

ENTERTAINING MISCELLANY

VARIOUS SUBJECTS CLEVERLY TREATED

A Celestial Problem.

Et a angel wuz ter light down here—
De kind what flies en sings,
En he couldn't pay
His way—his way,
Dey'd level on his wings.

O, believers!
Rough worl' 'en wide;
Den how would de angel make de trip
Fum here ter de yuther side?

Et de angel say dat Heaven will pay,
En he des is 'bleege ter go,
Dey'll up en state—
"Too long ter wait—
Heaven too fur off, you know!"

O, believers!
Rough worl' 'en wide;
Den how would de angel make de trip
Fum here ter de yuther side?

Facts and Figures.

The world's annual production of India rubber is at present 57,000,000 pounds. Of this nearly half is used up in the United States.

Fifty-one carrier pigeons were sold at Antwerp recently for \$2,250, constituting a record price, the highest amount paid for one bird being \$105.

The German Emperor has more servants in his employ than any other monarch. Altogether they number over 3,000, about two-thirds of them being women.

In the Vatican at Rome is the largest topaz in the world. It weighs seven pounds and has carvings upon it that occupied three Neapolitan lapidaries 61 years.

There is a training school for elephants at Apl, in the Congo State, where 28 elephants are taking lessons. The training operations have produced encouraging results.

The most highly valued book in existence is a Hebrew bible, which is in the possession of the German Government. A few years ago the Pope desired to purchase this ancient volume and made the German Emperor an offer of \$150,000 for it, but was refused.

Remarkable gold beetles are found in Central America. The head and wing cases are brilliantly polished with a luster as of gold itself. To sight and touch they have all the appearance of that metal. Oddly enough, another species from the same region looks like solid silver, freshly burnished.

The most productive sulphur mine in the world is in Calcasieu parish, in the southwestern part of Louisiana, a few miles from the Sabine River. The sulphur is 98.8 per cent. pure. The daily output is from 750 to 800 tons throughout the year. The cost of production is only \$2.50 a ton, while the selling price is \$28.50 per ton.

They do things on a wholesale scale out in California. The traveler down the coast from San Francisco to Los Angeles rides through 35 miles of growing beans. A tract of 3,000 acres is owned by one man. A "bean ranch" may sound rather odd, but that is what it amounts to. The annual bean crop of California amounts to 600 loads.

What is said to be the smallest book ever printed has just been published at Padua, Italy, by Salmin Brothers. It is ten by six millimeters in size, and consists of 80 pages, each page containing nine lines of 95 to 100 letters that, despite their diminutive size, are perfectly visible. The book reproduces a hitherto unpublished letter, Galilei's to Christina of Lorena (1615).

The feat of moving a lighthouse without taking it apart or dismantling it in any way has recently been accomplished at Ashtabula. The range light, weighing 65 tons, and standing 65 feet high, was placed on a lighter and towed along the river, a distance of 750 feet, and then successfully placed on a new site. It was raised by the use of jacks and moved on rollers to and from the lighter. Guy ropes held it in position while moving.

A bridge built entirely of mahogany, said to be the only one of the kind in the world, is in the state of Chiapas, Mexico. The bridge spans the Rio Michol, and its total length, including approaches, exceeds 150 feet, while the width is 15 feet. It is used by both teams and pedestrians, and, though somewhat rude and primitive in construction, is substantial. None of the timbers of the flooring were sawed, for in that region there are no sawmills, but were hewed and split.

Items of Interest.

Well trained Spanish women learn to handle the sword from their earliest year, and as a result they have admirable figures and an easy walk.

A piece of leather, with the assistance of the latest machines, can be transformed into a pair of shoes in thirty-four minutes, in which time it passes through the hands of sixty-three people and through fifteen machines.

The English Duke of Rutland has the walls of one of his castles adorned with thousands of horseshoes, the collection having been begun centuries ago. Among them is a shoe given by Queen Elizabeth and another by Queen Victoria.

Eighteen miles is said to be the longest distance at which a man's voice has been heard. This occurred in the Grand Canyon of Colorado, where one man shouting the name "Bob" at one end was plainly heard at the other end, which is eighteen miles away.

From time immemorial the rose has been regarded as an emblem of silence, having been dedicated by Cupid to Harpocrates, the god of silence. Presenting or holding a rose to a person was regarded as a signal to hold his tongue, and in rooms it was usual to place a rose above the table to signify that what was there spoken should be kept a secret.

Artificial silk is made from wood pulp in Sweden. The imitation is excellent, but it is found that many dresses made from it have been discarded because the creases made when the wearer sits down do not come out. It is scarcely possible to distinguish the real from the artificial silk, but this defect has proved fatal for use as dress pieces.

