another train is on it. One of these stops the entering locomotive, shuts off its steam automatically, and spills sand on the track.

One dollar's worth of ordinary commercial gold leaf covers 900 square inches; but this material is thick compared with the gold leaf that is now made by depositing yellow metal with electricity in a bath upon a highly polished sheet of copper. In this manner a film only 1-1,000,000th of an inch in thickness may be produced. Mounted on glass, it is transparent. Only by means of the electric furnace could M. Moissan of Paris have achieved his recent success in making real diamonds artificially by melting wrought iron with carbon. It was in trying for diamonds by a similar process that a Pittsburg inventor not long ago produced "carborundum," which is coming into general use as a substitute for corundrum in grinding. The bright crystals of this new substance, which is harder than ruby or sapphire, were at first mistaken by the operator for the gems he was seeking.

There is a small bar at the patent office which consists in different parts of its length of steel, brass, tin, copper and silver, all so perfectly united that it might be supposed to have been formed that way by nature. It was made by the process of electric welding, which consists in placing two pieces of metal with the ends almost together and fusing them by passing a powerful current through them. The highest producible temperature is that of the electric arc, which runs up to 8,700 degrees Fahrenheit. By means of this enormous heat various feats have been accomplished recently which hitherto were deemed impossible. The metal uranium and other substances which could not be liquefied before have been transformed into gases. Uranium is a metal of great hardness, and, when struck against a flint, gives out sparks of much greater intensity than those produced by steel. Similarly, platinum, copper, gold, iron and silica have been volatilized, and chromium and titanium have been obtained in a pure state in large quantities.

The last fifteen years have witnessed the creation of the electric light, the electric railway, the telephone and a large variety of industries depending on electricity. They have opened new fields and fresh demands for labor. From our point of view today it seems odd that people could ever have got along without those conveniences which now are regarded as essentials of civilization and necessary to comfort.

AUTOMATIC TELEPHONE EXCHANGE.

Romaine Callender, an electrical engineer of New York, the other day exhibited and gave a working demonstration there of an entirely new system of telephone exchange which he has invented and patented here and abroad. The apparatus exhibited forms a complete telephone exchange in working order, of a kind intended for use in a small city. To explain in detail the method of communication between subscribers, a number of ordinary telephone transmitters and receivers have been placed on the walls of the room in which the apparatus is shown, and these instruments are connected with the apparatus of the exchange proper, in the center of the room.

The whole system of interconnection at the exchange is automatic, the services of operators there not being required. Subscribers make their own connections automatically by the use of a simple device attached to their transmitting and receiving instruments. By this device when a subscriber desires to connect himself with another subscriber he turns two knobs, moving indicator arms over two numbered dials, forming the proper combination of figures. For instance, if "15" were the number desired the subscriber would move one indicator arm to "1" and the other to "5," and within twelve seconds, Mr. Callender says, the bell on the calling subscriber's instrument would ring to announce the connection with the subscriber at "15." The apparatus in which the connection is made at the central station consists of a circuit selector for receiving calls and individualizing portions of the apparatus to the calling subscriber; a numerical receiver for registering the number of the telephone with which connection is desired; a numerical separator for automatically classifying the "impulses" of the call; a numeralizer for totalizing the numbers registered by the receivers, and for selecting the telephone with which connection is desired; a signaling track for signaling subscribers when a connection is made or a telephone is in use; progressive switches, mechanisms held under the control of a signaling subscriber until the connection has been effected, and a connector by which subscribers are interconnected. All this mechanism appears as an orderly arrangement of wires, keys, brushes and various other parts, which are minutely adjusted and bewilderingly numerous.

FIRE FROM INCANDESCENT LAMPS.

