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The doctor realizes that it is one thing to make claims and another thing to back them up, so he has made it a rule to ask for money unless he cures you, and when you are cured he feels sure that you will willingly pay him a small fee. It would seem, therefore, that it is to the best interests of every man who suffers in this way to write the doctor confidentially and let him cure him. He sends the method, as well as many booklets on the subject, including the one that contains the 14 diplomas and certificates, entirely free. Address him simply, Dr. S. Goldberg, 206 Woodward Ave., Room 1, Detroit, Mich., and it will all immediately be sent you free.

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For January.

This popular Illustrated Monthly for January is on sale at the Book Store.

Lady Henry Somerset, Herbert S. Stone and a number of other well-known contributors have articles in this issue, and there are the usual large number of entertaining short stories by popular writers.

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## NOBLE GOTHIC PILE.

SIR CHARLES BARRY'S CREATION THAT COST \$15,000,000.

Glimpse of the Heart of the Mother of Parliaments—Daily Life of the House of Commons—How It Opens, Lives and Works—Some Things Strange to Canadians and Foreigners—Glimpse of the Place.

Sir Charles Barry's noble Gothic pile, pitched between the venerable Abbey of Westminster and the classic Thames, and enshrining the ancient Westminster Hall, stands forth an eloquent witness to the antiquity and virility of the English Parliamentary system. Now at least 650 years old, the mother of Parliaments has survived the wreck of centuries and the crash of dynasties. By a process of continuous development it has adapted itself to every vicissitude of changeable time. It has suffered temporary eclipse at the hands of despotic sovereigns and the obloquy that followed its own attempt at autocratic Government. It has witnessed the servility of the sycophant, the noble courage of the patriot. Time was when every member had his price—to-day the House of Commons is probably freer from political corruption than any other popular assembly in the world.

Glimpse of the Place.

The centre of gravity of the British Parliamentary system is admittedly now to be found in the House of Commons. In that respect it is sui generis. Although it has been the prototype of many popular elective bodies, none are exactly like it. All have departed more or less from it. This is not surprising. Institutions cannot be transplanted. The curious customs, the quaint ceremonies, the odd relics of a bygone time, the glamour of hoary tradition cannot survive in a different atmosphere. When they become mere anachronisms, superficial imitations without the spirit and associations which can alone render them not merely tolerable, but valuable, they are better left alone. Thus it follows that foreign and colonial visitors look with amazement at many of the usages and practices of the House of Commons. Transient impressions often lead to hasty judgments, but they are not alone in this. Many an iconoclast in the mother land has thundered against the absurdities and punctilios of the House of Commons—till he got inside himself. Then the glamour of the place seizes him. He soon subsides into acquiescence and ends by becoming the ardent defender of what he so fervently condemned, and the most merciless castigator of the knave who infringes the unwritten rules of the House. In fact, it is in the very air members breathe. All these unwritten traditional practices once mastered become the certificate of full initiation. They are the secret symbols that separate the member of Parliament from the rank of man and the House from the House.

Ball Mark of the House.

Reputations in public life never become fixed till they receive the hall mark of the House of Commons. Success on the platform avails little unless followed by achievement on the floor of Parliament. And the House of Commons is in many ways the most truly democratic assembly in the world. Rank, education, social position, personal appearance, eloquence, gifts, unaccompanied by more solid qualities, weigh little with an audience great men have declared to be at once the fairest and most critical that can be faced. What the House requires to win its approval is that the speaker really has something to say. If he has nothing but empty words, nothing can save him from speedy extinction. Many of the men who have held the listening Senate at command, have descended their nervous dread on first rising, to address the House of Commons. Even after years of apprenticeship some have confessed they never rose to their feet without a tremor. So strong and searching is the effect of the traditions and associations that cluster round the plain comfortable chamber where sit His Majesty's faithful Commons.

A Quaint Procession.

