

ENTERTAINING MISCELLANY

VARIOUS SUBJECTS CLEVERLY TREATED

Brain's Call—One by One

An unwise kind of wisdom
Some people of earth possess,
A knowledge unknown to knowledge,
Dead born in its fruitlessness.
Many a name may be built on shadows,
Their names may be carved in air,
Till wide-winged truth comes sweeping
And scatters them everywhere.

There's a "fearlessness" that feareth
Tho' its voice may stir the land;
And honor sleepeth in silence
Neath honor's heavy hand.
Free men wear the garb of galley,
Enchained in convention's hall;
But the truth, tho' long in coming,
One by one shall free them all.

An unjust thing called "justice"
Stalks on thro' the halls called
"grand,"
A merciless thing called "mercy"
Walks heavily shod the land.
There's right that is all unrighteous—
The vilest sordid of all—
But truth shall make them totter,
And they one by one shall fall.

There's a triumph, untriumphant,
Grown great on the pangs of pain;
A glory achieved by purchase
From the bastard gods of gain.
There are crowns of crumpled tinsel
Attuned to a servile call;
But wide-winged truth comes sweeping
And one by one shall fall.

—By Nellie Robinson Strutton.

Items of Interest.

Proper care of the teeth is now
taught in London schools.
The Kaiser is the best swordsman
among European rulers.
Some of the largest ocean steamers
can be converted into armed cruisers
in thirty hours.
The hedgehog, guarded by spikes,
rolls itself up for winter in a hole
lined with grass and moss.
The kangaroo readily leaps from sixty
feet to seventy feet. The greatest
record leap of a horse is thirty-seven
feet.
Many bears that hibernate dig into a
hillside to find a nest, but for a mild
winter they are likely to roll up in
some shallow excavation or a hollow
tree.

While a well was being bored near
Marfa, Texas, an underground river
was struck at a depth of two hundred
feet. With the artesian flow which
poured forth from the mouth of the
well came several articles of wearing
apparel.

An English electrical expert has dis-
covered a means of ripening bananas
to order. The bunches are hung in an
air-tight glass case, in which are a
number of electric lights. The artificial
light and heat hasten the ripening pro-
cess in proportion to the number of
lights turned on. Records have been
made which enable the operators to
make delivery of any quantities at any
agreed date.

The toad sheds its skin at certain
periods, the old one coming off, and
leaving a new one, which has been
formed underneath in its stead. It
does not give its cast-off coat away to
any poorer toad; and there are no toads
dealing in second-hand raiment. Neither
does it leave its cast-off jacket on the
ground after the fashion of the shift-
less snake. It swallows its overcoat
at one mouthful, converting its stomach
into a portmanteau.

In some parts of the Philippine Is-
lands the people have a strange way of
fishing. They gather rattan, the stem
of a tall plant which grows there, and
split it into thin strips. With these
strips they weave very good baskets.
The people make a kind of food for the
fish which is mixed with some drug.
They fill the baskets with this mixture
and throw the baskets into the water.
When the fish eat this food it makes
them stupid. They rise to the top of
the water and act as if they were dead.
Then the natives can catch them very
easily.

The Emperor of Austria is rather
given to boasting that to the plain man-
ner in which he has always lived he
owes his excellent health and long life.
His majesty is quite content with milk
and porridge for his breakfast, and,
although a somewhat elaborate menu is
prepared for luncheon when other mem-
bers of the Austrian royal family are
present, the Emperor is usually satisfied
with a little cold poultry, followed
by cheese, of which he is very fond.
His majesty does not care a great deal
for fish, and the only soup of which he
can be said to be really fond is Scotch
broth.

Making Spiders Spin.

Certain green ants in Queensland,
which also make their nests of leaves
and flowers spun together, are said to
keep spiders to spin for them. Whether
these latter do it spontaneously, or re-
quire to be held as the larvae of the
other species, does not seem to have
been determined. In the devices of
these ants there is surely one of na-
ture's hints to human inventors. Since
the days of the spider artist in the
University of Lagado, spider silk has
been a dream. The difficulty of its re-
lation has been chiefly the pugnacious
nature of the spider, which prevents
them being kept together. But a ma-
chine has been invented which seems
to overcome the difficulty. It is de-
scribed as a sort of frame containing
twenty-four gullotines, the blunt knives
of which descend on the waists of the
spiders and hold them fast. A number
of the threads are secured together on
a hook and slowly drawn out.

Utilising a Flood.