The fire insurance organs of the country are commenting freely on the liability of the incandescent lamp to start fires. This important question was brought before the last convention of the National Association of Fire Engineers at Montreal by Chief Lindsay of the St. Louis fire department, who, in speaking of electricity as a factor in causing fires, said it had been doubted that ignition could be caused by contact of any material with the incandescent lamp, but the matter had been set at rest by the report of the supervisor of city lighting on the result of fourteen experiments to determine under what conditions the incandescent bulb may prove to be a source of danger. A lamp was allowed to rest in a vertical position against a piece of white pine; after four hours a spot one inch in diameter was discolored to light brown. Varnished oak, well seasoned, became blackened in fifteen minutes, its varnish being blistered in three minutes. The wood had the appearance of being charred at and near the point of contact, but was not ignited. Dry white pine board began to smoke in forty minutes, but unfortunately for this most important test the lamp film burned out at the end of that time, and the experiment was not renewed. A lamp which had been encased in two thicknesses of muslin began to scorch in one minute, gave off considerable smoke at three minutes, and burst into flame at the end of six minutes. A newspaper, on which a lighted incandescent lamp had been placed, was carbonized in three minutes, and set on fire in forty-five minutes. Sixteen-candle power lamps of normal voltage were used.

Facts as to Fruit Growing in Mississippi.

Central Mississippi is specially adapted to fruit growing and berry culture. Plums, peaches, figs and oranges are raised in great perfection, in all varieties. Strawberries and tomatoes yield most generously and are favorites and remunerative crops because of the ease with which they are raised and the great facility with which they are marketed. Grapes grow everywhere and for general fruit raising there is no better section. All who have engaged in this branch of industry have been more than satisfied with results. We want a reliable representative in every town and county in this state and also want groups of three to five families who want to better their condition and live in a land of plenty and sure crops to write us for further particulars.

GEO. W. AMES, General Agent.
1617 Farnam Street, Omaha, Nebraska.

ECHOES OF THE ANTE ROOM.

The chief event in local secret society circles last week was the convention of the supreme temple of the Patriarchal Circle of America, which convened Wednesday and remained in session until late Friday afternoon. It was the fifteenth annual session of the temple. While little business of any great importance was transacted, the sessions were highly enjoyable to the delegates who were present.

When the temple convened in Patterson hall at 2 o'clock Wednesday afternoon the committee on credentials reported that there were sixty delegates who were entitled to seats in the convention hall. The meeting was opened in the usual formal style common to such bodies. The delegates were welcomed to the city by the mayor and the response was made by a prominent member of the visiting order, C. H. Lovewell of Chicago, supreme oracle. Then the body settled down to the preliminary work, which consisted of initiating the new delegates to the supreme temple degree and listening to various reports.

On the following day the reports of the supreme secretary, supreme oracle and supreme treasurer were read. The supreme oracle's report presented a matter of importance in recommending that the insurance feature of the order be strengthened and advanced, making it more prominent that it had been heretofore. As a step in this direction it was proposed that the supreme secretary and supreme treasurer act as secretary and treasurer in the insurance branch, thus forming a closer relationship between the fraternal and military divisions of the order. This recommendation was adopted. It is expected that this change will go far toward building up the order.

The supreme secretary recommended a change in the uniform of the subordinate lodges and this also was adopted. This provides that all persons who have the rights and privileges of the order shall hereafter appear at meetings in full dress uniform. The secretary also recommended several changes in the emblem, which were adopted. He also urged the building up of the Woman's Circle of the Golden Band. Any woman may join the circle, but a man must be a full-fledged member of the Patriarchal Circle before he can join.

After the transaction of some minor business on Friday the election of officers took place. The result was as follows:

Supreme oracle, C. H. Lovewell, Chicago (re-elected); supreme vice oracle, J. W. Henderson, Richmond, Ind.; supreme secretary, G. C. Ridings, Morris, Ill.; supreme marshal, J. W. Houder, Omaha; supreme treasurer, H. R. Downing, Richmond, Ind.; supreme standard bearer, S. B. Kenyon, Janesville, Wis.; supreme chaplain, L. C. Huff, Council Bluffs; supreme guard, J. A. Aulabaugh, Omaha; supreme sentinel, J. F. Bartholomew, Milwaukee; first assistant, L. Liebscher, Milwaukee; second assistant, C. L. Hopper, Omaha.

