

NOTES AND COMMENTS

A student of prison affairs once said that the prison population consists of two classes—people who never ought to have been sent to prison and people who never ought to be allowed to leave it.

There are many habitual criminals, weak persons readily giving way to temptation, who, according to Anderson, should not be classified as professionals.

A later suggestion he makes is intended to remove a temptation which the law now holds out to crime by doing so little to compel restitution when a thief has been convicted.

If more attention were given to professional crime and if harsher methods were used in protecting society from it, the result would be merciful in the end.

THREW HIM OUT OF BALLOON.

From High in the Clouds, Spectators Saw Figure Fall to Earth.

A group of aeronauts were talking at New Orleans the other day.

"Did you ever hear of Strohschneider?" said a German. "He did a dreadful thing once, I'll tell you about it."

"Strohschneider appeared in a certain village and advertised that he would take the landlord of the village inn up with him on a trapeze hanging from the car of his balloon."

"Though the landlord's wife made a kick and the authorities, upholding her, forbade the man to accompany Strohschneider, the landlord sat in state on the trapeze beside the famous aeronaut when the ascension began."

"Up and up went the balloon, and now a murmur of horror arose among the multitude. The aeronaut and the landlord were quarrelling; they were fighting. High up there in the clouds, perched on the swaying trapeze, they struggled, thumped, and kicked."

"Suddenly, the aeronaut, in a mad burst of rage, seized the landlord by the throat, thrust him backward and flung him into space. Down, the poor fellow dropped like a stone, turning over and over. He alighted on his head."

"The people, mad with horror and rage, rushed to the spot. And there, to their amazement, stood the landlord, laughing heartily. The figure that had fallen was a manikin dressed up in his clothes."

"And this," the speaker concluded, "is the only practical joke that has ever been played from a balloon."

Character begins in the cradle. Where love is we forget labor. You cannot keep the joy you will not share.

The bonds of a good home are forged in heaven. Your sympathies determine the breadth of your life.

UNTAMABLE WILD BEASTS

A BOOK ABOUT THE BEASTS PREJEVALSKY DISCOVERED.

Captives From Gobi Desert in Asia Studied Carefully by the Russians.

There was little prospect thirty years ago of the discovery of a genuine wild horse. There are, to be sure, the so-called wild horses of the Americans, but they are the descendants of horses that the Spaniards brought to the Western world some centuries ago.

While evidence existed that wild horses were probably as abundant in prehistoric times in the south of Europe as zebras are to-day in British East Africa, most naturalists believed that true wild horses with an unbroken line of wild ancestry were extinct.

Then, in 1879, the Russian explorer Prjevalsky reported that he had discovered a new and quite distinct horse in the Gobi Desert to the west of Mongolia. Two years later Poliakof published a description of the horse to which he gave the name Equus prejevalskii.

The Russians were greatly interested and it was decided to capture a number of the animals and bring them to Europe. These efforts were successful, and five years ago a herd of about thirty of the Prjevalsky horses,

were landed in Europe. Most of them are still in Russia, but a few were taken to England, where they are kept on the estate of the Duke of Bedford.

The English naturalists did not make a scientific study of the animals in that country because the Russians had had a most thorough investigation in progress, with the advantage that nearly all the captive horses and a number of skeletons are in their hands.

The results of the investigation were published by Dr. V. S. Salsky, director of the Zoological Museum of the Imperial Academy of Sciences, St. Petersburg. The book has just been translated into English and published in London under the title, "PREJEVALSKY'S HORSE."

The animals were more cool when they arrived in Europe and were not prepossessing, for they did not take kindly to the novel conditions, were cut of condition and had ragged coats and awkward gait.

For lack of data Dr. Salsky has not been able to determine what relationship may exist between this wild horse of Mongolia and domestic horses. The animal is an inhabitant of the Dzungaria and Kokoob districts of the Gobi Desert. Its habitat, which is not large, lies between the Great Altai and the Tian Shan mountains to the north of Chinese Turkestan.

The brothers Grum-Grumimale, who have had the best opportunity to observe the horse in its wild state, say that it lives in the level districts and goes at night to the pasture lands and drinking places. At break of day it returns to the desert, where it rests until sunset.

When there are nursing colts in the herd the animals always rest in the same place, but this does not appear to be the case when the foals become larger. They usually walk one behind the other, so that the region where they live is covered with deeply trodden tracks.

