DARK PUZZLES OF THE MAILS

Thousands Selved Every Month by a "Blind Reader" in New York.

SOME HARD PROBLEMS COME TO HIM

Carlosities in Letter Addresses, Bulls in Spelling, Intentional Mystifications and the Worst of Handwriting.

Of the millions of letters which go through the New York postoffice every month seventy-odd thousand are thrown aside by the clerks as "blind addresses." This means that they are too ill-written, badly spelled or queerly directed for the employes of the department, all of whom are very keen at deciphering these unintentional cryptograms, and must go to the "blind reader," Mr. O. G. Menger. Mr. Menger is probably the most extraordinary puzzle solver in this country, if not in the world, for his range of subjects covers a wider field than all the "prize puzzle departments" put together, and to many of the problems to which he must direct his faculties there is no answer. In one month of this year he examined 73,889 blind addresses, nearly 64,000 of which he sent to their proper destinations.

Blind readers are born, not made. They must have a natural instinct for unraveling mysteries, a certain power of intuition, an exhaustive range of geographical information, a knowledge of many languages and chirographies, a prodigious memory for minute facts and a special taste for the curiosities of language. All this was developed in the case of the present specialist by fourteen years of practice and discipline under his predecessor, Mr. W. W. Stone, the first professional "blind reader" in the world, who died in August, 1900. Mr. Menger has a collection of these addresses, nine out of ten of which would drive the average man to despair.

Poor chirography is in itself the least of the expert's troubles. He has nothing to think about until two essential elements of an address out of three are omitted and the rest spelled in a manner beyond the dreams of the wildest "fonettik." Taking Mr. Menger's collection as representative of the most interesting work that falls to the expert's lot, the trouble-or the fun, as he might call it-arises out of one or other of these four general causes:

1. Foreign ignorance of American geography and the English language. 2. False or defective information about the particular address intended, with more or less carelessness.

3. Whims and odditles of cranks and semi 4. Various attempts to make a public display of wit and humor.

Where They Originate.

Of all the queer addresses in the collection, those which belong in the first of these classes are the most interesting and amusing; those of the last—the would-be funny are the least so. Several inventors of ciphers have experimented on the postoffice by using their own inventions to address envelopes to themselves, with the mortify-

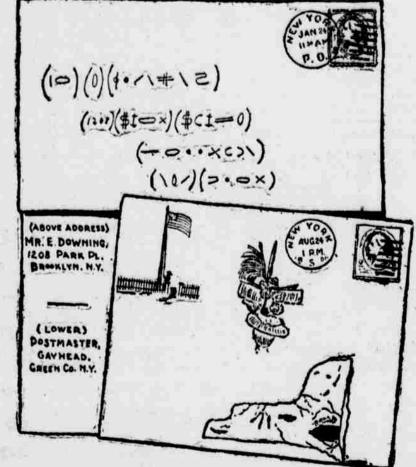
in America," with a Liverpool postmark, Stanford, California," very likely exhibits a madness with method in it.

It is perhaps significant that the address, "Mr. Pluto, the Fourth Circle Hades on the Btyx," should have come from Sing Sing: even more so that Sioux Falls, S. D., should be the point of departure of a letter addressed "Any Manufacturer or Dealer in Marriage Certificates, New York City.

Resemblance in Names.

tween names of postoffices in the same state. frequented port of arrival for mail-carrying New Jersey, for instance, has not only a ocean steamers. But the term "foreign" Morristown, but a Mauricetown and a in this connection must be taken to include Moorestown. And here is an astonishing not only inhabitants of other English-list of what may be called pairs of twin speaking countries, but also, very largely, Dillinger, Drifton and Drifting, Drumore dressed to a young woman at "Spencer, and Dunmore, Hamilton and Hamilaton, Insea," where "Insea" stands for the Roland and Rowland. Mistakes in address-initials N. C., is not likely to have been





rectory), and, not least, the Social Register. Going backward through the four classes It needs a trained judgment, almost equal here assumed, the next in order—the crank to an instinct in its effect, to guess in class—is much smaller than might have which of these books a name is most likely been expected. "To the Monkeys of Mexaco to be found. It may have been easy, for instance, to decide on general appearances suggests a violent case of insanity. An-other from England, addressed to "Mrs. whom this unstamped envelope is addressed that "Miss Mary Murphy, America," to need not be looked for in the Social Register, but many cases require a much closer consideration of all the details.

Home and Foreign Curiosities.

The cream of the collection, regarding it as a museum of epistolary curiosities, is in the foreign written addresses. Most of these have been condemned as "hards" and laid aside by the sorting clerks who handle the incoming foreign mails, and the necessity for a specialist to do this work of The largest number of blind addresses deciphering in the New York postoffice is are the result of the close similarity be- doubtless due to that city's being the most names in Pennsylvania: Bala and Bela, the foreign born persons living in this Coldcreek and Coles Creek, Dilliner and country. This envelope, for example, ading are inevitable when such names as mailed by a native American, but it bears these are given by word of mouth, as friends a United States stamp; the same is true of in parting beg each other to "be sure to the envelopes inscribed "W. Hobokniy," in let me hear from you." This class now very bad German script, meaning West and then furnishes some amusement, as, for Hoboken; "Ancram Lead, Kalambi Coity,"

"Let the GOLD DUST twine do your work!"

