

Carpenter's Letter

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cellence. The Swiss pride themselves on their educational system, and they universally patronize the schools. Here in Zurich it is estimated that 97 per cent of the children of all classes go to the public schools, although there are excellent private academies and kindergartens. Every canon has its school board and every village its school buildings. The country is small, but altogether there are more than 5,000 schools in it, and a large number of high schools and universities. Basel has a university which was founded before the discovery of America, and there are good universities at Bern, Geneva, Fribourg and Zurich. These universities are organized on the same plan as those of Germany, each being governed by a rector and a senate, and divided into four faculties of theology, law, philosophy and medicine.

Here at Zurich a polytechnic school is maintained by the federal government. It has 1,000 students and 150 professors. In addition to this there are 250 technical schools in Switzerland which receive money from the general government or the cantons and there are also seventy commercial schools, with more than 6,000 pupils.

The Swiss watch the health of their school children and almost every school has its gymnasium. There are more than 1,000 schools here which have gymnastic training all the year round and 3,400 which give lessons in gymnastics a part of the year. I have visited a number of gymnasiums. They are well equipped and the boys and girls do their work under regular instructors.

There are ten school houses in this town which have baths connected with them, and the dirty child is sent out for a wash. The city has its school doctors who make regular examinations of the eyes, ears and teeth of the pupils. Think of a school dentist! That is what they have in Zurich.

Many of the public schools have gardens about them. I visited one this afternoon which had at least an acre given up to play and exercise grounds and this notwithstanding the school was in the heart of the city. Under the trees were vaulting horses and parallel bars and this in addition to the regular gymnasium under cover. In one section of the grounds a class of boys was training under their professor, a tawny, bearded man of 35 years. The boys had iron rods about four feet long, which they threw about in a variety of motions as directed. I photographed the class in action and the boys were delighted thereat.

In all parts of Switzerland the teachers take the children off now and then on educational tours. The little ones visit the country nearby and the older pupils have excursions on the railroads to the most beautiful parts of Switzerland. More than 5,000 scholars were sent out from Zurich on such tours last year with their teachers. FRANK G. CARPENTER.

Freak Inventions

What has become of the crank inventors? They have dropped off materially with their freak devices during the last year, and those interested in the unique in the product of human ingenuity have every reason to be apprehensive that the originality of these geniuses has deserted the field. During the last year, relates the Army and Navy Register, very little in the way of inventive oddities has been submitted for the consideration of the War department. The aerial gun carriage, or, in other words, the airship designed for war purposes, seems to have been forgotten. There is still, however, the asphyxiating shell, that weird projectile which on bursting suffocates the enemy. There is also the winged shell to which the rifling is applied instead of to the gun. Our old friend, the ball-bearing projectile, is also represented, but there is little that is new or startling unless we except a "military gaff," a proposition that the toe of a soldier's boot be equipped with a spike, presumably to make his kick more poignant. There are two women who have appeared with contrivances. One, a cousin of Senator Hanna, has a canteen filter which she has annually offered for consideration and which has been as regularly "not recommended." The other has a rubber-covered bridle bit which was offered as a substitute for the steel article supposed to be too hard on the horse's mouth, but inasmuch as the argument for its adoption proposed to make these rubber bits as hard as steel, there seemed no special reason for their acceptance. A great many of the suggestions made to the War department for war material have been rejected on account of their impracticability, but few of them can be regarded as interesting on account of their originality. Of course, the war with Spain induced a good many cranks to offer absurd inventions and to ventilate their ridiculous theories, and perhaps the lack of any prospect of military activity accounts for the absence of contributions from that source now. It may even be that we are getting more serious as a nation and that the dissemination of technical reports from department bureaus is enlightening the public to such an extent that the productive crank is losing his cunning.

Pen and Picture Pointers

(Continued from Second Page.)

ding was at the home of a daughter, Mrs. J. A. J. Martin, and was attended by the children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren of the worthy old couple. It was a most enjoyable affair. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Hughes who attended the golden wedding celebration are: H. J. Hughes and wife, Mrs. MacDougal, E. D. Evans and wife, A. D. Widenor and wife and W. W. Green and wife of Omaha, C. B. Gurney and wife of Lincoln, Neb., J. A. J. Martin and wife and Miss Jennie P. Hughes of Red Oak.

There is no newly formed organization interested in civic affairs that is making more progress in Iowa than the League of Iowa Municipalities, formed a few years ago, which has been holding annual meetings. At the last meeting, held in Iowa City, Mayor J. A. Walter of McGregor, Ia., was elected president. Mayor Walter had been identified with the league from the first, and had served on the committees on legislation, on waterworks and finance. He is an earnest advocate of municipal ownership and believes that great good can come to the cities of Iowa through this league where the mayors and city officials annually meet and consider subjects of mutual interest. Mayor Walter is but 41 years old, was born in McGregor, in which city he was elected to the council in 1895, and in 1897 was elected mayor. He is now serving his third term. He is a dentist by profession and is president of the Northern Iowa Dental society this year. He is active in lodge work and a member of the Masonic, Odd Fellows, Pythians, Woodmen and other orders. Under his direction the League of Iowa Municipalities is engaged in interesting all the cities and towns of the state in matters of general interest.

Omaha High school will be represented in the annual joint debate with Beatrice High school by a trio of bright boys, who won the right to represent the school in a preliminary contest as close and interesting as the main contest is likely to be. These annual debates are of much importance in the school world and are looked forward to by the boys with almost as much expectancy as a foot ball game. Omaha's champions this year have shown much ability as debaters and will enter the forensic arena with confidence born of experience.

"Wahoo" is a word that has puzzled many people, both as to its origin and meaning. It is of admitted Indian origin, but the red men themselves were a little hazy as to its exact meaning. At the time the whites began to settle in Nebraska the Pawnees possessed the land now in Saunders county. To a creek that traversed the prairie they had given the name of Pawhoo, saying it was from a round bluff or hill, which formed a bend in the creek. Pawhoo is thought to mean "a round hill," as Pawhocco means a

"cedar hill." It didn't take the whites long to turn Pawhoo into Wahoo and the hill and the creek and the subsequent town were so christened. On Wahoo hill the Indians made a burial ground, as it is a commanding position, a view of the country for twenty miles being clear from its summit. To the west of it was once a large Pawnee village. Excavations on the hill have revealed large quantities of Indian relics, pipes, tomahawks, arrowheads, pottery utensils and the like, which were buried with the bones of the dead warriors. Many of these bones were uncovered during the process of investigation, but these were again carefully interred. Arthur L. Anderson of Wahoo, who made the photographs from which the pictures published this week are made, is one of the most persistent and successful of these investigators.

A Thoughtless Sister

New York Weekly: Mrs. Getthere—Such impudence! Here's Sister Matilda proposing to come here with both her children and make us a long visit.

Mr. G.—But you spent half the summer at her home in the country and you had four children and a nurse.

Mrs. G.—A different thing altogether. She has no servants, but she knows perfectly well that we have several and that every one of them will get mad and leave if the family is increased.



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In the center you will notice a full length portrait of our beloved President, on his right and left hand portraits of his wife and mother, but of them excellent likenesses and reproductions from recent photographs in the two upper corners of the picture are his birthplace and Canton residence. This small reproduction will give some idea as to the general effect but cannot bring out the beautiful effect of the full sized memorial picture, which is 22 inches wide and 28 inch-long, engraved on heavy coated plat paper.

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