

CURRENT TOPICS.

Dr. Hausemann, of Berlin, Germany, is one of the scientific dignitaries. And he has found four orders of geniuses. Lowest in rank he places those whose inspirations flow from drugs, narcotics, and drink. They have the most primitive temper, both mental and physical. Their mind and body stuff are comparatively coarse and gross. Whatever their genius it lags behind the contemporary march as a souvenir and survival of cruder ages. It belongs to the sluggish primitive races whose inert energies are roused into activity only by the roughest excitants.

President Eliot, of Harvard, has been all his life, what is sometimes called a moderate drinker, but now he is confessing that "the recent progress of medical science, largely accomplished through animal experimentation, has satisfied me that even the moderate use of alcohol is objectionable, that the habitual use of alcohol in any form is lowering to the intellectual and nervous power. Now, if a man be leading a purely animal or muscular life, I will say he can perhaps feel no evil effect from the drug, but if he is leading an intellectual life, if he is engaged in an action which interests him keenly, stirs him, impels him to the use of his mind, then he will inevitably feel the slowing effect, the deteriorating effect of the drug."

But there needs no argument to press home the proof of a decline in the use of liquors. It is perfectly evident throughout the country. And in narcotics a similar change of heart is coming about. Around a particularly handsome city dinner table several weeks ago the host passed a box of remarkably fragrant cigars only to find it returned to him full to the brim, with not a cigar out of its place. "Send it back to the store!" laughed a guest. John J. Hayes, winner of the Marathon race in London, confesses in a magazine that "No long distance runner can and run. One thing is essential, abstinence from tobacco in any form. I suggest running as a certain cure for the tobacco habit to any one who wishes to break himself of it."

Go where we will among the savages and we find drugs powerful and plentiful employed for setting into action men's powers. It is only among the finest types of the most advanced races that we see them discarded in favor of subtler stimuli. Prof. James, the Harvard psychologist, urges the superior claims, as excitants, of morning air and sunlight and fine skies and mountain walks and dewy flowers and great thoughts and sweet aspirations above the frothy hopes of the foaming glass. They are the natural stimulants of refined organisms. These need no other. No, not even coffee and tea.

An Englishman, E. Baron Russet by name, has been making predictions for the year 2000 A. D., and he has it that by that time the human system will have so refined that tea and coffee will be placed in the same category that alcoholic stimulants occupy now-a-days. The prohibitionists of that remote hour will be campaigning against tea and coffee and tectotalers will sign their pledges in favor of coffeeless breakfasts and afternoon teas without "the cup that cheers but does not inebriate."

An American and a Scotsman were discussing the cold experienced in winter in the north of Scotland. "Why, it's nothing at all compared to the cold weather we have in the States," said the American. "I can recollect one winter when a sheep, jumping from a hill-lock into a field, became suddenly frozen on the way and stuck in the air like a mass of ice." "But, man," exclaimed the Scotsman, "the law of gravity wouldn't allow that." "I know that," replied the tale-pitcher. "But the law of gravity was frozen, too!"

A parson, seeing a lazy man standing idly at the street corner, approached him, and said:—"Don't you know, my dear sir, that it is positively sinful to stand about wasting your time in this manner?" The man replied:—"Yes, I know it is, parson, and I'm going to stop it just as soon as I find a comfortable place to sit down."

YOUNG FOLKS

THE FAMILY TREES.

A great many years ago Polly and Amy Ann went to school together. The schoolhouse looked like a square box. There were no trees round it, and no grass, for the children's feet, playing tag and leap-frog, had worn the ground as hard as a floor.

The other children ate their luncheon in a little crowd on the door-step, but Polly and Amy Ann knew a pleasanter place. It was a secret; they never told anybody. Just behind the schoolhouse was a beautiful meadow, belonging to Amy Ann's father. Through the meadow ran a brook, with little fishes in the bottom and blue flag along the edge, and by the brook grew an elder-bush. Polly and Amy Ann called this bush their house, and under it they always ate their dinner. There was only one trouble. The bush was just a little bit too small to shade them both. If Polly's head was in the shadow, Amy Ann's pink sunbonnet was in the sun.

"Wish we could build a wing to our house," said Polly.

"Why, so we can," cried Amy Ann, nodding her bonnet excitedly. "Let's do it! Two of 'em!" The little bonnets bent close together while they planned it all out. After school Amy Ann borrowed her father's spade, and they set off for the woods. There they found two baby elm-trees, and they dug them up with the wee tiny roots and all. They planted the little trees by their playhouse—Amy Ann's on one side of the brook and Polly's on the other. They did not know that they were keeping Arbor Day, for it had never been heard of then. So they had no singing nor speeches; only the little wren that lived in the elder-bush kept saying, "Chirp! Chirp!" And her nine children poked their little brown heads over the edge of the nest, and said, "Chirp!" all in concert.

The little trees grew and grew; so did Polly and Amy Ann. They got to be young ladies, then middle-aged ladies, and then old ladies. Nobody called them Polly and Amy Ann now; they were Grandma White and Grandma Grant. Grandma White lived a long way from Grandma Grant and the meadow and the old schoolhouse. But she did not forget them, and there was no story that her little Amy liked so well as the story of the two little elm-trees and the nine little wrens. So when Grandma White went to visit Grandma Grant she had to take Amy with her.

