

NOTES AND COMMENTS

The educational progress of woman in Germany is an event of more than ordinary interest in contemporary social history. During the last few years all the universities of southern and central Germany have yielded, one after the other, to the feminine siege and opened their gates, through which the women now pass as freely as the men. Having accomplished this, the women have now united their efforts to secure admission to the great universities of Prussia. A formal petition, signed not only by prominent educational people but by one hundred and sixty Prussian university professors, has been presented to the educational department of the government, asking that women be allowed to pass examinations and matriculate. It is stated there is good reason to believe the government will yield, in which case women all over the German empire will have the same rights and advantages in obtaining the higher education and engaging in the professions as men.

Evidently the German women—or a class of them rapidly increasing—no longer are willing to admit that matrimony and housekeeping are the highest stages of their development. They are of the opinion that, while they may rear good children and prove themselves good housekeepers and good cooks, life has something more for them, and that the time has come for them to express their own individuality and develop their mental abilities. As statistics show already a yearly increase in the number of female academic citizens, it will be of interest to watch the effect of the new propagandists not only upon German women but German men also, for the latter are beginning to show a disposition to concede the demands of the former. The outcome of the whole matter may be the strengthening of the German nation.

What one shall eat in warm weather has become as much a matter of scientific study as what one shall wear, and it is a part of the summer recreation of some housekeepers to listen to lectures on summer dietaries and porch teas. It is generally admitted that olden time epicures were unaware of the possibilities for daintiness and delicacy that lie in summer menus and that they made little distinction between a summer salad and a winter salad and cared not if an autumn entree were served in the spring of the year. But the up-to-date epicure is conscious of a gastronomical sensitiveness that compels him to reject dishes that do not harmonize with the season, and he would as soon think of eating corned beef and cabbage on a hot day as he would of wearing car mufflers. There are some palates that reject all such food refinements and never permit the season to control their hunger or dictate their menus, but as a rule their possessors are among those who most readily succumb to hot weather diseases. For the most commendable thing about warm weather dietaries is that they have hygienic reasons back of them and that they include such dishes as require but limited effort on the part of that old enemy of man, his digestion.

MOTOR CAR IN BORNEO.

Terror the Sight of It Spread Among Inhabitants of the Jungle. The progress of the car along the road was the signal for a wild stampede of the inhabitants of every hamlet. The Singapore Times in describing the introduction of the first motor car into the interior of Borneo, and the further it penetrated inland the more fearful an object the motor appeared to be to the people. Whole villages fled to the jungle wilds rather than face the awful monster. They seemed to regard the innocent motor car as the very devil himself. On one occasion the occupants of the car came upon a small group of fishermen on the river bank almost without warning. With wild screams one and all of them dropped their nets and fled, disappearing as swiftly as so many rabbits in a warren. Another time an old man and an old woman were sitting by the roadside when before they knew it the car had run up almost abreast of them. The poor old couple must indeed have imagined that some fiend was after them, for with terrified shrieks, arms outstretched, they rushed straight for the river banks, threw themselves into a canoe and paddled off for dear life, their flight accelerated by the revelations of the motor horn tooting through-out the forest. On yet another trip the motor car overtook on the road a herd of bullocks driven by a squad of natives. On hearing the warning foot of the horn the drivers looked behind, and when they saw what must have appeared to them a new form of the devil they darted through and among the animals and shot, wildly yelling, ahead. They could not go off at the sides of the road, for on each flank was a deep bog, so they fled on till the morass was passed. Meanwhile the bullocks themselves seemed to be infected with the terror which had seized upon their drivers, for the whole herd stampeded until they also found roadside openings where, safe from the pursuing monster, they could rest their hurrying flanks. "Mrs. Baker gave a children's party for babies under two years old." "Was it a success?" "Howling."

INGENIOUS MAKESHIFTS

SCUTTLED SHIPS TO STOP THE LEAKS.

A Ship's Captain Saved His Crew's Lives by Means of Rifle Barrels. Bricks ran short in South Africa a year or two ago, and a firm of builders, who were erecting a couple of houses, found it impossible to obtain a further supply immediately. They looked out for a makeshift and found in the form of sand and silica. Obtaining a large quantity of each material, they burnt them, ground them up, moulded them into square blocks with moisture, under great pressure, and fired, a splendid substitute for bricks, for the sand and silica blocks showed neither expansion nor contraction after burning, were of snowy whiteness and of the hardness of granite. To-day this new composition is outstanding in building operations in foreign countries, and, especially in very hot climates, sand and silica houses have surpassed brick ones. The Italians have found the composition to be of first-rate value for decorative purposes, for it is capable, when in its moist condition, of being sculptured to any desired extent.

RAYONETS USED AS POKERS.