FISH CUT IN TWO LIVES HOURS.

Experiments of a Russian Physician as to the Nature of Death.

A curious series of experiments on the persistence of life in fishes has been conducted by Prof. Konliatko, physiologist at Tomsk, from which he deduces that even decapitation does not produce instantaneous death of the tissues, but merely cessation of functioning for lack of nutrition and oxygen supply conveyed through the blood.

His most conclusive experiment was performed by cutting a fish in two just below the heart. The two parts of the body showed signs of life for two, or three minutes, in the form of muscular contractions in both parts and attempts to breathe by the upper one. Then they became motionless, yet the upper section was far from dead.

The professor had ready a nutritive solution strongly charged with oxygen, and using this he started artificial circulation in the upper section of the fish. In a word, the functions of all the organs seemed to be completely restored. The fish, had not been dead, and as all the organs were suffering from extreme anaemia.

This stimulation was maintained for several hours, the fish exhibiting, but in a diminishing degree, all the characteristics of life. Then death gradually took possession of the organism. The cells became diseased or old. The power of the heart, however, was marvellous. It retained its power to beat, Prof. Konliatko has reported, for an entire day after all sensitiveness had disappeared from the nervous centres.

The professor hopes to formulate from his observations important theories as to the essential nature of life and the causes of death. He thinks they may help physicians to find a means of preventing death in cases where the general tissues of the body have not lost vitality and where the danger arises from injury or organic lesion or a condition of disorganization which can be eradicated if life can be maintained long enough for the purpose.

A MISCHIEVOUS ELEPHANT.

Coco is Also a Most Affectionate and Amusing Animal.

Coco, a small elephant in a circus menagerie, is known as the most mischievous animal among all the large herd of elephants in this show. Coco, writes Ellen Velvin in "Wild Animal Celebrities," was born in the circus, and from the very first few months of his life he has been a constant mischief.

Coco began one day to pull on the tail of his constant mischief, and when those had been put to rights again, he tried to investigate the electric light by drawing the bulb over to his mouth with his trunk, and was barely saved from crushing it, and probably causing his own death.

Just around a corner of the wall where he and his companions are usually fastened up, underneath Madison Square Garden, he has a habit of drinking water, and one night when, after the performance, the lights had been put out with the exception of one or two, and all the men had gone but the watchmen, Coco was very quiet thoughtfully, and as all the elephants seemed quiet and comfortable, the watchman settled himself in his chair and began to doze.

Suddenly he was conscious of a curious sound, like running water, and after listening a moment, looked down on the floor, and was surprised to see the stream swimming in water and a stream pouring from the faucet. The watchman knew at once what had happened, and he turned on the water-faucet and flooded the place. It took about an hour with a lot of men to get the animals dry and comfortable once more, and Coco was made to understand, by having his trunk rubbed smartly every time he attempted to put it round the faucet, that he was not to do that again.

A SPELLING REFORM.

One of the witnesses in a lawsuit, who had just been sworn, was asked to give his name. He replied that it was Hinkley. Then the attorney for the prosecution requested him to give his name in full.

"Jeffrey Alias 'Hinkley.'" "I am not asking you for your alias," said the lawyer, impatiently. "What is your real name?" "Jeffrey Alias 'Hinkley.'" "No trifling in this court, sir!" sternly spoke the judge. "Which is your right name—Jeffrey or Hinkley?" "Both of 'em, your honor."

"Both of them?" Which is your surname? "Hinkley." "And Jeffrey is your given name?" "Yes, your honor." "Then what business have you with an alias?" "I wish I knew, your honor," said the witness, ruefully. "It isn't my fault."

GREAT GIANTS ON PARADE

Wonderful Products of the Carnival Makers Abroad.

Forty Foot High King at Nice—The Lady and the Lobster—Other Striking Figures.

Old Flanders is one of the principal homes of Europe's giants. Here visitors can find families of giants a hundred years old and more. The modern giants are found chiefly in the south of France and in Italy, and the tallest younger they are usually much larger.

The best time to see the giants of Flanders is at one of the fetes which are held two or three times a year in every town of importance. The place of honor in the parade is always reserved for the town giant or giants of the town. In Italy, Europe, and though younger they are usually much larger, a dozen huge Flemish horses, they slowly move along the streets.