Let us imagine ourselves loitering in the inner lobby of Sir Charles Barry's \$15,000,000 creation, some afternoon just as Big Ben in his deep bass notes tells the hour. Ere the echoes have died away a stentorian roar proclaims "Mr. Speaker," and the roar is repeated down the corridors in ever receding tones. Again the terrific roar, "Hats off, strangers," and there looms into view a figure looking for all the world as if it had stepped down from one of the canvases of Reynolds or Gainsborough. Ruffles, gills, knee breeches, silk stockings, sword and twinkling buttons and buckles; on its shoulder, a huge gilded mace, two centuries and a half old, and the lineal successor of the article which vanished at Oliver Cromwell's contemptuous command, "Take away that bauble." It is the sergeant-at-arms. Captain Henry David Erskine, sometime of the Scots Guards. Then floats into view the Right Hon. William Court Gully, Speaker of the House, and the first Commoner in the land, also in full court dress, crowned with a full robe, so precariously long as to require the services of a skilled train-bearer. Immediately after him appears Mr. Speaker's chaplain, gowned, banded and hatted, and in rear Mr. Speaker's secretary, in the garments of the common or garden mortals. The little procession, preceded by the mace, moves slowly into the chamber.

Members Check by Jowl.

What first strikes a visitor from Canada, accustomed to the magnificent provision made for the Federal and Provincial Legislatures, is the absolute dearth of these in the British Lower House. There are no desks, no chairs, no electric bells and no cuspidors. Hon. members sit cheek by jowl and on great occasions wedged and packed together like the proverbial herrings in a barrel. There is not even room on the floor of the House for the representatives of the people—they overflow into the cross-benches and upstairs to the side galleries. Inconvenient and archaic as it all seems, it is a moot question whether it is not really an advantage in the conduct of business. There is nothing of the artificial formality inseparable from the apparatus of desks, tribunes and the like. There is a greater electrical sympathy and force generated. The House is more readily responsive to the ebb and flow of debate. It helps to foster and develop that eminently

social feeling which is one of the most distinctive marks of the British House of Commons. It has been called the best club in London, and if not quite as clubbable in these ultra-democratic days, it retains enough of the temperamental manners and habits which render it still so fascinating to all who come under its spell.

Who Goes Home.

At the conclusion of business the old cry still resounds through the corridors, "Who goes home?" reminiscent of the time when it was dangerous to walk London's streets in the small hours unaccompanied. Then the opposing whips, always the friends, hold a confidential confabulation and compare notes. Seldom, indeed, does personal animosity enter into the political life of the House of Commons in these days. The finest feature of the House is the anxious care with which all parties seek to conserve its traditions and to maintain all that makes for the firm and fair conduct of debate. They have been greatly aided in this by a succession of Speakers conspicuous for strength of character, clearness of judgment and an impartially unquestionable and unquested. While this temper exists the House of Commons will remain the finest fruit of an enlightened party system and in this respect a model for popular assemblies throughout the world.

Really Antique.

An excellent plaster of paris cast may be seen in one of the Egyptian galleries of the British museum of the "Sheikh-el-Heled," or "Village Sheikh." The original dates from 3900 B. C. and is still in perfect condition, although it is the oldest known specimen of wood carving. It represents an overseer of the workmen engaged in building the pyramids close to Sakka-rao, where it was discovered.

Killing Sharks by Electricity.

In the British navy the engineers have a curious way of killing sharks. They send up a dynamite cartridge in an empty can and put the can inside a lump of pork. The pork is thrown overboard on a wire which has been connected with an electric battery. When the shark takes the bait, the engineer presses a button, which explodes the cartridge and kills the fish.

Willings to Waive That.

"Miss Angeline," began the poor but proud young man, "if I were in a position to ask you to be my wife—" "Good gracious, Mr. Throgson!" she exclaimed. "In a position? The ideal! Do you think I would want you to get down on your knees?"—Exchange.