The officers were immediately installed. The ceremony was followed by an exemplification of secret work by the supreme oracle.

Elkhart, Ind., was selected as the place for holding the next session of the supreme temple, which will convene on the second Tuesday in July, 1896.

Not the least important, and certainly not the least enjoyable of the session, were the social features. One of these was the reception given the visiting delegates on Wednesday evening at the Commercial club rooms. W. A. L. Gibbon made the welcoming speech, and responses were made by several of the delegates, among them being Supreme Oracle C. H. Lovewell of Chicago, Daniel C. Roundy of Chicago, S. B. Carpenter of Elkhart, Ind., Peter Van Vechten, jr., of Milwaukee, L. C. Huff of Council Bluffs and G. C. Ridings of Morris, Ill. During the evening a beautiful set of subordinate temple officers' emblems was presented to the local temple, Irene No. 1, as a token of regard from the supreme temple. They are the first emblems of the kind in the country. The presentation was made by Miss Jessie Ridings, daughter of the supreme secretary, the speech being made by J. W. Henderson of Richmond, Ind., supreme vice oracle. The response was made by J. W. Houder, the oracle of Irene temple, in behalf of the temple.

On Thursday evening a banquet was given the delegates at the Millard hotel by the local members of the order, the toastmaster being J. W. Houder. At its conclusion the degree of knighthood was conferred upon Mayor Bemis, under a special dispensation. The mayor accepted the honor in a neat speech. A number of speeches were made by members of the temple.

The story of the beginning of the Patriarchal Circle of America furnishes a bit of interesting reading. The idea from which it grew originated in the minds of a few members of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, who felt that this order needed some feature to make it more attractive to the younger men in the country. The young men were flocking to the orders which had a military adjunct, particularly the Masonic body and the Knights of Pythias. It was deemed advisable, therefore, to form some auxiliary organization on the same lines, and from this idea the Patriarchal Circle sprung.

The idea spread through the states of Iowa, Illinois, Wisconsin and Minnesota. Among the Odd Fellos who were energetic in urging it were Newell Daniels, Peter Van Vechten and A. B. Meyers of Milwaukee, L. Lachman of St. Louis and S. B. Carpenter of Elkhart, Ind. The originators succeeded in enlisting several thousand young men in the order. Finally, in 1880, delegates were selected to attend the first meeting of the supreme temple, and an organization was completed.

All the while, however, the originators of the order contemplated that the circle should be simply a higher degree of Odd Fellowship. It was to be to the order what the Knights Templar are to the Masonic body. In accordance with this view, therefore, only such members of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows who had taken the third degree were eligible to membership in the circle. But, nevertheless, it was looked at askance by many of the older and more conservative members, who saw in it an innovation that threatened to overthrow the "encampment," which was the higher degree of Oddfellowship, but was at the time languishing because it did not attract membership as a more showy rank or degree would.

The matter was formally brought to the attention of the sovereign grand lodge of the Odd Fellows in 1881. It was thoroughly discussed, but no action was taken, the matter being laid over to the next session. Eric J. Leach, who was then sovereign grand master of Odd Fellows, was bitterly opposed to the idea, and used his influence against it. When the sovereign grand lodge convened in 1883, it was decided not to recognize the circle. This naturally created opposition, and finally it was decided by the lodge that those who were members of both orders would have to leave one or the other. Those who insisted on remaining in the circle were to lose their membership in and with that the insurance benefits of the Odd Fellows. The Patriarchal Circle was also prohibited from using the three links and the other insignia of the Odd Fellows. After this session of the sovereign grand lodge the members of the Patriarchal Circle disowned any connection with Oddfellowship, and took its stand as a separate and independent order.