Although the city of Bruges in Belgium is so poor that it is said to have more beggars in proportion to its population than any other city in Europe, it has one of the most imposing families of giants, which includes not only the father and the mother, but also three children. The baby is nearly seven feet long. The father, who appears as a knight, is twenty feet in height from the top of the plumes on his helmet to his feet and carries a spear as long as himself for a weapon.

The two other children are eleven and ten feet tall. As all giants have names, the Bruges family is known as Guyon and the Hibernia, two of the most modern modern battleships in the royal navy. Their guns were trained on the armor-belt and gun turret of the Hero; the armor of which is from eight to twelve inches thick.

The ships elected to practice their gunnery upon the old Hero were the Dominion and the Hibernia, two of the most modern battleships in the royal navy. Their guns were trained on the armor-belt and gun turret of the Hero; the armor of which is from eight to twelve inches thick. The bombardment commenced at a range of between 6,000 and 7,000 yards—a distance at which modern battleships may be fought.

After a few ineffectual rounds, the gunners of the Dominion and the Hibernia found the range, and then commenced a deadly stream of 12-inch shells. If the Hero had been in fighting condition she would have been sunk in a few minutes, one of which hit her turret and rendered her two big guns useless by carrying away the muzzles.

SOON RIDDLED. Soon the old battleship was riddled with shot holes, and her one yawning jagged hole just above the water line. Her funnel, fighting-top and top-hat went by the board, only her single mast, by some miracle, escaping the general destruction. The armorplate was pierced through and through as if it were tin foil.

When she had been subjected to three poundings of this merciless character, the tough old Hero sank and rested on the shoal. Besides the effect of the shell fire on her armor, the object of the test was to ascertain the influence of gunfire on delicate electrical instruments used aboard modern warships.

MAKING THE EDITOR EQUIRM. A country editor was made to write in the keenest humiliation of spirit on receipt of the following scathing criticism by a subscriber on the conduct of his paper:

"Dear Sir,—I hereby offer my resignation as a subscriber to your paper, it being a pamphlet of such small consequence as not to benefit my family by taking of it. What you need in your sheet is brains and someone to rattle up news and rife eddytories on sensial topics."

"No mention has been made in your sheet of my butcher a pig weighing 369 pounds, or of the gains in the chickens on this way. You steniously ignore the fact that the dry rot is eating lignure up to here, and say nothing about Bill Simpson's Durham bull calf breakn his legs fallin down a well, or of Grandma Sipes havin the sore legs."

"Too important weddins here has been utterly ignored by your columns. The skeleton of grandpa Henry was left on the death of grandpa Henry was left out of your sheet, to say nothing of an alphabetical poem beginning with 'A' is for Andy and also for Ark," writ by my darter. "This is why your sheet is unpopular here. If you don't want eddytories from this place and ain't goin to put in no news in your sheet we don't want said sheet."

Yours in disgust, Hiram Doaks. "P.S.—If you print that obituary in your next issue I may subscribe again for your sheet.—H.D."

STEAMBOATS ON AFRICAN LAKES. No more striking indication exists of the rapid march of civilization over the Dark Continent than that furnished by the steamboats now running on the Victoria Nyanza, in connection with the Uganda railway. Three boats have already been launched there, and another is in course of construction.

BATTERED MAN-OF-WAR

Old Battleship Hero Used as a Target.

Great Warships Rammed Shells Through Her Armor—Soon Mass of Scrap Iron.

The old battleship Hero, of the British navy, has been battered into scrap iron by modern shell fire rained into her by two of the newest man-of-war in King Edward's fleet.

The Hero now lies a shattered hulk off the Kentish coast, and would have gone to the bottom but for the fact that she rests on a shoal called the Kentish Knock. At high water she is nearly submerged. Gunnery is now the chief aim of the British Admiralty. Ordinary target practice is not realistic enough, so ships must be fired at to test the effect of modern shell on armor-clad vessels.

The doomed ship was moored on the Kentish Knock shoal, near the mouth of the Thames, and prepared for the sacrifice. Her sides were divided into lettered sections by bands of white paint, as a guide to the classification of the hits scored. Then she was left alone to await the rain of shells which was to be poured into her.

Dominion One of Ships. The ships elected to practice their gunnery upon the old Hero were the Dominion and the Hibernia, two of the most modern battleships in the royal navy. Their guns were trained on the armor-belt and gun turret of the Hero; the armor of which is from eight to twelve inches thick.