When a man is determined to rise in the world, it is better not to interfere with him too much. If his purpose is right, he will be a dangerous wrestler.—Schoolmaster.

The highest shot tower in the world is in Villach, Austria. Bullets from the upper level fall 249 feet.

ALMOST AFRAID TO GO TO SLEEP FOR FEAR SHE WOULD NOT WAKE UP.

FLUTTERING OF THE HEART.

SHORTNESS OF BREATH.

FAINT AND DIZZY SPELLS.

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## LINK WITH THE PAST.

Border Bridge to Scotland Is Creating Some Concern.

Once again the condition of the Border bridge, which crosses the Tweed at Berwick and has the distinction of joining English to Scottish soil, is creating some concern. Berwick Town Council has resolved upon temporary repairs until a report on the structure can be obtained from a competent bridge engineer. At last the historic structure would seem to be doomed; for these many years it has only had its sentimental claim of antiquity to recommend it. Commenced in 1611, it took thirteen years of great toil to build. Previous to that two bridges had been swept away, each in a memorable storm. In 1610 the civil rulers of the Border town resolved to build a bridge which should be cap-



Berwick Bridge.

able of resisting the fiercest flood. King James I. had a finger in the new enterprise, which, started the year following, was put to a very severe test quite at the outset. The line was scarcely dry on the foundation when there came a flood no living man had seen the like of, and a great part of the work was washed away. The masons set to work again, the King granted £3,000 more, and at last, in 1624, it was completed. The bridge consisted of 15 arches and measured in length 1,164 feet, and it is curious to note that one of the pillars divided Berwick from the county palatine of Durham. The bridge has played its part in Border history for over 270 years. It has rung to the march of rebels and royalists, and pirates and cattle lifters have used it often if not well. The Crown, not generous as a rule in such matters, has helped the bridge substantially by an annual grant in its sleepy old age.

Life in Hot Water.

The highest temperature at which a living organism can exist is probably 89 degrees centigrade, or 193 degrees Fahrenheit. This is the temperature of hot springs, in which all micro-organisms have been found by Professor W. A. Setchell. He searched carefully for life in the geyser of Sonoma County, California, which are still hotter, but was unsuccessful. The limits of life in water containing silica are considerably lower and they are lower still in water containing lime. No organisms were found in acid waters, and all the strictly thermal organisms are of very low grade. The cell structure is peculiar, and the protoplasm must be different from the ordinary kind, for that would be coagulated by the heat. The exact nature of this difference, however, is yet undiscovered.

Magersfontein Memorial in Glasgow.

A replica of the monument at Magersfontein to the memory of the Highlanders who fell in South Africa has been erected in the Winter Gardens of the People of Glasgow Green. The memorial is a granite



A MAGERSFONTEIN MEMORIAL.

cross, with Celtic ornamentation, and stands about 20 feet in height. The inscription on it reads, "Erected by Scots the world over in memory of the officers and men of the Highland Regiments who fell at Magersfontein, 11th Dec., 1899. Scotland is poorer in men, but richer in heroes."

"Successful" People.

Professor Dexter, of the University of Illinois, has compiled a curious volume of statistics relating to "successful" people, and containing 8,602 names. It is shown that musicians gain success at the earliest age; the scientists at an early age; the actor and the author next; the inventors gain their place slowly, no one below the age of forty being included in the book. Women reach success in all callings, except in music and on the stage, later than their male competitors. It has been noted that musical gifts tend to develop more quickly than almost any other. As for the business men, it is interesting to learn that 84 per cent. of the successful men of business did not enter college, while 12 per cent. completed it. Of the financiers 18 per cent. are college graduates.

Germany's Colonial Empire.

Germany's foreign protectorates are "sphere of influence," rather than colonies in the ordinarily accepted sense of the term. Her extension of Empire beyond the bounds of Europe began in 1894, and now includes over 1,000,000 square miles of territory with an estimated population of 14,700,000, most of these being in Africa.

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