This did not have the desired effect, and at the session of the sovereign grand lodge of the Odd Fellows in 1885 the members who remained in the circle were formally expelled from the order, and the circle was proscribed by legislation and arbitrarily ordered to discontinue the use of the three links and the other Odd Fellow emblems. At the same session the soveresign grand lodge organized the Patriarchs Militant.

After the separation much litigation followed. The circle continued the use of the three links, the emblems which the Odd Fellows claimed as distinctly their own, and the latter order attempted to enjoin the use in the courts. The courts, however, refused to grant the injunction, holding that the Odd Fellows had no copyright on the emblem. Members of the Patriarchal circle, on the other hand, thought that they were entitled to the insurance for which they had been paying in the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. On this point the courts decided against them, holding that the Odd Fellows had the power to determine for themselves whether their members were in good standing, and that if they desired that such of their members who were connected with the circle were not in good standing, they had the power to expel them.

If the two orders had remained together there is no doubt in the minds of thoughtful Odd Fellows that the order would have a much higher standing than it has at present. When the order expelling members of the Patriarchal circle went into effect it forced thousands of independent Odd Fellows from the ranks of that order, and the Patriarchs Militant have hardly succeeded in making up this loss.

The ceremony of raising up the newly elected chiefs of Minnehaha council No. 2, Daughters of Pocahontas, for the term ending December 31, 1895, was conducted in public by Deputy Great Sachem Sister Nellie Hale, assisted by Sister Grace Zabler, deputy great Wenonah; Sister Luella Jackman, as deputy great prophetess; Brother Henderson Lloyd, deputy great Powhattan, and Sister Flora Whitley, as acting senior past chief. The following elected and appointed chiefs were duly raized up and assumed their stumps: Sister Ella Jackman, Pocahontas; Sister Etta Blakeman, Wenonah; Sister Mary Gruner, prophetess; Brother Henderson Lloyd, Powhattan; Sister Celia Skeehan, first scout; Sister Kate Mueller, second scout; Sister Ida Gall, guard of wigwam; Sister Clyde Kingsbury, guard of forest; Sister Hannah E. Hughes, first runner; Sister Kate Keenan, second runner; Sister Flora Whitley, first warrior; Sister Frances Seidenor, second warrior; Sister Alice Carroll, third warrior; Sister Annie Shamel, fouth warrior; Brother James A. Bingham, first counselor; Brother Charles S. Frank, second counselor.

The impressive and beautiful ceremony was witnessed by a large number of appreciative paleface friends of the council. They gave due praise to the installing chiefs for the able and effective manner in which they performed the difficult task. After the new chiefs assumed their stumps, remarks were called for from Sisters Jackman and Blakeman and Brother Lloyd, who responded in a happy style. The keeper of records submitted a brief report of the operations of the council during the term just passed and then the council fire was quenched. A program, with recitations by Sister Hughes, Miss Gibson, Master Walter Winsn; songs by Sister Luella and Miss Mamie Jackman and Miss Gibson closed the literary features. An excellent lunch, consisting of ice cream and cake, was served, after which violins appeared in hands of Josph Somers and James F. McCabe, and although the evening was warm, dancing was commenced by the young people, who seemed determined to celebrate the glorious Fourth in the most appropriate style.

The council is in excellent condition and that it will improve during the term is beyond doubt. A notable incident of the end of the past term was that the presiding chief, Sister Jackman, was re-elected, the first instance of the kind in the history of the council, showing how popular she is with the members.

At the last meeting of Omaha lodge No. 18, Ancient Order of United Workmen, the following officers were elected for the ensuing term:

Master workman, R. A. McLaughlin; foreman, M. G. McLeod; overseer, H. G. Streitz; recorder, C. H. Collier; receiver, H. B. Morrill; financier, George W. Lower; guide, L. A. Fiesher; inside watchman, H. Briggs; outside watchman, J. L. Cooper; trustee, George Choplin.

