

Home Journal

People and Things the World Over

A new attempt to emphasize the diagnosing and treatment of tuberculosis in medical schools, so that the disease may be detected in an incipient stage, would seem to go a long way to assist in the successful warfare against what was at one time looked upon as a scourge. Mr. W. J. Gage has made an offer to the University of Toronto of five scholarships to the value of \$100 each, and gold and silver medals, carrying a cash payment of \$50 each, to be competed for by fourth and fifth year graduates in medicine.

It is not generally known that "Gipsy" Smith, the famous evangelist, who has returned to England after a successful tour in America, is a real gipsy, but such is the case, for he was born in a gipsy tent near Epping Forest. His father was a tinker who made willow baskets and re-caned chairs, and for years the future evangelist travelled about in the orthodox gipsy manner. He was little more than a boy when he became converted and it is interesting to note that he tried to hasten on his own conversion because he believed he was standing in the way of his sister, who, as she was younger than he, must, he thought, wait until her elder brother had become religious.

It is proposed that the French Chamber of Deputies shall vote by electricity next year. A screen will be placed near the secretaries' table, containing the names of the deputies, and against each name will be five spaces, marked "Present," "Absent," "Yes," "No," "Vote unrecorded." At the beginning of each session, when the deputy takes his seat he will press a button in front of him, and so record his presence. Then at the time of the vote he will vote "Yes" or "No" or his wish to abstain by pressing the necessary button.—Tit-Bits.

A new animal has been discovered in British East Africa by the Smithsonian African scientific expedition under the leadership of Mr. Roosevelt. This animal, the first announcement of whose discovery was made at the Smithsonian Institute, is a hitherto unknown species of otocyon, to which officials of the scientific organization have given the specific name of Veragtus. It is a small carnivorous mamma, closely resembling a fox. This announcement is of special interest for the reason that comparatively few new forms were expected from this region of Africa, as the territory up to this time explored by the Smithsonian expedition has been pretty thoroughly examined by British naturalists.

Many Canadian and United States book-lovers will learn with regret the death of Mr. William Brown, of Edinburgh, one of the most widely known book and autograph dealers in the world. He was at one time with Mr. W. Paterson, the publisher, but in 1877 started in business on his own account in Edinburgh. Mr. Brown was a discriminating buyer, and had a large clientele in all parts of the world, notably in the United States and Canada. He was a well known figure at Sotheby's, where he was a constant purchaser, chiefly of high class rarities in books and manuscripts of Scottish interest. In March, 1907, he bought for £355 the Ms. of Burn's "Bannockburn," and at the same sale he secured for £350 a group of poems in Ms. by the same poet. In June of the same year he paid a high price in the same rooms for one of Nelson's letters to Lady Hamilton, and as recently as December 7 he bought the presentation copy to Lord Hatherley, of Queen Victoria's "Leaves from the Journal of our Life in the Highlands." He was also a considerable buyer at the John Scott sale in 1905, and at the more recent one of Lord Amherst. Rare editions of all kinds, especially of Burns and Scott, and numerous Burns manuscripts, in addition to those mentioned, passed through his hands.

It will no doubt come as a surprise to many to hear that the Duke of Connaught, whose name has been mentioned as a likely successor to Earl Grey as governor general of Canada, belongs to the Six Nations Indians of Canada. He is, in fact, the only white man to receive such a mark of affection from these famous Redskins, and he is known amongst them as "Cousin Arthur."

Noticed in a City Library

That more boys read than girls.
That boys read better books than girls.
That boys read more instructive books than girls.
That boys read more history and historical stories.
That boys read more travel books.
That boys read a lot of books on how to do things and how to make things.
That there are ever so many books that tell girls helpful, useful and interesting things to do and to make, but the girls do not as a rule read them.
That the boys read a book on how to make something and then they make that particular something. They tell the librarian about it.
That boys read books that give them a more general knowledge of all things.
That girls prefer story books for the most part.—Christian Advocate.

