BALKAN RULERS DESCRIBED

TWO ONLY ARE CONSIDERED "WORTH WHILE."

Ferdinand, of Bulgaria, and Nicholas, of Montenegro, Given the Palm.

The tendency of the age is to dethrone hereditary rulers or else to let them reign but never govern. The Balkans, however, are still a fragment of the middle ages, despite the advent of trams and telephones and electric light. Their sovereigns are at least as potent as the average Prime Minister, writes Hubert Vivian in the London Express.

That, of course, does not apply to the puppet Sultan of Turkey, who was given his brother's khalifate by revolutionaries who are now conspiring against him. Whatever Abdul Hamid's faults may have been, he was at least an expert diplomatist, and arrested the crumbling of his empire. But poor old Mohammed V. is merely a signing machine for corrupt self-seekers. He is so fat and unweildy that he has to be helped up a flight of steps into his carriage, and when he is lifted on a horse the odds are that he will have to be caught in a soldier's arms on the other side.

FERDINAND OF BULGARIA.

Ferdinand, Czar of Bulgaria, has a very different temperament. He probably owes to his Orleanist, Saxe-Coburg and Kohary ancestry all the astuteness, audacity, and ambition which have eclipsed a strain of carefulness, caution, and drowsy luxury still observable through the chinks in his armor.

To the world and his people he is a reincarnation of Louis XIV., a feudal father of his faithful Bulgars, the heir-presumptive of the crown of Constantine. Pompous ceremonies and imperial mantles were the joy of his life. But the naked Ferdy (as we used to call him in diplomatic circles at Sofia) was a man with a very different soul. Botany and natural history were his chief interests besides genealogy and the fine arts.

SHOWED STRENGTH EARLY.

He was called to the throne when a simple subaltern in an Austrian cavalry regiment, where he had not even learned to ride. The odds were enormously against him, but he never hesitated for an instant. He made his way to his capital, only to find that the Powers would not recognize him as Prince, and Stambuloff, his Prime Minister, expected to have everything his own way. As a stranger in a rude land, even the language, of which he did not understand, he would seem to have but a poor chance. But he applied his amazing energy to the task, and advanced Iron strength to strength.

I remember two little incidents which emphasized the strained relations between Prince and Premier. From my windows at the Hotel Bulgarie I could see everything that went on at the palace gates. One afternoon Stambuloff drove up in a little open carriage, surrounded by clattering guards. After some fifteen minutes the Prince and his mother, Princess Clementine, the daughter of King Louis Philippe, came out on the balcony and watched him depart.

SIGNS OF STORM.

They were evidently in a state of great perturbation after a stormy scene. "Ferdy" was frowning and his mother wringing her hands. Next morning I attended a party at the palace, when the Prince distributed Easter eggs at 2 a.m. Stambuloff sat in an outer room, glittering with decorations like a Christmas tree, and smoking a big cigar. After some sulky small-talk he sleuthed away out of the palace—a gross breach of etiquette. Some courtier mentioned this to the Prince, who shrugged his shoulders and said: "I did not know he had been asked."

A little later, when Stambuloff was dismissed, this "Bismarck of the Balkans" entirely broke down. He knelt at his master's feet and sobbed, "I am your dog. I will serve you faithfully all my life. Do with me what you will." He had not much time for faithful service, for he was cut to pieces in the street by some of the many men whom he had grievously injured.

PETER OF SERVIA.

Peter only counts as a symbol of the rule of the regicides. Though he saw active service during the Franco-German War, he has developed into an abject coward. He hears strange noises at night, and attributes them to the propinquity of the scene of his predecessor's mutilation. At meals he parades sobriety by drinking nothing stronger than water. But he retires early and devotes himself to deep potations of plum brandy, which also constitutes his breakfast. This inebriation doubtless accounts for his frequent falls from his horse.

I hear that his son George, who ceased to be Crown Prince on account of his aberrations, has returned to Belgrade full of zeal for war. This young hopeful tried to drown his tutor in the Save, tried to kill him out riding, took pot-shots at old women from his windows on the Terasia, and amused himself by burying cats up to their necks in the earth, and then stamping them to death.

NICHOLAS OF MONTENEGRO.