Last Monday evening the following officers were installed at State lodge No. 10, Independent Order of Odd Fellows: W. H. Longenhagen, N. G.; J. Marks, V. G.; W. H. Roberston, R. S. to N. G.; J. T. Adams, L. S. to M. G.; J. H. Cooper, warden; J. Lesser, conductor; William McDiarmid, chaplain; W. D. Hamilton, I. S. G.; A. C. Lovgreen, O. S. G.; I. Demoratsky, R. S. to V. G.; A. Johnson, L. S. to V. G. The installation ceremonies were conducted by D. D. G. M., George Striffler, assisted by Grand Warden M. B. Helm, Grand Marshal Colonel Nichols and Grand Inside Guide W. Alverson. After the installation ceremonies were completed the brothers present were invited to the banquet room where refreshments were served, which wre followed by music and speeches. This served to make the evening enjoyable, as well as beneficial. Transient members are always welcome in State lodge No. 10.

Last Tuesday evening George Striffler, the D. D. G. M. of this district, assisted by the past grands from other lodges, installed the following officers at Keystone lodge No. 155, Independent Order of Odd Fellows: Noble grand, William M. McGrath; vice grand, David M. Watts; warden, Charles Abney; conductor, H. A. C. Johnson; R. S. to N. G., Charles Brown; L. S. to N. G., J. P. Jensen; R. S. S., G. W. McElroy; L. S. S., H. S. Robinson; V. G., P. J. Krogh; I. G., Jens Christensen; R. S. to V. G., James J. Meyers; L. S. to V. G., James P. Hansen. After the installation speeches were made by Past Grand Master John Evans and other prominent members of the order. A general good time was had.

Installation of officers of Benson lodge No. 221, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, took place at the last regular meeting, Thursday evening, and was conducted by Deputy District Grand Master G. Striffler, assisted by Past Grands Nichols, Helm, Alvorson, Bryant and Past Grand Master Evans. The officers for the ensuing term are: George Snell, N. G.; H. M. McGinnis, V. G.; C. Johnson, secretary; W. C. Mulford, treasurer; G. R. Williams, R. S. to N. G.; H. P. Hansen, L. S. to N. G.; James A. Howard, conductor; W. C. Hackman, R. S. S.; N. J. Nelsen, I. G.; O. F. Janes, chaplain.

Rebekah lodge, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, at Fremont, installed the following officers last evening: N. G., Mrs. Anna B. Delario; V. G., Florence Moore; secretary, Maud Murrell; treasurer, Emma Christensen; R. S., Mrs. N. L. Murrell; L. S., Mrs. Coleman; warden, Blanche Sickel; conductress, Miss Mitterling; chaplain, Mrs. J. A. Collins; I. G., Mrs. P. B. Cummings; O. G., Ed Rexroth.

At a regular meeting of Apollo encampment, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, of Fremont, the following officers were installed Thursday evening by G. P. H. G. Breitenmeld; F. M. Healey, C. P.; George Basler, S. W.; Soren Hansen, J. W.; A. Truesdell, H. P.; W. J. Bullock, scribe; B. Scburman, treasurer; W. P. Foot, first W.; J. T. Robinson, second W.; W. H. Haven, third W; A. F. Cherry, fourth W.; J. W. Andrews, first G. of T.; Thomas Jutson, second G. of T.; D. M. Smith, guide; J. C. Rogers, I. S.; T. J. McKinney, O. S. At the close of the installation a fine banquet was served.

The local lodge of Knights of Honor at West Point, at its regular meeting on Monday evening, installed the following officers: Peter Poellett, D.; M. O. Gentzke, V. D.; F. E. Krause, Rep.; E. F. Krause, F. Rep.; Ed Krause, treasurer.

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows at West Point installed officers as follows last Thursday night: D. C. Giffert, N. G.; M. E. Kerl, V. G.; William Breidinger, R. S.; S. Müller, L. S. to N. G.; C. Paul, R. S. to V. G.; C. H. Carsten, warden; F. Sonnenschein, con.; P. Poellett, chaplain; Ferd Koch, guard.