It is proposed by the United States
Bureau of Forestry to make the over-
flow lands of the lower Mississippi
commercially productive. The levees,
which are from one eighth of a mile to
two miles from the river's low-water
line, protect with more or less com-
pleteness the low lands beyond them.
Between the levees and the river
there can be no question of cultivation,
because of the certainty of overflow,
but the land easily serves for the raising
of cottonwood trees, since these
are not affected by periodical high
water.

Cottonwood grows with practically
no care, and while of small value for
most purposes, it is extensively used in
the manufacture of boxes, furniture
backs, washboards, etc. The forestry
bureau is doing much to increase the
forest area back of the levees, especial-
ly the growth of white ash, because of
the high commercial value of this
wood.

Unique Grass Carpet.

In the making of one gigantic carpet
63,000 feet in area, 200 people prac-
tically the entire population of the vil-
lage of Glemsford, in Suffolk, England,
have been for many weeks employed.
Woven of coconut fibre and raffia
grass, with a "pile" 1½ inches in thick-
ness, and dyed green, the carpet looks
and feels like genuine turf.
It can be rolled smooth like a real
lawn, and cricket, tennis and hockey
balls play off it precisely the same
fashion as they do off real growing
grass. In the making of the carpet,
which will cost \$25,000, more than
twenty tons of raffia grass are being
used. When finished the carpet will
weigh forty-six tons. During the win-
ter, croquet, lawn tennis, cricket, foot-
ball, hockey, pelota and other games
will be played on it.

About Fans.

The folding fan originated in the
land of the rising sun thirteen cen-
turies ago, and was modelled, if tradi-
tion speaks truly, upon the wing of the
bat.

We did not get the idea directly from
Japan. It passed through China, and
very long afterward, through Italy,
Spain, and France to us. The non-fold-
ing fan is, of course, as old as the his-
tory of church and court, and had an
important place in the paraphernalia of
both Assyria and Egypt.

Anciently in the church the fan was
employed to brush away flies from the
sacred vessels, and in the processions of
Rome the flabella of peacock feathers
still has place.

Fan making is still an important in-
dustry in Paris, but the articles now
produced do not compare for beauty
with the products of the eighteenth
century, when goldsmiths, jewelers,
metal workers, carvers and artists
combined to make fans which to-day are
worth fabulous prices.

To Weather-Proof Stone and Metal.

One of those pieces of news that may
turn out to be important and so cannot
well be ignored, although it awaits au-
thoritative confirmation, appears in the
daily press in the shape of a London
cable despatch announcing the discovery
by an Hungarian chemist, Brunn by
name, of a liquid chemical compound
that renders certain substances proof

against the effects of time. It is said
to water-proof stone, to make metals
rust-proof, and also to act as a germi-
cide. Says the Sun (New York):—
"The professor says that while trav-
elling in Greece some twenty-five years
ago he noticed that the mortar in stones
of ruins which were known to be over
2,000 years old was as hard, fresh, and
tenacious as if it had been made only
a year. He secured a piece of mortar
and has been working on it ever since
until now, when, he says, he has dis-
covered the secret. The compound is a
yellow liquid, which the professor has
christened "Zorone."

"An interviewer describes the follow-
ing experiments: A piece of ordinary
and easily breakable slag after immer-
sion in zorone defied the full blow of a
hammer. There was the same effect on
ordinary bricks and a block of red jar-
rah wood. All three were then immer-
sed in water for a long time. When taken
out and weighed with delicate scales
the presence of a single particle of ad-
ded moisture could not be detected. Two
pieces of steel submitted to an am-
monia test equal to five years' expo-
sure to the air emerged from the bath
as they entered it. An ordinary table-
knife which had lain open five months
did not show the slightest stain.

"Professor Brunn asserts that he will
be able to make dust-germ-proof,
water-proof roads, giving a commercial
value to hundreds of millions of tons
of slag which is now useless in the
mining and smelting districts. It will
at the very least double the life of
metals exposed to the air, such as in
bridges, railroads, vessels and tanks."
It is suggestively added that the in-
ventor refuses to reveal the composi-
tion of his liquid, but it is said that a
committee representing the railways
and iron and steel manufacturers will
soon make a thorough test of the dis-
covery.

A Bamboo Land.

A recent traveller in China, thus
states some of the possibilities:

"A man can sit in a bamboo house
under a bamboo roof, on a bamboo
chair at a bamboo table, with his feet
resting on a bamboo footstool, with a
bamboo hat on his head and bamboo
sandals on his feet. He can eat at the
same time hold in one hand a bamboo
bowl, in the other, bamboo chopsticks,
and eat bamboo sprouts.

"When through with his meal, which
has been cooked over a bamboo fire, the
table may be washed with a bamboo
cloth, and he can fan himself with a
bamboo fan and take a siesta on a
bamboo bed, lying on a bamboo mat
with his head resting on a bamboo pil-
low. His child might be lying in a
bamboo cradle, playing with a bamboo
toy.