The greatest ruler of the smallest state is, of course, Nicholas, King and Gospodar of Montenegro. He is probably the pluckiest man in the world as well as the cleverest statesman. I do not know when I have spent a happier hour than that which he accorded me in the garden of his simple palace at Cettinje. He had all the manners of a genial country gentleman, all the charm of a perfect host. He spoke quite freely, and allowed me to express my inmost thoughts. I am told that he is thus with everybody.

MAKING DETECTIVES.

How Scotland Yard Trains Them for Their Duties.

The plan for the scientific training of Parisian detectives is no new thing for the detective force in London, says the Daily Mail.

"The system which Mr. Lepine, Prefect of Police, and M. Hamard, the head of the Criminal Investigation Department of Paris, are about to inaugurate has been in full operation here for many years," said one of the chiefs at Scotland Yard.

"Every officer before he joins the lowest branch of the detective service has to pass an examination in police law—that is, what he can do and cannot do in certain given circumstances—and he has to attend lectures dealing with crime and criminal methods. The examining board is composed of the chief constable and two chief inspectors. Before the officer can receive promotion he has to pass a more difficult technical examination and also a civil service examination.

"Every man in the Criminal Investigation Department is taught all about the finger print system, he is familiar with all known burglars' tools and with the marks the different kinds leave on woodwork, he understands the different kinds of locks, he can take impressions of footprints and he has received lessons in cipher reading. At the same time certain officers who have shown the possession of the certain qualities specialize in forgery and finger print cases.

"As to the special studies in the psychology of crime, which are to form part of M. Lepine's plan, some of the most serious and most baffling of crimes are committed by men who are not known criminals. How would the study help in these cases? Of course, in the case of 'Bill,' the bank-robber, or 'Jem,' the forger, or 'Jack,' the jewel thief, all of whom stick to their own class of crimes and have been convicted many times, we know the particular methods of each man and are intimately acquainted with his method of working. In these cases the psychology of crime does come in.

"After all, the problem set a detective force is, 'Catch your criminal.' Now the simple fact is that there is less undiscovered crime in London than in any other large city in the world. That is the justification of the detective methods employed at Scotland Yard."

18,015,000,000,000 ANCESTORS.

Statistics Show Great Multiplication Since Time of Christ.

Statistics say every adult has between the birth of Christ and the present moment been blessed with 18,015,000,000,000 ancestors, including fathers and mothers-in-law, back through the generations.

One hundred years ago, the age of Napoleon, each adult now living had eight ancestors. Going back 150 years, to the Seven Years' War, the table shows there were sixteen ancestors for each person now alive.

From this period back to the birth of Christ the figures grow at an incredulous rate. For instance, during the Thirty Years' War, 250 years ago, 128 ancestors had accumulated, while 350 years ago, during the reformation period, they numbered 1,024. Four hundred and fifty years ago, when printing was discovered, every adult of to-day had 3,192 ancestors.

From the time of the Mongolian invasion of Europe to the present age, 650 years, the total number of ancestors given by the table is 524,300, while from to-day back to the time Pope Gregory VII. was installed, the family trees had increased to 16,770,000 ancestors.

From the time when Mohammed began to teach a new religion down to the present age, a period of 1,300 years, each adult person in this country can lay claim to 137,400,000,000 ancestors.

Monomaniacs on ancestral portraits have a fine opportunity of making a genealogical gallery that will outrival any gallery in history if they start collecting pictures of their eighteen trillion ancestors.

It is easy to see how such staggering figures can be produced. Each adult has had a father and mother. Each father and mother had a set of parents. That makes six ancestors, and the statistician has hardly started. Keep multiplying with each generation and it does not seem incredible that the statistics are correct.

HELIGOLAND'S NAVAL VALUE

ITS PLACE IN GERMAN COAST DEFENCE.

One of the Strongest Links in the Chain, But Value Has Been Over-rated.

A system of coast defence does not, of course, begin and end with the coasts themselves, a statement whose truth will become obvious when the position of Heligoland with reference to the German North Sea littoral is examined, writes the naval correspondent of the London Standard. This island may, in fact, be regarded as the centre of the web of defences by which that coast is surrounded, and its importance is increasing with every advance in the numbers and utility of torpedo craft, both surface and submarine.

