

Miscellaneous

AN AIRSHIP TO THE POLE.

MUCH interest is being taken in the attempt to reach the North Pole by airship which Mr. Walter Wellman will make during the coming summer. The balloon part of the airship America has been rebuilt in the ateliers in Paris of M. Mallet, the well-known constructor. The great ship is now 183 feet in length, with a greatest diameter of 52 1-2 feet. Its volume is 265,000 cubic feet, and when inflated it will have a lifting force of 19,500 pounds. The principal motor, a 60-70-h.p. Clement, works directly on two steel screws, 11 1-2 feet in diameter, placed at each side of the car. The speed of this airship is 16-18 statute miles per hour, and the fuel carried gives 150 hours of motoring at full speed; radius of action over 2,250 miles, or nearly double the distance from Spitzbergen to the Pole and back again. In addition to motors, machinery, nearly three and a half tons of petrol, the crew of four or five men, a dozen sledge dogs, and a completely equipped sledging party for a possible return over the ice in case of need, the America will carry a ton and a half of food, making it possible for the crew to spend the entire winter in the Arctic regions should that be necessary. It is planned to reach the expedition base at Spitzbergen the first week in June, to have trials of the airship in July, and to start for the Pole in the latter part of that month or in the first half of August.

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NEW BUILDING IN MEXICO.

The new postoffice building in the City of Mexico is the first government building in Mexico of any architectural design worthy of the name. It is of fireproof construction, its frame being the first steel frame to go up in the city. Architecturally the new post-office is unexcelled by any building in the country, and as a thing of real beauty surpasses, in the opinion of many, even the Congressional Library at Washington. It is far superior to any office building owned by the United States government.

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A PRINCE'S PALACE.

Prince Von Bulow, chancellor of the German Empire, has begun a period of well-earned rest and will spend his vacation at the Villa Malta, one of the most delectable residences in Rome. Margharita, the queen dowager of Italy, wanted to buy the place, but the price staggered even her royal purse. Herr Von Bulow, however, is a very rich man, besides which his Italian wife has a large fortune, and the German statesman did not hesitate when possession of such a lovely spot was within his reach. The Villa Malta commands a wonderfully beautiful view of the Mediterranean, has a rose garden which is the wonder of Europe and altogether is one of the dream places of Italy.

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PACHMANN'S DRY SHAMPOO.

The pet stimulant of the famous pianist, Vladimir de Pachmann, is a dry shampoo. I have it on the authority of his barber—and who knows better?—says M. A. P., that Pachmann's success with the works of Chopin is largely due to the influence of the art of the hairdresser. One afternoon, recently, I discovered that the head which was protruding from pink striped overalls in a West End barber's chair beside my own was the head—one might excusably say the Pole—of the chief of Chopin interpreters. After his shampoo, and almost before the barber had had time to dry his hair properly, the great man suddenly tore off his overalls and tore out of the shop. The barber and his men took no notice. They were used to it. He had an account there. And the manager of the place, observing my astonishment at this strange exit, explained that the pianist was rushing off to his recital while the tingling of the shampooing process—"ze crackle—crackle of ze ammonia," as he called it—was still upon him!

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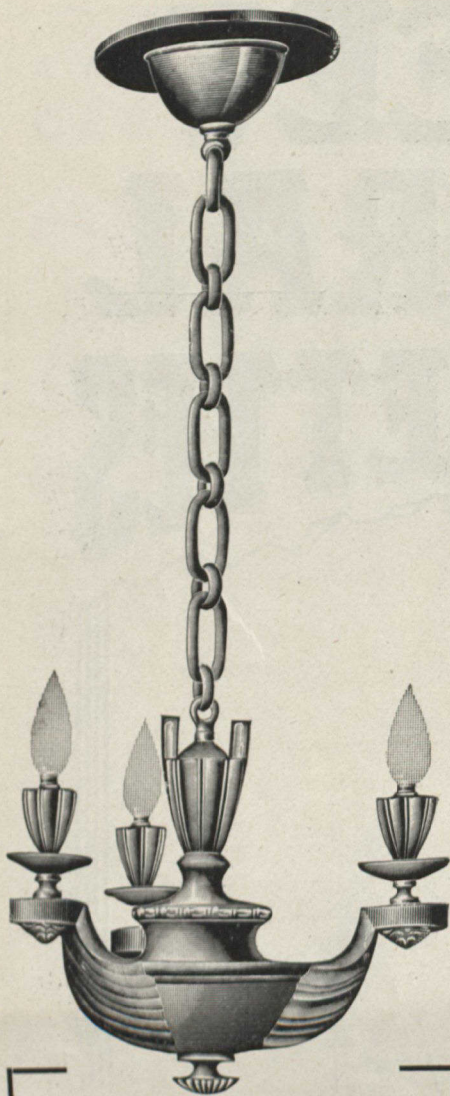
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