

CRUELTY WITHOUT BLOWS.—The race of wife-beating husbands is not yet wholly extinct, although Blackstone has long contended that a man might beat his wife if he did so with a stick "no larger than his thumb." On that point at least Blackstone must be admitted to be obsolete, and in the American courts the term ill-treatment may be interpreted so as to include any small deviation from the courtesies of life on the part of the husband. An Illinois husband has recently been found guilty of cruelty to his wife, on its being shown that he was compelling her to perform menial work under the threat of being obliged to remain in bed for a week on a bread and water diet.

YOUTHFUL VIVI-SECTIONISTS.—There is still much to be said by vivi-sectionists and anti-vivi-sectionists on the subject which is of such deep interest to them both. In the present struggle our sympathies are entirely with President George T. Angell, of the S. P. C. A., who is endeavoring to put a stop to the vivi-section of animals in the public schools. In several of the primary and high schools of Massachusetts the live animals have been experimented upon, although we believe that in every instance sufficient chloroform to nullify pain has first been given. President Angell claims that such demonstrations are far more harmful than helpful to the young people, that their minds are too immature to profit by results of the experiment, and that their sensibilities receive a rude and lasting shock.

WHO WILL INVENT IT?—The inventive genius of some of our mining men needs to be devoted to a very practical work which has not yet received due attention. The old safety lamp which has been for so long in general use is being gradually superseded by a better invention—the electric hand lamp—but even the new lamp is far from perfect. The trouble with the electric lamp is that it does not sufficiently protect the miner, who may be smothered by an inrush of mine gas into the working galleries before his lamp has warned him of the presence of danger. An electric lamp is needed with an automatic appliance, which will at once notify the miner of the presence either of black damp or fire damp in the air. The miners claim that the difficulties in the way of the invention are by no means great.

NO MORE TWENTY CENT COINS.—Someone has again voiced the general sentiment of the public in regard to that unnecessary and deceptive coin, the twenty-cent piece, and THE CRITIC has much pleasure in contributing to the agitation for its banishment. The twenty-cent piece is a constant source of annoyance to both sellers and purchasers. It may be mistaken for the twenty-five cent piece and paid out as such, or it may be passed purposely in the stead of the coin of higher denomination. As a rule honest people dislike to handle or to receive it as change, knowing that they too may by accident pass it off as a quarter, and by so doing subject themselves to unfair criticism. The Government is earnestly requested to recall the useless monetary sneak, in order that "the weak in the faith" may be spared a temptation, and that the honest public may receive protection.

MERCIFUL RUSSIA!—The humanitarian world has been rejoicing rather prematurely over the fact that Russia has recently shown some sense of the error of her way, and that an official announcement has stated that the penal settlement in Siberia is to be abolished. It now appears that there is an hardly praiseworthy motive underlying the edict, and that it is the welfare of Siberia and not of the exiles which is being considered. The penal settlement is not to cease its existence, but it is merely to be removed to a less valuable territory, so that the resources of Siberia may be developed by a more normal class of inhabitants. The new penal settlement is to be the island of Saghalien or Tarakai situated between the Sea of Japan and the Sea of Okhotsk. The island is absolutely barren, the climate is terribly rigorous, and the unfortunates who are conveyed thither can have no hope of ever making a return to civilized life. The feeling of the exiles towards the island may be realized when it is known that for many years the isolated strip of rock has been called by them the Hell of Saghalien.

A LEADER OF WOMEN.—Lady Aberdeen is already vigorously at work endeavoring to arouse Canadian women to a sense of their duties and responsibilities, and in founding the "National Council of Women of Canada," she has taken a decided step forward in extending the usefulness of her sex in Canada. Her ladyship fully realizes that the chief obstacle to philanthropic work in England as well as in Canada lies in the fact that there is no harmonious union between the various societies which are practically working for the same end, and that as a result the societies, which might be towers of strength to each other, are always at strife and thus defeating their own ends. In Lady Aberdeen's own words "these differences must exist and will exist—they lie deep down in the root of our human nature. We have our different opinions and feelings in the matter, and feel that we can work better with one set of people or one particular church. There they are and there they will continue, but why not make them a strength instead of a weakness? Why not arrange that that which is best in one shall help what is best in the other?" It is proposed that a federation of all the various societies be formed, and that on one central committee shall be placed representatives of each. Monthly meetings are to be held, at which methods and results of work are to be considered, and a meeting of the general council is to be held once a year. The method at present will be applied only to the city of Montreal, but if its working is successful there it will be followed in all Canadian towns and cities.