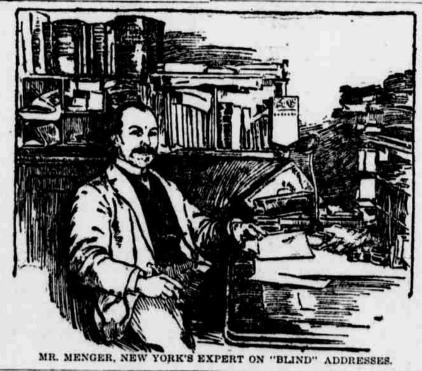
THE N. K. FAIRBANK COMPANY, Chicago, St. Louis, New York, Buston

instance, where the name of Heimetta, instance, where the name of Heimetta, instance, where the name of Heimetta, instance, of time. To understand why the postoffice officials should trouble thempostoffice officials should trouble thempost of the double to should form the feet of thempostoffice officials should trouble thempostoffice of thempostoffice officials should trouble thempostoffice officials should trouble thempostoffice officials should trouble thempostoffice officials should trouble thempostoffice officials sh

-which is from Stockholm, Sweden; and—
"Mister Samuel Landberg
You is alright old Grandmother
Yaki hada belly ache
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
In Newiork Amerika." from Vienna, Austria; andmy darling sweethart i lov juy Nortamerika."

-from a country postoffice in Sweden. Addresses like these are not only impossible of translation into anything like working forms, but they defy the non-ex-pert to guess what could possibly have caused them to be written. The expert's theory is that in all these cases-and there are many more like them-the addressee has written in last letter a few words of English, just to show his familiarity with that language; his correspondent at home has mistaken the words for his American address, and, as a rule, the letter finds its way to the dead letter office. The anguish of the Swedish Miss --- , whose coy outpouring of the heart in a language her lover knew not, resulted in her getting no answer to her letter, is only one among many pathetic romances suggested by the contents of this album of queer addresses. EWAN M'PHERSON.

OUT OF THE ORDINARY.



values which the characters he writes would be likely to bear for him individually. Here the expert's taste for linguistic niceties, with the corresponding keen ear for differences of sound, is invaluable. A man who has become accurately familiar with Italian sounds sees at a glance that 'Negiosi," giving the Italian values to the letters, exactly represents an illiterate Italian's attempt at the sounds which Americans write New Jersey. On an en-velope with a Russian stamp "Kreenpoynp" velope with a Russian stamp "Kreenpoynp" means Greenpoint, for the Russian mouth is apt to substitute a lab il for a dental consonant, and a K for a guttural G. Again, there is the wonderful postmark "Przecxaw" on a letter to "Mis Karolina Janowska." One who has listened carefully to either Russian of Polish talk knows how a man of Przecxaw would read aloud the line which follow the name—"Tut wody tu is Chander Ten streyt;" it would sound something very like "Two forty two. East Hundred Ten street," which is a fairly intelligible address.

Stump the Expert.

Of course many addresses defy the most exhaustive study, and many letters land in

of course many addresses defy the most exhaustive study, and many letters land in the dead letter office. To this class belongs the effort of a sturdy Briton, who wrote to his friend, Mr. Thomas Clacy, at "New Jersey, United States America." and then, with truly British misgivings as to the Anterican institutions, appended a little private note to the postoffice authorities assuring them that "this address is correct." Probably it was, as far as it went, but it hasn't gone far enough yet to went, but it hasn't gone far enough yet to get Thomas Clacy. Here is a Russian speci-men with 10 cents duc: "This handwriting is ow off your brother's daughter his Stop coughing, as it irritates the lungs and that was on an unstamped envelope found Honey and Tar cures without causing a "Please put on this 5 cents stamp on the | mon cough expectorants.

From the same quarter of the globe come the more recent oddities of "Cranston Royal Irish" (for Cranston, R. I.) and the spelling out of Washington, D. C. as "Washington, Dublin County."

A very important point in solving the problem of the foreign addresser's intention is, evidently, a knowledge of the sound It has remained for the Boston Journal It has remained for the Boston Journal

in all the campaigns.

It has remained for the Boston Journal to demonstrate how little of a rarity is the goilen wedding anniversary—at least in New England. That paper has found \$18 couples in the territory indicated still enjoying wedded life after fifty years and more.

Liverpool has the biggest warehouse in the world. It is built beside the docks and the world. It is built beside the docks and is intended to house the imports of tobacco, which forms so important a part of Liverpool's trade. The warehouse is 12514 feet in length, 165 feet wide and 124 feet 10 inches high. The ground area is 13,000 square yards, and the area of the several floors 174,098 square yards.

name is Simon Galitsky, America." All gives them no chance to heal. Foley's in a Schnectady (N. Y.) mail box was strain in throwing off the phiegm like com-





Special Thanksgiving Sale of Suits, Skirts, Coats, Furs, etc

Foresight in placing orders, with the appreciation of shrewd buyers, has enabled

Women's Ready-to-Wear Clothes

than we anticipated, but our Cloak and Suit man is a lucky chap this season and his foresight in selection and paying the right price has won him a great season's success.