Hope lodge No. 15, Daughters of Rebekah at Tecumseh, has installed new officers as follows: Mrs. Kate L. Keplinger, N. G.; Mrs. Lydia Irwin, V. G.; Mrs. C. K. Chubbuck, secretary; Mrs. Anna Grim, treasurer.

Hamlin lodge, No. 24, Independent Order of Odd Fellows of Tecumseh, has installed officers for the coming year as follows: J. W. Keplinger, N. G.; E. A. Hedrick, V. G.; George Hill, secretary; W. C. Jolly, treasurer.

North Omaha lodge, No. 28, Degree of Honor, had a very enjoyable lodge meeting on Wednesday evening. There was a large attendance, and the following officers were installed by past chief of Omaha, Sister Charles Walker: P. C. of H., Ida McKenna; C. of H., Mary Otis; L. of H., Mrs. F. M. McCullough; C. of S., Mrs. Shafer; recorder, Mrs. R. B. Carter; financier, Mrs. Hugh McGahan; receiver, Mrs. J. M. Clearelano; inside guard, Mrs. Harry Hadson; outside guard, Miss Brinn.

The outside guard reported a noisy crowd outside, which, after investigation proved to be members of No. 18, Ancient Order of United Workmen. They were invited inside, where they rendered several choice vocal selections. Ice cream and cake were served by the women, after which the members listened to a well rendered selection by Dat McKenna and Irene Otis.

Union Pacific lodge No. 17, Ancient Order of United Workmen, has elected and installed the following officers for the ensuing year: Past master workman, O. Hochman; master workman, F. L. Otis; foreman, John G. Gross; overseer, H. B. Dalgleish; recorder, Henry Yingling; financier, Henry McCoy; receiver, Dr. S. R. Patten; guide, A. D. Small; inside watch, R. R. Gilligan; outside watch, C. A. Howard; trustee, William Turner; medical examiners, Drs. W. A. Thompson, J. P. Lord, E. E. Wormersley, Howard Cook, S. M. Campbell and T. H. McGavin; member of the general relief board, I. P. Hicks. The annual picnic will be held next Saturday and will be a hummer if all the arrangements are fully carried out. It will take place at Bellevue and will be the fourth of its kind given by the lodge, a big picnic having become an annual feature.

All the picnickers who desire to go early will be carried down to the grounds on a special train over the Burlington, which will leave the union depot at 9 o'clock. Those who desire to go later can be accommodated by the 9:30 and 10:50 trains. Finally, carryalls will be in waiting at Fifteenth and Douglas streets for those who desire to go still later and will start for the grounds at 1 o'clock in the afternoon.

There will be no lack of enjoyment at the grounds. The lodge band of twenty pieces, the members of which will be arrayed in new uniforms, will furnish all the music required and there will necessarily be dancing. The chief attraction of the day, however, will be the athletic program, which will consist of thirty-two events, and in which nearly 300 prizes will be awarded. John G. Gross is in charge of the athletic contests and is laboring hard to make them the best and the most successful that have ever been undertaken at a picnic.

The election in Social lodge No. 102, Degree of Honor, Ancient Order of United Workmen resulted as follows: Past chief of honor, Mrs. Lou Pixley; chief of honor, Mrs. C. C. Whiting; lady of honor, Mrs. C. W. Lundbeck; chief of ceremonies, Mrs. Henry McCoy; recorder, Mrs. R. E. Stringfellow; financier, Miss Louise Brereton; receiver, Mrs. O. Hochman; usher, Miss Mattie Kelley; inside watch, Mrs. Hinzle; outside watch, I. M. Kelly; trustee, Mrs. George Brereton; medical examiners, Mrs. E. E. Wormersley and W. A. Thompson.

Patten lodge No. 173, Ancient Order of United Workmen, gave a picnic at Fremont yesterday. An account of the affair will be found in another column.

The United Workmen of the city will today bury George Watts, a deceased member of Union Pacific lodge No. 17. The funeral will occur from his late residence, 2911 Pinckney street, interment being in Forest Lawn cemetery.