LUXURIOUS TRAVELLERS.—Never before in the history of this continent has there been such a wave of emigration from the West to the East. The great army of the unemployed is journeying to the Eastern sea coast of the United States in pursuit of work or in hope of charitable aid. The progress of the army is also unlike anything that is recorded in history, for instead of footing it, as is the case in most retreats, the freight cars of the Union Pacific are seized upon, and for the sake of peace and for the fear of encouraging bands of road-robbers, the Railroad Company allow the tramp army the free use of the freight cars. The men by no means believe in taking the long and tiresome journey in one stretch. The whole gang alight at some small town, make a demand for food, which they know well enough will be heeded, compel the people to give them a comfortable lodging for the night, and in the morning they waylay another train and repeat the experience of the day before. If this state of affairs continues, the word tramp, which now is supposed to be expressive of weariness, hunger, rage and dirt, will totally change its meaning.

BLUSHING DEBUTANTES.—A new fad among wealthy American leaders of fashion is to introduce the sons as well as the daughters of the house to society by means of "teas" or receptions. On a recent occasion two debutantes of the sterner sex were thus brought socially before the world of fashion. Their introduction was made the occasion of a "pink tea," and it is credibly reported that the boys as well as the tastefully decorated rooms were "too sweet for anything." As the fashion is not an English one, it will not find followers in this portion of our Province, and we would warn our Western friends who are more apt to follow the rather erratic lead of the American social world that a primary introduction of this kind is not all sufficient. If a young man be possessed of ordinary manhood he will probably prize his manliness before any feminized gentlemanliness, and he will hardly allow the first introduction when he realizes that on future occasions it will be necessary to state wherever he puts in an appearance, "notwithstanding all that has occurred, this is still a man."

A TREASURY SINKAGE.—In some European countries the prosperity (of the former and not of the present day) of the United States has been ascribed to the fact that the citizens of the Republic had not to support a standing army. While this statement is correct, it should be remembered that although there is no standing army to speak of, yet there is no nation in the world carrying so large a war burden. The liberal system of pensions which is in vogue is becoming a steady drain on the people. Although it is thirty years since the last battle was fought, and in the natural course of events, the majority of the soldiers must be elderly men nearing the close of their careers, yet, according to the official showing, the veteran pensioners are increasing enormously in numbers, for over ninety thousand names were added to the pension list during the last year, making the total roll of pensioners nearly one million. It is hardly to be doubted that many pensions are fraudulently obtained, but so long as they are paid out to the claimants the American taxpayer will enjoy the payment of the war tax without obtaining a corresponding sense of protection.

THE VAN ALLEN EPISODE.—The Republican press and even a number of the Democratic organs have had a short and brisk fight with Mr. Cleveland over an alleged violation of his creed—"A public office is a public trust." Van Allen is a Newport society man, a warm personal friend of the great Democrat, and during the last election he was known to have contributed some \$50,000 to the campaign expenses. It was therefore not a matter of surprise when it was known that a much-coveted consulship had been offered to the financial backer; but when the usual cry of party favoritism was raised, Mr. Van Allen's action at once disarmed suspicion. This gentleman states openly that his interest is for the success of the Cleveland administration, and that he is prepared to sacrifice money or inclination to assist in making it successful. The money has already been offered up and he is satisfied with the results, the inclination, which he confesses is a strong one, to accept the proffered consulship he now resigns, and should his party require still further sacrifices of him he is prepared to make them. There is a bit of the chivalric feeling of the old-time knight to his lady between Mr. Van Allen and his party which it is exceedingly pleasant to chronicle.

OUR YOUNG AUTHORS.—THE CRITIC hears quite frequently from young people who are desirous of leading a literary career, or, in plain English, of living on what they can make by the use of brains and pens. To the many young people who are attracted to the literary life we would repeat the old but excellent maxim of Sir Walter Scott, one of the most successful authors, who could yet testify that "literature is an excellent staff, but a poor crutch." The maxim is as true to day as it was then. The successful literary man is seldom the wholly literary man. He is first a journalist, a lawyer, a doctor, a merchant, or a tradesman, and he obtains his living by earnestly pursuing his calling. The man who attempts to live solely on the product of his brains is putting an extra weight on the "silver cord" between body and mind which may cause it to snap short at any time. He is degrading in a manner the essentially fine part of his being to the level of the lower money-making characteristics, and he will never do his best work if his chief motive is to obtain cash payment. The leading writers of the day are unanimous on this point. Almost all of them have a competence, though it may be a modest one from some source beyond the brain action, and they value the independence thus given them nearly as much as they value the brain powers of which they know themselves to be possessed.

The Worst Disease—Dyspepsia
The Best Cure K. D. C.

K. D. C. Relieves
Distress after eating.

K. D. C. Cures
Midnight Dyspepsia.

K. D. C. Restores
the Stomach to Healthy Action.