Heligoland was, of course, handed over by Great Britain to Germany in 1890 in exchange for certain rights on the East African coast, and while this barter deprived Germany of a port that might conceivably have been of some use to her in a guerre de course against British commerce, it also deprived us of the key to the whole German coast defence system. The value of the island is undoubtedly overrated in Germany; but the value it would have been to us is sufficiently indicated by the fact that one of the first objects of our Fleet in war would be to seize an island off the German coast for use as a base for our torpedo craft. The knowledge of this intention, again, has been largely responsible for the energy with which, in recent years, the fortification of the islands has been proceeded with.

What Island Is Like.

The general characteristics of Heligoland are well known. It is composed chiefly of friable rock, which is in a constant state of absorption by the encroaching sea. The German government is reputed to have spent enormous sums of money on "armoring" the cliffs against subsidence, a German newspaper having estimated in 1910 that a sum of no less than six millions sterling had been expended for this purpose. At that time, when another £80,000 was being asked for the work, Count Reventlow was so doubtful as to the ultimate fate of the island that he suggested the whole of the defence works should be abandoned and the place destroyed altogether. However, much as the works may have cost, it must be some satisfaction to Germany to know that they have been effective even beyond expectations.

Fortifications.

In the spring of this year, according to the "Revista de Marina," exhaustive experiments were made at Heligoland in order to determine with accuracy the effect of heavy artillery fire on the soft and friable stone of which the island is composed. The result of the experiments was entirely satisfactory, as it was demonstrated that the most prolonged bombardment and the explosion of the most powerful shells were unable to produce, as had been asserted would be the case, any great fall of rock.

The "Revista de Marina" added that the slightly concave summit of the island (that is, of the Oberland) has been made bomb-proof, and that the position of the batteries is such that they are entirely invisible from the sea. The range of the heavy guns in position is stated to be 12,000 yards, while they are mounted in steel turrets ten inches thick. All the batteries and observation posts have underground inter-communication by means of bomb-proof galleries, and the roads which unite the summit of the island with the lower parts (the Unterland) are also protected against gun fire.

An Impregnable Island.

In view of these facts it may be admitted that Heligoland is as impregnable as it is possible for any island to be, and if that is the case Germany has rendered it impossible for the place to be seized and used as a base by British mosquito flotillas. The role of the island in the scheme of German defences is, however, more than a negative one. The depth of water in the "harbor," which is represented by the space between Heligoland and Dune, is not sufficient to allow of large ships taking shelter there; but three years ago the construction was begun of a harbor for torpedo craft.

This work, which is estimated to cost altogether £1,500,000, is expected to be completed by the end of this year, and as, in addition to the harbor itself, there will be a full range of stores and depots built, there is good reason to believe it to be the intention of the authorities to make it the permanent base of a torpedo or submarine flotilla—possibly of both.

In the strategy of German coast defence Heligoland is, or will shortly become, the central pivot of the whole organization, though this does not imply that the headquarters will be shifted from their present position at Cuxhaven. For such a role the island is excellently situated. It is 60 miles distant from Borkum and from Konigshaven, in the island of Sylt, while it is only 44 miles distant from Cuxhaven, which is the outer fortified guard of the Kiel Canal and the headquarters of the coast artillery and the submarine division. Heligoland is frequently referred to as the guardian of the Kiel Canal, of the Imperial dockyard at Wilhelmshaven, and of the months of the Elbe and the Weser. The influence of Heligoland per se, however, does not extend beyond the range of its guns. Apart from its negative value—that is, from its value to Germany as being German, and not belonging to an enemy of Germany—it is valuable only as a very important link in the chain of coastal defences. A line drawn from Sylt to Borkum has Heligoland slightly to the eastward of its centre, and behind that line lies the whole organization of German coast defence.

A PUNISHED LEOPARD.

Traveller Saw a Remarkable Battle in Africa.

The leopard likes the meat of certain monkeys, but the indulgence of his taste sometimes costs him dear. A remarkable battle between a leopard and a company of baboons, seen by a traveller in Africa, is described in Das Buch fur Alle.