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BETTER STILL. Some silly people rave about The lay of the poet's pen; But it simply isn't in with The lay of the barnyard hen.

MONEY IN IT. "Pa," asked little Willie, "is politics a profession or a business?" "Well," replied his pa, "that depends upon circumstances. If you're on the winning side it's a business."

HISTORY TO BE DEPICTED

GORGEOUS SPECTACLES BY OVER 7,000 PERFORMERS.

London to Have a Magnificent Pageant of Old and Modern Times.

The vogue of the pageant will culminate next year in the London historical pageant. It is suggested to the King Edward VII. Hospital Fund.

A magnificent central site has been selected in the heart of fashionable London, to which the busy life of the great city does not reach, where no sound is heard to mar the beauty of the sylvan scene; where the stately trees, the broad stretch of water and the verdant turf provide a fitting scene for the pictures of London in the days of old, which are being arranged by a committee, in connection with which Professor Oman, Cluchel, professor of modern history at Oxford, is taking

A PROMINENT PART. It is proposed that the pageant should cover all the most important episodes in the history of London—which is practically the history of the nation—arranged by historical, art and musical committees, on the successful line which were carried out at Oxford.

Authentic and specialized sub-committees are being appointed, consisting of the foremost men of the day, in order to secure the best results in the literary, musical and artistic sides of the pageant. In order that the pageant may be a complete success, the assistance and co-operation of the various local Mayors and authorities in the County of London are being invited, and it is suggested that each great district in London shall contribute the performers for one or other of the episodes.

THE MUNICIPAL BOROUGHS. Some idea of the wide scope of the pageant may be gathered when it is stated that the first scene under consideration will be the Great Sacrifice of Diana, which took place on the site where St. Paul's now stands, and the last depicts the day of the powdered wig and patches of the eighteenth century.

So far as the financial side of the pageant is concerned, the available figures of previous pageants have been before the preliminary committee, and it is confidently anticipated that a considerable revenue fund has already been formed in order to provide for whatever preliminary expenses may be incurred.

THE ONE CHANCE.

Terrible Experience of a Hunter's Wife and Children.

A family who lived in the wilds of the Province of Yulon met with a terrible adventure, which is described by Mr. F. C. Selkirk in "Recent Hunting Trips in British North America," as it was told by the father. In the spring of 1905 Selkirk, to get his children leaving his wife and children, three little girls, in the cabin, far away up the Pelly River, in which they had all lived during the winter. He told his wife that he would try to get back by a cow date toward the end of May, and made every effort to do so.

One evening on my return journey, said the trapper, I camped late, some distance above the Pelly canon, was prepared to get under my blankets, when I heard a boat coming down the river. I went down to the water's edge to see and soon became convinced that it was my own boat—the boat which I had left with my wife and children. The boat was set, on which the oars turned, a certain clicking noise resulted which there was no mistaking.

I shouted loudly as the boat came nearer, and was answered by my wife, who soon brought the boat ashore. She told me that two nights before, the cabin in some way got alight from the stove while she and the children were asleep, and they had only just been able to escape, with nothing on but their night-dresses. Everything was burned, cabin, provisions, clothes and pelts, and my wife and three poor little children were left standing in the wilderness without food or shelter.

My boat was still in good order, so my wife put the children into it, and at once started for Selkirk, three hundred miles distant. The river was in flood, as the ice was only just gone out, and rowing and floating alternately on the strong stream day and night, racing against death, the children from starvation and cold, my wife was prepared to attempt the passage of the Pelly canon by night, a most terrible risk, in order to reach Selkirk as soon as possible; for I was before my time, and she did not expect to meet me on my return journey.

JEWES OF THE WORLD.

The "Jewish Year Book," just published in Europe, estimates the total number of Israelites in the world at about 11,081,000. Of these it lists 8,748,000 in Europe, 1,550,000 in America, 354,000 in Africa, 342,000 in Asia, and 17,000 in Australia. The Jews of Europe are divided as follows: Russia, 5,100,000; Austria, 2,100,000; Germany, 600,000; the Balkan States, 400,000; Belgium and Holland, 165,000; France, 80,000; Italy, 40,000. The largest Jewish populations in cities are given as: New York, 700,000; Vienna, 130,000; Berlin, 95,000; London, 87,000; and Jerusalem, 30,000.