Every cat owner in Berlin has now to pay a tax, which is equivalent to a license, and each cat has to wear a metal disk around its neck as evidence that the tax has been paid. Any cat found on the streets without this metal disk is taken off to the municipal lethal chamber by the police. This method has already considerably lessened the number of cats in Berlin. The Emperor—who has a hatred of cats almost amounting to a mania—is said to have induced the Berlin municipality to take action.

The candle nut is a native of the Pacific Islands, and the name is derived from the fact that the kernels are so full of oil that, when dried, they can be stuck on reeds and used as candles. The people of Hawaii, after having roasted these nuts and removed the shells, re-roasted the kernels to a paste, which, when flavored with pep-

per and salt, is said to be a most appetizing dish. The husk of the nut and the gum which exudes from the tree have medicinal values, while the burned shell is used to make an indelible ink, with which tattooing is done.

A bread-cutting machine bought for the Chelmsford Workhouse, England, has effected a saving of 1,962 loaves valued at £32 14s.

In Sweden the criminal law provides that the capital sentence shall only be carried out in the case of a prisoner confessing the crime with which he is charged.

An Imperishable Book.—The Hon. Walter Rothschild's book on "Extinct Birds," which has cost its author about £5,000 to produce, is to be printed on imperishable paper.

House to Cost Two Million.—Mr. George J. Gould, of New York, has decided to pull down his house at the corner of Fifth Avenue and build another, which will cost him £2,000,000. The new house, which will be six storeys high, will be built of Indiana limestone.

Popular Marrying Months.—April, June and December are the principal marrying months in this country, and May the poorest of marriage months. Yet in Holland May is the month of all others for marriages. In Russia January and February are the marriage months, and in Norway June and July.

Blind Pastor's Feat.—A blind pastor at Welshpool has immersed without assistance a convert over 6 feet high in the chapel baptistry, 6 feet in length. Since his ordination the Rev. David Griffiths has married several couples, reading the service from Braille type, which he picked out himself at his wife's dictation.

Spent Sixty-Five Years in Bed.—An octogenarian named Honor Rye, who has been bed-ridden for sixty-five years, is living on the Marquess of Cholmondeley's estate at Massingham, near King's Lynn. When in her teens she injured her back, and though she walked home she has not been able to rise from her bed since.

Giant Telescope.—Mr. John D. Hooker, of Los Angeles, has provided the necessary funds for the purchase of a reflecting telescope, of which the mirror will be 100 inches in diameter and the focal length 50 feet. The enormous stride contemplated by the erection of such a telescope will be best apprehended if we compare the dimensions with the largest instruments of the kind yet completed. Hitherto 60 inches has been the limit of diameter.

Dog Test for Motors.—The police of Cleveland, Ohio, have trained a bulldog to help them in trapping the scorching motorist. The dog has a great turn of speed, of which a test was made the other day. A course was laid out and the animal was sent in pursuit of a passing motor-car. It was found that the dog had a running average of thirty-three miles an hour. The next day the dog was sent after speed-defying motorists, and those he could not overtake were arrested.

On an average 293 alien children under fourteen years old arrive in New York City every day.

It takes eighty men to make a German doll. Each man makes a small portion of the doll, but it is the same bit all the time, and 1,000 dozen dolls can be made in a day in some of the big factories. After the men finish the body portion of the doll the women's work begins. They paint, dress the dolls, and pack them for the market.