I was sitting in the shade of a ravine, resting from the midday sun, when a company of baboons came clambering down the opposite wall toward the water that trickled through the gully. I sat still and watched them. A big male led, and after satisfying himself that all was safe, uttered a few deep notes.

Reassured by the call, the others quickly followed; a mother, with an ever-watchful eye on her two young ones, brought up the rear.

Suddenly, like a streak of lightning a leopard sprang from behind a rock, and with one blow of his paw, felled the little baboon nearest him. But before he could make off with his prey, the furious mother attacked him. The attack had come so quickly that the rest of the company hardly realized what had happened. But at the mother's cry of rage, they all at once turned and fell upon the robber.

In a moment the leopard was surrounded and almost covered with furious baboons. The battle waxed hot. Although numbers of baboons went down before the powerful paws of the cat, their places were immediately filled by others. It was not long before the leopard began to tire; he could make no noticeable impression upon his assailants, and his strength was sapped by their sharp teeth. He struggled bravely, but in vain; slowly he sank out of sight beneath the fiercely chattering foe that he had despised. The baby baboon was avenged.

'TWAS EVER THUS.

The Man—"Isn't the water rather cold at this time of year?"
The Kid—"Oh, it's somethin' terrible! I wouldn't go in only me father told me not ter!"—Puck.

STORY OF THE "GOLILLAS."

New Style of Neckwear Was Once an Important Thing in Spain.

The shape of a collar may seem an affair of moment to the ultra-fashionable young man, but in these days it is not generally considered a matter of national importance. In the days of Philip IV. of Spain, however, things were different; not only did the monarch himself take an active interest in the introduction of a new style of neckwear, but the great Inquisition did not disdain to interfere in the business. The story of the golillas is told by Martin Hume in "The Year After the Armada."

Sumptuary laws were at one time very rigid in Spain. In 1611 a Spaniard was forbidden to wear a ruff, on pain of the pillory. When Philip IV. came to the throne, he upheld this law and enforced it. As it was unlawful to use starch, a big square, limp collar was adopted, called the Walloon. This soiled and wrinkled so easily that it was regarded with disfavor. An ingenious young tailor submitted a new device to the young king. This was a high, square collar of cardboard, covered with light-colored silk on the inside, and on the outside with the stuff of which the doublet was made. By means of heated rollers and shellac, the cardboard was shaped into a graceful curve, bent outward at the chin.

Philip was delighted, and immediately ordered some to be made for him. The tailor was in high glee; but also, in those days of suspicion and persecution, heated rollers turned with handles and smoking pots of shellac were questionable articles to have about. Spies of the council seized the uncanny instruments. The president decided that they had to do with witchcraft; the tailor's stock was burned before his door, and the poor man himself was put under lock and key.

The prime minister, hearing of the arrest, was furious, and he rated the president soundly as a meddling old fool for burning the king's collars. The president of the council declared his ignorance of the king's interest, but held that if the tailor was not practising witchcraft, at least he was breaking the sumptuary laws, for the new collars were lined with silk, besides being ridiculous in shape. He was promptly silenced by the minister, who informed him that the collars were the best and most economical things ever invented; that they did away with the constant need of washing, and that one collar would last ten years without further expense or trouble.

The golillas, as they were called, became popular with high and low. Heads had to be carried stiffly in them, and turned slowly, but Spanish heads were meant to be used so, and no one complained. They remained in favor for one hundred years. They were finally changed by Philip V., the Bourbon. He was too wise to run atilt at them at first, but he wrote anonymous pamphlets, that held them up to ridicule and showed their unfitness for soldiers. Under his influence, the golilla was abandoned for a lace stock and tie.

EDUCATING INDIA.

Growth of Literacy Shown by Latest Figures.

The progress of education in India is interestingly indicated in the census returns for 1911, which, although not yet completely analyzed, give an idea of the progress made although the vernacular test of literacy has been made higher than for the 1901 census, and is now constituted by the ability to write a letter and read a reply.

The present return shows 106 males and 77 females per thousand to be literate, against 98 and 7 respectively a decade ago, and these figures represent an increase of 15.3 per cent. of males and 60.7 per cent. of females.