One Thing the School Should Do

While school teaching and school systems are being criticized, it must be remembered that nowadays the school is held responsible for too much. It is popularly supposed to do everything for a child except feed and clothe him, and that may be added to the teacher's various duties some day. At present if a boy's manners are bad, if his notions of honesty and cleanliness are elemental, if he hasn't an in-born love of work—the school is blamed for it all. "Is that what you learn at school?" is the reproachful reproof handed out, even by parents. But while it is nonsense to expect the school to take entire charge of a child's health, morals and manners and teach him the subjects of the school curriculum besides, there are some phases of that curriculum that would stand a little more attention. One, the neglect of which is particularly noticeable, is the instruction in how to write a business letter. They say that the art of friendly correspondence is dead, killed by the telephone and the picture postcard. But the necessity for the business letter is not yet obviated, nor is likely to be for some time. The business letter should be business-like, but not full of the pompous formalities that were in vogue at one time. The chief characteristic of such a letter should be that in it the writer states that business that made the letter necessary, the whole of that business and nothing but that business. Every batch of mail brought into any office contains an irritatingly large percentage of letters that for some reason or other cannot be dealt with in the usual way. All sorts of vague questions are asked that cannot be answered, because nobody knows exactly what is wanted. Sometimes the directions are explicit enough as far as they go, but an important detail is omitted which makes all the rest useless. Often and often the affair will be stated fully and accurately and the writer will neglect to sign his name or give his post office. Instead of that he will adorn his epistle with remarks about the weather and other totally irrelevant details and then wonder why his order was not filled, vowing that that firm will get no more business from him. If the boys and girls in the schools of to-day are trained to write a letter containing everything necessary to the case, and nothing unnecessary, their business contemporaries fifteen or twenty years from now will have less work to do, and much less excuse for lost tempers and profanity.

The Best of It

Western people ought to give humble and hearty thanks for the weather that is being dealt out to them this winter. But it would be a cause for added thankfulness to convince other people that our weather is more enjoyable than theirs. It is, but they will never believe it, and we must find our satisfaction in enjoying it ourselves and pitying the misguided folk who live somewhere else. The papers are full of the climatic trials they are called upon to endure. Haven't you read of the terrific storm and loss of life caused by it on the Nova Scotian coast? The states to the south of us have had their traffic tied up for days at a time with blizzards and snow blockades. Below the snow line there have been rains and floods to mar the prosperity and comfort of the inhabitant. And other places are having steady rains and gloomy days or oppressive fogs instead of our bright sunshine, blue skies, and that nipping air that urges a man to be up and doing. Give thanks for Western prairie weather and keep your temper when friends write from "down East," or across the sea: "We are having dreadful weather, but you must be having it much worse in the West." It isn't so.

Draw a Long Breath

D. F. Comstock, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, calls special attention to the value and importance of deep breathing. He says that both mental and physical fatigue can be overcome by a few minutes of rapid, deep breathing. Other results still less known by the general public are pointed out by Mr. Comstock. The pulse beat goes up rapidly while the deep breathing is continued, sometimes increasing forty beats a minute. After several moments of deep respiration he found that for the next four or five minutes it was possible to do without breathing, except very lightly. This discovery could be put to practical use by persons going into burning buildings or into other places where the atmosphere made suffocation imminent. A curious effect was the apparently rapid lapse of time during the latter half of a period of hard breathing. The value of this practice is increased when it is found that unlike other stimulants to physical and mental activity, deep respiration causes no reaction when it is discontinued.

Missing Half of Life

A recent letter in THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE gave the details of a plan for a distribution of good reading matter worked out by a man who recognizes the important place that books should occupy in the lives of men and women. The idea is fairly prevalent that reading is a necessity for some professions—law and theology, for instance; that it is beneficial to others, such as literature and merchandise, but that for some walks of life it is decidedly a luxury, and not a luxury to be indulged in under pain of being accused of weakness. The farming profession is usually included in the last list, and by farmers themselves much too often. "I have no time to read," is the constant excuse given for not taking a paper or magazine, for not buying a book. But it is a mistake. In the first place the farmer needs to read all he can get along the line of his own work. He gets other men's experience in that way, and thereby saves time rather than wastes it. Then he needs to read his local paper in order to get into his rightful place in the community. He ought to read a paper that gives a worldwide view of affairs, so that he can judge of his position as a living man in a world of living men. Current papers have their uses, but they do not take the place of books in the farmer's reading. In the printed book he finds a heritage left for his benefit and pleasure by all the ages, and in them he sees his true connection with the great and good of all Time. The man who hasn't time to read isn't more than half living—whether that be his misfortune or his fault he alone knows.