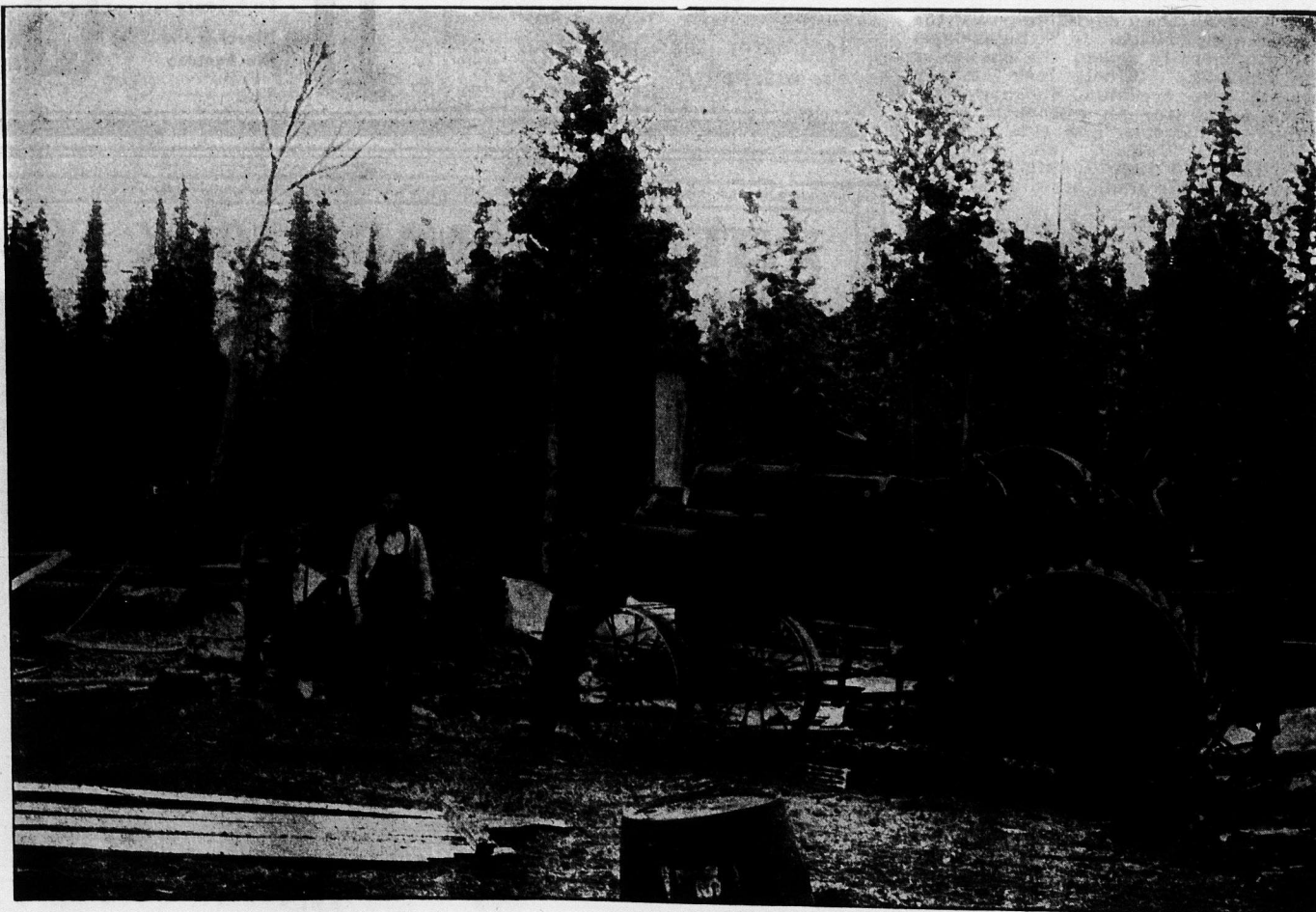
London's Mud.—It has been calculated that the cost of a muddy day in London is something like £5,000. This is not surprising when one remembers that no fewer than thirty-two tons of mud are carried about from place to place on the wheels of carts and carriages and horses' hoofs. After a wet day the dry mud brushed from people's clothing amounts to fifteen tons, and a very similar amount is shaken out of the door-mats. City mud, however, has its good points. The shoeblack increases his earnings in the muddy weather, and new silk hats and dresses and boots and shoes are each and all the direct outcome of its destructive qualities.

Sympathy and Encouragement

What this old world needs is more sympathy and more encouragement. Why does a boy consider his mother his best friend? Because he can carry to her his troubles and feels that she understands and will sympathize with him. Why does this self-same boy grown to be a man seek a mate? More sympathy. The companionship and encouragement of a kindred soul. We say man (and that includes women also) marries for "love," and what is love but sympathy? The way of life is filled with dreary places. To most of us, our pathways are strewn with bitter disappointments. Our weary feet, instead of treading the velvet cushions of green sod, stumble over jagged rocks. It is then that we seek an oasis of sympathy. We long to pour into sympathetic ears the tale of our troubles; our hopes and our ambitions. It is then that the value of human sympathy is appreciated.

A word of encouragement at the right time is of more real worth than an ounce of gold. It is more nourishing to the soul than meat and drink to the hungry. It is a better stimulant than the richest wine, and the strongest lever to lift from ruts of despondency. Many a poor overworked wife is pining for a word of sympathy from her husband. Just one word, one look to show that the toil of weary hours is appreciated, and the light reflected would more than recompense the giver. What is it that sends the miner into the darkened pit? Into the mills and factories? Upon the farms and oceans? Not the love of gain, not to live for self. It is that, when the days of toil are past, he can fly to some sympathetic arm for praise and encouragement.

If you have Catarrh, rid yourself of this repulsive disease. Ask Dr. Shoop of Racine, Wis., to mail you free, a trial box of his Dr. Shoop's Catarrh Remedy. A simple, single test will surely tell you a Catarrh truth well worth your knowing. Write today. Don't suffer longer. Sold by all druggists.



Portable saw mill at work in the woods near Lacombe, Alta.