If you were to drop into the houses of the French peasants you would be struck with the fact that practically every man and woman had his or her fire with a bayonet. Some 100,000 bayonets—condemned stores of the French Army, and used in the Franco-Prussian War—have found their way into the homes of poor peasants, who use them as firelocks. Bayonets are also becoming fashionable as pokers in Great Britain, but they are generally used by the well-to-do. Guns have other uses apart from killing. We all know that hundreds of clocks are set from the one-clock gun fired by electricity from Greenwich Observatory, but not everybody is aware that rifles have supplied moisture in desert countries to travellers dying of thirst, and they have saved their own lives. In the great Sahara, some time ago, a globe-trotter, who wanted water badly, found it possible to collect a drink out of the mere dampness of the sand. He stuck the barrel of his gun into the ground, and it collected moisture in the bore to stay his thirst. A timely suck at a gun-muzzle has saved many lives in the sun-scorched deserts of the tropics.

A BRILLIANT IDEA.

He had a number of sporting guns in his cabin, and taking them on deck, he plugged up the breech ends, filled the barrels with sea-water, and set them up among the rigging of the galley. The steam gathered he ran it through either gun-barrel until it cooled. The steam collected in the shape of excellent fresh water, and in this way the crew were supplied with sufficient moisture until the vessel reached port. The barque Ruth, bound from Demerara to Oban, with sugar, neglected to procure a chart of the Scottish coast when setting sail. The captain had never been to Oban before, and not wishing to return to Demerara to get a chart, he looked about the vessel for a substitute. He discovered a Caledonian Railway time-table, with the railway map attached. This helped him out of his difficulty, for it acted splendidly as a sea-guide. The Ruth cut across the Atlantic, and after sailing up the West Coast of Scotland, dropped her anchor safely in Oban Bay.

WOMAN CONQUERED KOREA

Japanese Empress Was the First Conqueror, A. D. 201. Women played an important part in the early history of Japan. To a woman, the Empress Jingu, belongs the glory of first conquering Korea. Dressed as a man, she led her fleet over the unknown waters, across which she alone believed a country lay to the westward. "The glory will be all yours," she said to her chiefs, "if you are successful. As for me, I am responsible for the infancy of a possible defeat." The Koreans laid their wealth at the feet of the conquerors, and the king swore that so long as the stars shined and water ran down hill Korea should be faithful to Japan. This achievement of the empress gave rise to the boast of the Japanese, "The arms of Japan have never been conquered." By the introduction of Buddhism from Korea, as well as Asiatic art, science, medicine and literature, Jingu, however, was never acknowledged as the first conqueror of Korea. The first female ruler was Suiko, and since her time eight empresses have governed Japan, some of them with great wisdom.

PERFECTLY CONTENT.

"It is strange," remarked the observant man, "but very few people are content to do what they are best qualified for. Painters long to be musicians, and musicians long to be authors, and so it goes." "Yes," replied the business man, "but there are exceptions to every rule. I know a young man who has been doing the same thing for years, and he seems perfectly satisfied with it." "What has he been doing?" "Nothing."

THE GOLDEN RULE.

Two men had been shuffling at each other for a long time, and the idle spectators at the corner of the street thought blows must soon follow. Suddenly their hats went off and rolled in the dust. One of the men was entirely bald, and the other had a thick head of hair. The bald man seized the other by the hair, and held it tight, and the other, in a low, hoarse voice, cried a bystander, "Why should you stop him?" asked another. "He's only practising the golden rule."

A NOVEL BREAKWATER.

When she was broadside on the trembling dam, the engineer had her scuttled, and as she sank in the rushing river, Mr. Fosdyke and his men cheerfully themselves hoarse. The scuttled cargo steamer had saved the dam! This remarkable makeshift for a breakwater had cost nearly \$335,000. The captain of the Glacia, an American warship, put into Sydney, and ran up a bill of \$250 with a big foot-stamp. The captain didn't give his name, and when the account was sent to him, he refused to pay it, and told the firm to apply to the American Admiralty. The firm, finding that the law would not allow them to summon the captain, finally, did the next best thing—they got a judgment against his ship. One morning a lawyer, under a pretext, came aboard the Glacia, and before anyone knew what he was about, he had nailed a warrant to her mainmast. The captain, at first, threatened to tear it down, but on being told that to do so would be a breach of international law, he tried to escape, and settled the account out of his own pocket.

CLEARING THE MESS ROOM.

Some of the Unwritten Laws of the British Navy. In the gunroom mess itself the midshipmen are ruled with an iron hand, as probably they need to be, says a writer in the Grand Magazine, in telling the customs or pranks played by the junior officers on those who have the misfortune to be junior to them in point of standing in the British Navy. Those over eighteen—the senior—however, are allowed more privileges than the juniors, among them being strange to say, the right to smoke. The juniors do as they are told without question or remonstrance. An instance of this is afforded in one of the most curious of all the old customs of the British Navy. It is the cherished prerogative of the president of the mess to jab an ordinary talker into one of the benches above his head. Instantly every junior midshipman, who has the nerve to rush for the door as fast as his legs can carry him, while the progress of the laggards is assisted by vigorous whacks from their elders. Those on the wrong side of the mess must be ready to jump to take their obnoxious presence elsewhere.