"On rising he could smoke his bam-
boo pipe, and, taking a bamboo pen,
write a letter on bamboo paper, or car-
ry his articles in bamboo baskets sus-
pended from a bamboo pole, with a
bamboo umbrella over his head. He
might then take a walk over a bamboo
suspension bridge, drink water out of
a bamboo ladle, and scrape himself
with a bamboo sweat-scraper (handker-
chief). The bamboo ingenuity and per-
sistency have produced (bamboo) joint
results which exhibit the potentialities
and possibilities of the Chinese people."

Remarkable Bridges.

One of the most remarkable bridges
in the world, not only from the engin-
ering point of view, but also from its
relations as a link in transcontinental
traffic, will be that now under construc-
tion across the St. Lawrence River,
about six miles above the city of Que-
bec and 170 miles below Montreal. It
will contain the longest span in the
world, and will be the link that will
render possible another all-Canadian
transcontinental railway. The struc-
ture, it is supposed, will be built in
two years. All railways will be en-
titled to its use. In order to avoid ob-
struction to ocean-going craft, the
bridge is not built on a series of piers
extending across the stream, but con-
sists technically of two great cantile-
vers carrying a huge central expan-
ded span having a total length in the
clear—that is, between the towers at
either side—of 1,800 feet, which is 90
feet longer than each of the two spans
of the famous bridge over Firth of
Forth near Edinburgh, Scotland.

The approaches to the central span of
the Quebec bridge are each 214 feet
long extending from the shores to the
supporting piers. All parts of the
structure are of huge proportions, and
consist mainly of built-up steel girders
and other shapes, not a single casting
being used. The weight of each girder
is 278 tons. The anchor arms are 500
feet long. The bridge has a very large
capacity, the floor having a total width
of 75 feet. It is designed to carry two
lines of steam railroad, two trolley lines,
two carriage highways, and two side-
walks, the last-named being placed on
side, and the rest of the traffic between
the trusses, which are 67 feet apart,
center to center. The clear headway
above the water is 150 feet.

It is only in recent years that the
construction of such a bridge has been

rendered possible, through
ment in the manufacture
shapes. The steel mills a
finishing rolled, rectangular
that were not obtainable
the Firth of Forth bridge.
As a consequence, the Que-
bec bridge, with its canti-
lever vertical planes. It will
up lattice chords and post-
beams. The result will
be lighter in weight, che-
and the most graceful in
among the bridges of the
purposes of comparison.
Technical World Magazine
it may be interesting to re-
span of the Williamsburg
bridge at New York is 1,360
of the famous Brooklyn
and that of the new Man-
1,470 feet.

Japan's Victory Over

Longmore's tables, which
as the most reliable stat-
and which are based on the
battles for the past two h
shows that there has rarely
died of any great duration
least four men have not a
disease for every one from
In the Russo-Turkish
men died from disease
from wounds. In the C
saign, it is asserted on an
authority, that in six mon
forces lost 60,000 soldiers
and only 3,000 from c
the French campaign in M
1894, of the 14,000 men
front 29 were killed in act
from disease, most of wh
ventable.

In our Spanish-American
1898, in a campaign the s-
ties of which lasted six
deaths from casualties, as
the surgeon-general of
States army recently, were
those from disease amount
or nearly 14 to 1.

Compare these frightful
the record of killed, wound
in the Japanese army fr
1904 to 1905, the C
Minister of War General
Tokio, in August last,
killed on the field 44,892
cent of the entire army
there were wounded 14
per cent; there died of
or 1.51 per cent; there di-
ness and disease, includi
cases, 11,992, or about 2
the army.

In other words, the tota
deaths from casualties
amounted to 53,946, or n
cent of the army, whic
deaths from sickness and
992 or 2 per cent. of the
record is unparalleled and
in the history of warfare.

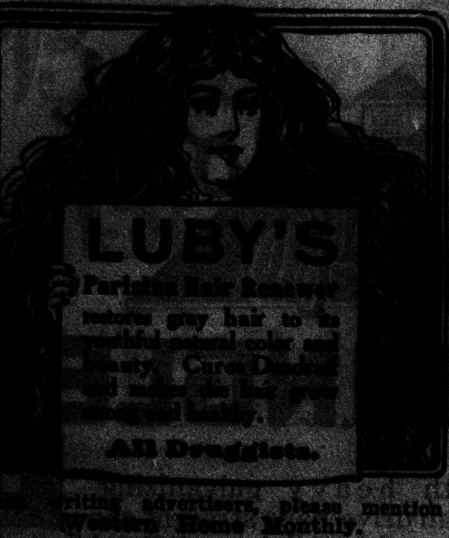
How did the Japanese
In three pre-eminent
ways. First, thorough
organization for war, such
before made in history
through the simple, s
easily digested ration fi
troops; and third, becaus
liant part played by the m
medical profession in the
practical sanitation and
out of preventable disease
thereby saving its great
legitimate purpose of wa
ing of the enemy in the
"Lessons for America in
Army Medical Service,"
Louis L. Seaman, M. D.