The local lodges of the Ancient Order of United Workmen of this city and South Omaha are talking of establishing headquarters on the state fair grounds for the reception and convenience of members of the order who will visit the fair. While the matter has not been settled, there seems to be little doubt but that it will be pushed. It is proposed to erect a neat building at a cost of several hundred dollars.

St. John's lodge No. 25, Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons, has elected and installed the following officers: Master, Alfred M. Olson; senior warden, Andrew J. Hunt; Junior warden; George T. Nicholson; treasurer, G. H. W. Seivers; secretary, Samuel D. Caldwell; senior deacon, Cuthbert R. Griffith; junior deacon, William B. Whitehorn; senior steward, Robert Guild; junior steward, George H. Lavidge; tyler, W. W. Keysor.

The first number of the Western Record, a local organ of the Order of the World, has been issued from the press. It is an eight-page sheet, filled with a quantity of spicy news of interest to the members of the order which it represents. The publisher is William H. Toy.

Concordia lodge, Order of the World, will give a musical and literary entertainment, to be followed by a dance, at Kessler's hall on Saturday evening, July 20. The entertainment is given for the benefit of the sick fund.

The officers of Bohemia lodge No. 314, Ancient Order of United Workmen, are as follows: Master workman, Frank W. Bandhauer; foreman, Frank Suchy; overseer, Vaclav Kubec; recorder, Joseph A. Ubl; financier, John V. Vacek; receiver, K. W. Bartos; guide, F. Kosumbersky; inside watch, Joseph Kulas; outside guard, Charles Amort. The meeting nights are on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month.

Sovereign Clerk John T. Yates of the Woodmen of the World is in Sac City on business of the order.

Notwithstanding the dull times and unpleasant hot weather, the Order of the World lodges in this city are steadily increasing in membership and both old and new members are enthusiastic over the prospect for still greater increase with the milder weather of the fall months.

The supreme lodge of the Order of the World held its bi-annual session in Wheeling, W. Va., during the past week. District No. 2 was represented by Rev. T. F. Stauffer of Lincoln, and Supreme Vice President I. G. Baright of Omaha. Omaha lodge No. 200 is making arrangements for a grand picnic in the near future.

South Omaha Lodge No. 148, I. O. O. F., will install officers at their hall in South Omaha on Monday evening, July 15.

J. H. Tebbens, noble grand; Leo Barock, vice grand; Henry Bolin, treasurer, and Robert Wendt, secretary, were elected as the officers of Allemanen lodge No. 8, I. O. O. F., at a meeting held Wednesday night.

At a regular meeting of Dannebrog Lodge, No. 216, I. O. O. F., held Friday evening, July 5, the following officers were installed: M. Schroder, noble grand; C. Rasmussen, vice grand; Sojus Surland, secretary; William Andersen, treasurer, Grand Master Shiffler officiating, was assisted by Past Grands Nichols, Helm and Alverson.

The following resolution, which explains itself, has been adopted by Nebraska Lodge No. 1, Knights of Pythias of this city:

Whereas, In an article published in the Nebraska State Journal of date June 16, 1895, there appeared a statement reflecting upon the honor and integrity of Brother P. G. C., E. E. French, which statements we know to be false in every particular; now, therefore, it is

Resolved, By this lodge, that such statements as reflect upon our honored Brother French of this lodge are hereby denounced as false, malicious and libelous and merits the abhorrence of all Knights of Pythias, and of this lodge in particular;

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be sent to Brother French, The Omaha Bee, the World-Herald, Knight's Jewel and Nebraska State Journal, with our expression of confidence in Brother French.

The Scotchmen of the city are again raising the shout: "Dinna ye Hear the Slogan?"

Next Saturday the sixth annual picnic and Caledonian games of Clan Gordon No. 63, Order of Scottish Clans, will be held at Fort Calhoun. Arrangements have been made to make this affair more enjoyable than those of preceding years, if that is possible.