The growth of this Women's Department is conclusive evidence that we have been successful in our-methods of doing

Your attention is first called Favorite Raglans to our great sale of the

Fifty of them (choice ones too) arrived too late for Saturday's sale, will be placed on sale tomorrow. We told you of them Saturday, how they were made and what they were made of-you can best judge if you come in person and see them yourself-

\$9.75, \$12.75, \$14.75, \$16.75, \$18.75

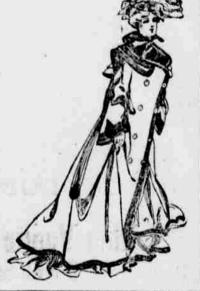
Women's Tailor-Made Suits



The showing and selling of a fine suit, made of Venetians and cheviots, made in the latest style and best workmanship, ought to be of interest to anyone who intends buying a suit for Thanksgivingthey are exceptional values—our price only

Women's Tailor-Made Suits

Made of imported Venetian, in blue, black and brown, new blouse effect, satin lined and trimmed with stitched velvet or cloth bands, new bias flounce skirt-this suit is perfectly tailoredregular \$20.00 value,



WOMEN'S AUTOMOBILES

Washington mills kersey; in black, tan, castor and red, beaver fur \$14.75 collar and reveres, heavy satin lined, finished with tailor etitching handsomely finished—a stylish and useful garment regular \$20.00 value—

Women's Box Coats-Made of excellent quality of Women's Box Coats-Made of all wool kersey, 27-inkersey, lined with guaranteed Skinner satin, high storm long, lined with a good satin serge-a well made, percollar, lapel pockets, 10 rows of tailor's stitching around bottom of coat— 9.75 regular \$15.00 quality, at

fect fitting coat, same style and quality coat brings \$8.00 elsewhere—our Thanksgiving price

Women's Walking Skirts-Walking skirts are the hardest kind of a skirt to make set right. They're "just right" when they are right, abominable when they're not right—having them "right" has brought us a great skirt business—the ones offered for this Thanksgiving sale are made of excellent material, in black, gray and oxford, new flaring effect, finished with ten rows of tailor stitching-

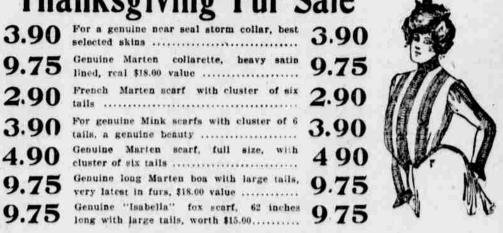
Women's Flannel Waists-Made of best Pacific mills flannel, new long dip front trimmed with rows of tucking, buttons on back, new collar and sleeve-they come in black, red and rose-regular price elsewhere \$2.50-our Thanksgiving price.

Women's Flannel Waists-Made of best Botany flannel, some of them with taffeta fronts, others handsomely trimmed with velvet ribbon-these waists are all high grade, and the regular values are 4 and 5 dollars-for Thanksgiving sale they



Thanksgiving Fur Sale 3.90 For a genuine near seal storm collar, best 3.90

9.75 Genuine Marten collarette, heavy satin 9.75 2.90 French Marten scarf with cluster of six 2.90 3.90 For genuine Mink scarfs with cluster of 6 3.90 4.90 Genuine Marten scarf, full size, with 4 90 cluster of six tails 9.75 Genuine long Marten boa with large tails. 9.75



CLOTHES FOR MEN AND WOMEN

Healthy Mind in a Healthy Body



Stomach and brain affect each other. A sick stomach sours the disposition and prevents sleep and brain rest, and a sick brain sours the stomach and clogs the bowels. Men of sedentary habits, brain workers who don't get much exercise, have sick stomachs and bowels, and wear out their brains and nerves.

"I work in the office and don't get as much exercise as I should, and when I feel had I just take a Cascaret which always makes me feel alright."

J. E. Rohan, Q. & C. Route, Crescent, Ky. "Thad a torpid liver for months. I bought a bor of Cascarets in Washington and have not only been put in perfect, health, but have gained considerable in weight."

"Harry Hodgson, Rockville, Md.
"Cascarets were the only medicine I had with me when I beat the world's record as "Champion Corn Husker of America." husking Me bushels in 19 hours.

"E. E. Kimberlin, La Harpe, Ill.

A man who keeps his bowels regular with Cascarets Candy Cathartic, that is without strain or violence, can keep strong and healthy without much exercise. A famous professor in Jefferson Medical College used to advise his students: "Trust in God and keep your bowels open!" That's God's own wisdom, for when the bowels are regular and the digestion strong and healthy, then the system is safe and the brain and nerves will have inexhaustible elasticity and life.

Best for the Bowels. All druggists, toc, 25c, 5oc. Never sold in bulk. The genuine tablet stamped CC C. Guaranteed to cure or your money back. Sample and booklet free. Address Sterling Remedy Co., Chicago or N. Y. 257