FEATS OF MAN'S MEMORY

The MANY COMBINATIONS FIGURED BY CHESSMAKERS. One Player Recently Engaged 75 Opponents at the Same Time. Imagine being pitted against a mind that can visualize the positions of 30 pieces of ivory on as many squares, and every possible variation therefrom, and building one picture upon another, can foretell not only the end of the game, but the exact number of moves required for bringing it about, and as Marshall did in London, proceed to accomplish it in spite of all an ordinary player and his pieces can do to prevent. Just what this means may be realized in view of the computation that there are 418,972,664,000 ways of playing the first four moves on each side of the board. Yet during the Cambridge Springs tournament I saw Pillsbury take a hand in a game at which, at the same time, he was playing two games of chess and two games of checkers, without looking at any one of the four boards, writes a correspondent. Mr. Pillsbury sat at the whist table, with the chess and checker boards, and the moves were called out to him, and without interrupting the whist game a moment, he would call back the name of his own piece, which he wished moved in reply, specifying on which of the 64 squares it was to be placed. In this way he won the chess and checker games and helped to win.

THE LONG ALASKA TRAIL.

Summer a Lonely Flowery Way—Mighty Different in Winter. Our trail still leads to the north along the great Government road from Whitehorse to Dawson, a gold seeker writes in Hunter-Trapper. It is about 250 miles, well timbered all the way, with spruce, poplar and cottonwood, some jack pine just starting in thick masses of many acres. Forest fires ten years ago drove most of the game and fur to other parts, yet we see fresh signs of bear and fox in the dusty road every day for miles and miles. Some duck, mostly mallard, canvas back and black duck, geese and swan swim up nearly every day's travel. This is the middle of May—the grass is four inches high, blue and white flowers along the roadside, some straws, berry blossoms, and yet a pine of glass frozen in our camp bottles each morning. Fruit is killed 1,000 miles south.

MENTAL GROUPS.

In a 12-game circuit he would probably group boards 1, 4, 7, and 10 together, boards 2, 5, 8, and 11 would comprise the second group. Thus he would need but three styles of openings on the twelve boards. If the standard, r what are considered the best replies were made to those openings he would make counter-play that would enter him several moves into each game. After that he would probably begin to subdivide his groups, or, if a player tried a special variation, he would indicate that board and place it in a class by itself. Thus, eccentricity of play at any board presents no errors for the blindfold master. Rather does he welcome it, since it gives that particular board a character of its own, by causing it to stand out in his memory. After a while, each of the boards takes on a character of its own, and then he is compelled to depend upon memory, pure and simple, but that is so many years ago that it is seldom met with.

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HE HAS GREAT POWERS

PRIVILEGES OF LONDON'S LORD MAYOR.

Takes Precedence Before the Royal Family Within the City. If the Lord Mayor of London is not quite the exalted and powerful being he is, on the other hand, invested with much greater powers and dignities than many of his fellow-subjects of King Edward are aware of. The fact is that he is a King within his own jurisdiction. His kingship is emphasized by the fact that within his City he holds the right of precedence before all the Royal Family. This was a claim which the fourth George, when Prince of Wales, resented, and wished to dispute; but Sir James Shaw, the Lord Mayor of the time, stuck to his guns, and the fact of the George's had to be content with the fact that his lordship's broad back, in could not gain admittance into the presences unless, like anybody else, he knocked at the door and asked permission to enter. Of course, as a matter of courtesy, the Lord Mayor took care to be at Temple Bar ready to give his Sovereign

SEA CURRENTS.

Ocean Streams Are as Variable as the Winds of Heaven. There are as many vagaries in the water as in the wind. Why, for instance, should three great ocean currents send their warm waters across the wide Pacific, Atlantic, and Indian Oceans, and the Cape of Good Hope? Many theories have been advanced to solve the problem of their origin, but all have proved fallacious.

THE GAME OF WHIST.

Pillsbury performs these blindfold feats seemingly with comparative ease. He has played against as many as 25 different boards at one and the same time, without seeing a single board, and has won a large majority of the games. Seated with his back to the other players and constantly smoking a big cigar, he is apparently not even aware of the position of his own pieces, and to remember 22 different pictures, and each of which 32 chessman are being changed about in an indefinite variety of combinations. At each of these boards an expert chess player with every faculty concentrated on his own game, caring nothing for his neighbors' difficulties, bent only on baffling the memory of the man at the end of the room, whose mind recurs to his particular board, and visualizes it.

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