Just a Substitute for

Thomas A. Edison cl
solved the problem of el
battery traction as a
commercial agency. "I
lieve," he says, "that whe
sessed such a paucity of
electric storage batteries
the only substance we c
that purpose. After some
found that iron rust, nic
potash answered the pur-
well, and the only thing
do was to perfect cells o
of commercial use."

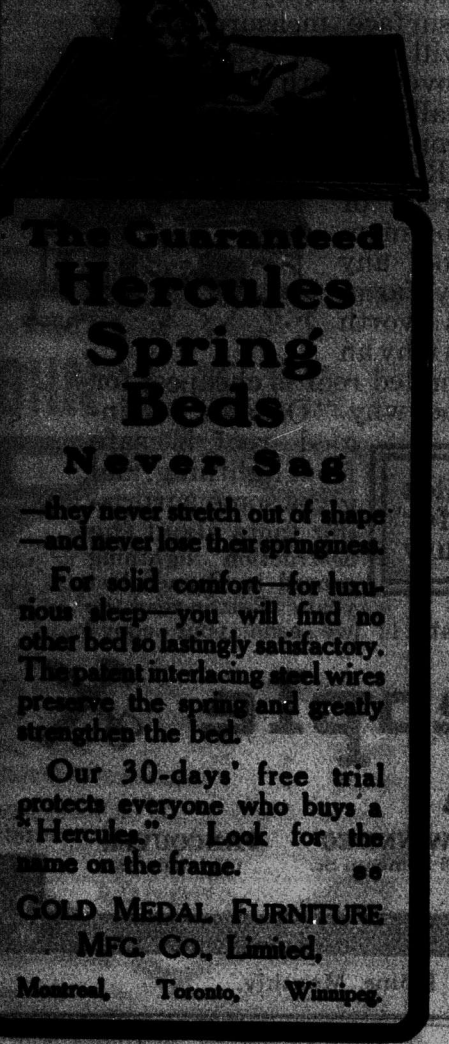
Even after he had su-
far, Mr. Edison said he
demonstrate their utility.
for more than a year 160
ons in different parts of
have been regularly driv-
storage batteries. Many
ons are operated by an
pany in Washington, an
says that reports on the
the work performed by
in other cities show tha
about 58 per cent. of the
In all, Mr. Edison say
manufactured 14,000 of h
cells, and he is now erec
at Menlo Park 600 by 60
stories high, especially f
facture.

Piles get quick and
from Dr. Shoon's Ma
Please note it is made a
and its action is positiv
itching, painful, protrud
piles disappear like mag
Large nickel-capped glass
Sold by all druggists.

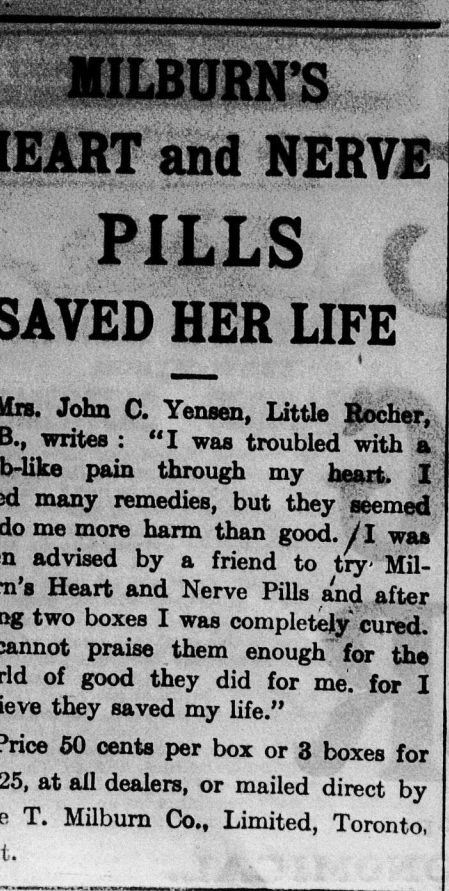


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lustrous. Cures Dandruff
and makes the hair grow
more luxuriantly.
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