The committee on arrangements is made up as follows: A. W. Anderson, George D. Shand, A. B. Rutherford, William Horne, Charles McAdam, Andrew Peacock, W. R. Adams, Joe Gray, Andrew Gray, Thomas Meldrum, sr. Committee on games—Quoits: A. Pattullo, H. H. Murray, William Robertson and T. White. Racing, jumping and heavy events: Andrew Gray, starter; William Ross, judge; Charles McAdam, W. R. Adams and James Cuthill. Platform: T. Meldrum, No. 3., Thomas Menzies, D. H. Brotchie, A. M. Henderson and D. Nicol.

At the installation of officers of Omaha Tribe, No. 18, Independent Order of Red Men, the following chiefs were raised up: T. A. Burka, sachem; J. W. Merriam, senior sagamore; F. E. Hodge, prophet; E. J. Nelson, first sachem; J. W. Coudey, second sachem, after which a cold spread of corn and venison was prepared by the squaws of White Fawn council, followed by a social hop, when the Indians and their squaws folded their blankets and retired to their wigwams with a grunt of satisfaction.

Officers of Allemanen Lodge, No. 8, I. O. O. F., recently elected are: Noble grand, J. H. Tebbens; vice grand, Leopold Baroch; secretary, Robert Wendt; treasurer, Henry Bolin; R. S. of Noble grand, Harry Thomsen; L. S. of Noble grand, William Pfeiffer; R. S. of vice grand, Jud Coffman; L. S. of vice grand, Fred Klenke; conductor, Wemer Boehl; warden, Fred Pinzenscham; guardian, Helim Meyer

THE SCHOOLS OF THE PEOPLE

Importance of Commodious Playgrounds for School Children.

NEED OF REFORM ON THAT LINE

Remarkable Growth of Summer Schools Throughout the Country—Increasing Roll of College Graduates—Educational Notes.

The experience of older cities has been of incalculable value to the founders and managers of public schools in the west. We have profited by adopting what was best in the older sections of the country, and avoided their errors to a large extent. The result is school buildings of the most approved and convenient type, in the construction of which the health of the children is a prime consideration. As a rule commodious playground surrounds the buildings, thus combining two important elements in the physical wellbeing of pupils.

After years of agitation Philadelphia has awakened to the importance of playgrounds around schools. "It has always been difficult for the people in the closely built portions of the Quaker City," according to the Times, "to know what to do with their children in play hours. The parks are distant, the public squares infrequent, and the streets, the only place left for poor children to play, are practically forbidden to them by the necessities of rapid railway travel. Playgrounds of some sort have thus become an urgent necessity. The yards of the school houses are very inadequate, but they are the only thing available for this purpose and their use is so obvious that every one who thinks about it must wonder that it was not thought of before.

"The good people who have brought about this very simple provision for the comfort of the children, and have undertaken the necessary care of the school yards and of those using them, are entitled to gratitude and support. But the fact that there are so very few school houses in the city surrounded by playgrounds of any considerable size calls attention to a very serious error or oversight that ought to be avoided in the future. It would be difficult and costly now to enlarge the spaces surrounding most of the existing school houses, but the new schools are usually in advance of the population, and wherever a public school house is to be built, care should be taken to secure sufficient space to provide an adequate playground, for use both during the school session and in the summer vacation.

"Our public schools have not kept pace with private schools in the recognition of the importance of physical care and recreation. With all the advance in methods of instruction, attention is paid on the class room only, and the playground has been forgotten. Yet healthy bodies are essential to the formation of healthy minds, and a first step in this direction would be to give the children abundant breathing space and room in which to exercise when out of school."

THE SUMMER SCHOOL.

The summer school has evidently come to stay. For the last ten years such schools have been springing up in various parts of the country, growing in popularity and importance, until now they have become an established factor in our educational system. More than 100 of these schools have already opened or will open before the vacation season shall have ended. Invariably these schools, says the Chicago Record, are devoted