Burma heads the list of greatest literacy, where among the Buddhists over 20 years of age, more than 1,750,000 out of 5,500,000 can read and write. The numbers literate in or studying English have also increased considerably in the past ten years and the 1911 total shows 1,670,837 against 1,125,231 in 1901, which is equal to an increase of 10,000 from 68 males and 7 females and 95 and 10 respectively. The growing demand for English education insures a very large increase in the last decade and scholars and colleges are springing up all over the country.

Scientific Recruiting Plan.

Remarkable results are expected from the works of the army laboratory of morphology, which, by a decision of the minister of war, M. Millerand, has been opened near Paris. The object of this new department of the military medical service is to study the physical structure of new recruits as they arrive and sort them out into the various services most suited to their characteristics.

Why is paper money more valuable than gold? When you put it in your pocket you double it, and when you take it out find it still increases.

HAY FEVER FAULT OF BLOOD

NOT MUCOUS MEMBRANE, DR. DEKKER CLAIMS.

Pollen From Certain Fruits and Flowers Enters Blood, Cause Disturbance.

Dr. Herman Dekker has an interesting theory to explain hay fever and the allied asthma, as well as the rash which sometimes attends these diseases and which in non-sufferers from either is frequently caused by strawberries or other fruits.

Everybody knows, of course, that it is the pollen of certain flowers, such as golden rod and the tiny seeds that detach themselves from new mown grass which are most liable to cause the mischief. The pollen is supposed to irritate the mucous membrane of the nose, thus causing the catarrh and sneezing which are the symptoms of hay fever.

Dr. Dekker's theory is that the blood is at fault and not the mucous membrane. It is only through the mucous membrane that the pollen most frequently effects its entrance into the system, and it is not because the pollen irritates the mucous membrane, but because the albumen contained in a particular kind of pollen is inimical to the blood of certain persons. This would explain why certain hay fever sufferers are sensitive to pollen of certain flowers and non-sensitive to others. Some get hay fever from golden rod, some from clover, some from grass, some from fertilizer. Dr. Dekker points out that it is always some organic substance, that is, some substance containing albumen, which is responsible for the disease.

Blood Is Changed.

Why should certain kinds of albumen affect some folks and not others? Let us see first of all what happens when a bit of albumen of any kind enters directly into the blood instead of being passed into the stomach through the mouth. It has been found that when albumen is introduced directly into the blood, as in treating a patient with diphtheria serum obtained from some animal, and therefore containing the albuminous substance of that particular kind of animal, the blood, if examined almost immediately afterward, contains digestive ferments which it did not contain before, and which are similar, if not identical, with the ferments which in the digestive organs attend to the digestion of albumen. Thus the albumen injected into the blood splits up into extremely small particles. In the digestive organs these infinitesimally small particles are separated and sifted. The useful elements are taken up into the blood, the injurious ones are carried out of the system. But, if directly introduced into the blood, the injurious elements cannot be drained away.

Injurious Elements.

Along with the useful elements they are carried to the various tissues and cells and organs of the body, and are incorporated with them, interfering considerably with their normal chemical action. It takes eight to ten days for the system to assimilate albumen injected into the blood, and after the first treatment apparently no bad effects are sustained; but if the experiment is repeated after, say, ten days, the old poison now heaped up and distributed throughout the body is transformed into a sort of explosive by combining with the new poison, interfering materially with the respiratory organs, inflating the lungs and lowering the temperature. This is called the anaphylactic experiment.

According to Dr. Dekker, persons who get hay fever from golden rod pollen have a certain amount of old, latent poison stored up in their system. On coming in contact with the new, fresh poison, the trouble is renewed.

$60,000,000 in Cigarettes.

The consumption of cigarettes in Germany has increased 100 per cent. in the last four years. The value of cigarettes smoked last year was $60,000,000. Each cigarette smoker consumes 1,200 a year. Restricted legislation is pending.

Prevention.

Smith—I didn't know you owned a motor car—why those auto goggles?

Smyth—My wife has hatpins.

"My son," said the wise father, "never run after a street car, a woman, or an insurance agent—there will be another along in a few minutes."

Daughter—"I love him. He is the light of my life." Father—"Well, that's all right, but I object to having my house lit up by him after midnight."

Griggs—"I should say that the two keys to success are luck and pluck." Briggs—"Certainly. Luck in finding some one to pluck."