You should have seen how happy the two grandmothers were! And you should have seen what fun little Amy and little Polly had together! And how the first thing they all did was to go down into the meadow to look at the little elms.

But they were not little elms any longer! They were tall, beautiful trees, and they held out their long green arms to each other over the little brook.

"What is it that says 'Chirp, chirp!'" asked the little girls. They looked up, and saw a little wren's nest in the tree.

"Perhaps these are the grandchildren of the wren that lived in the elder-bush," said the grandmothers. "This must be their family tree."—Youth's Companion.

THE FEMALE ELEPHANT.

Wonderful Woman Chieftain Who Rules in Swaziland.

Mr. R. T. Coryndon, Commissioner for Swaziland, left England a short time ago on his return to Mbabane, the Swazi capital. Discussing the situation there, Mr. Coryndon said that the natives had come under Imperial protection of their own free will, and they had never been conquered. On the whole their attitude is one of unswerving loyalty.

"The Chief Regent," said Mr. Coryndon, "is a woman of advanced age, who retains a wonderful alertness of mind and diplomatic experience. She has ruled for twenty-five years. She lives very simply in her native kraal, about seventeen miles from the capital, and comes up once every six months to see the Commissioner, with a great following of chiefs and natives, travelling in a cart with six mules, which were presented to her by Lord Selborne. Her native name is Mdhlovukosi, meaning Female Elephant."

"The Paramount Chief Sobheiza is a pleasant mannered boy, ten years of age, who, having shown no signs of vice up to the present, gives promising indications for the future. There are four or five chiefs in the country who are hereditary legislators of great importance, the chief of them being an old man named Jokovu. A native council exists, but it is somewhat dominated by the very capable personality of the Chief Regent. The country has never been more prosperous than at present."

Muggins—"My wife always makes over her old gowns."

HOUSE FULL OF ANIMALS

WOMAN KEEPS EIGHTY DOGS AND FIFTY CATS.

Russian Lady Whose Mind Has Unfortunately Been Given a Bad Twist.

Alexandra Aleksieff, of Odessa, Russia, keeps no less than 80 dogs and 50 cats in her house. This small size army of animals has become such a nuisance to the neighbors that they are perpetually complaining to the police and the sanitary committee to have it removed by force.

The fair and aged owner of all these pets is remarkable reticent, and except for a few women who look after the dogs and cats, not even her servants are allowed entrance into that part of the house where they live. It presents a forlorn enough appearance from the outside. The balconies and verandahs are crammed with all manner of household lumber, which by reason of having lain there so long, is covered with dust and moss. The large gateway, common to Russian houses, is kept locked day and night and the porter has strict orders to admit nobody. The tradesmen who go there are received outside the gate and their wares taken from them there.

THINK SHE IS BEWITCHED.

Naturally, all sorts of stories are in circulation about the neighborhood concerning the house. The barking of dogs and wailing of cats, heard through the closed gateway, have been attributed to the spirits or persons Mlle. Aleksieff is said to have bewitched. Children are afraid to pass the door and peasants cross themselves and hurry along when they do so. The woman's servants, all elderly people like herself, who have grown gray in service, keep apart and are avoided in church or at the market where they go to buy food. The woman is intimate with nobody. Once one of the dogs was ill and a veterinary surgeon was sent for. She received him in a dark room so that he could not see her, asked him questions which tended to prove that she knew as much as, if not more, about cats and dogs than he did, paid him his fee, and dismissed him.

IT WAS NOT TILL A DELICATE KING

the house and got inflammation of the lungs that she showed herself to him. The new pet—for which she had paid a fabulous price—was so ill that she lost all tenderness. On receiving an urgent message from the porter, with a promise that he would get any fee he liked to name, provided the dog was saved, the veterinary hurried to the spot. A small withered old lady of 80, neatly dressed in the fashion of 50 years ago, met him inside the gateway and implored him to save the dog. He attended the pet for a fortnight and, being the only outsider who has ever seen this house, was much in request by inquisitive people for some time after.

WHAT THE VETERINARY SAW.

"The house is one big dog and cat show," he said, in answer to some pressing questions. "Each room is locked, and from what the servants say, I suppose that Mlle. Aleksieff is the only person who has the keys. Large as the house is, the lady and her servants only occupy three rooms—the smallest and darkest of all. At the back of the house, overlooking the courtyard, is a huge room with fine windows, sunny and bright. This is given over to twelve black cats. Out of this room are two smaller ones, inhabited by Persian cats and their kittens. Here, the temperature is higher and the air, to any ordinary mortal, excessively heavy and oppressive. But as mademoiselle has not been out of doors herself for twenty years, I suppose she does not find it so bad.

"The rest of the cats, of which I counted 50, are distributed in various rooms near the big one. All these rooms open out to a large balcony, overlooking the street, which is fitted with iron bars like a cage. Here are all kind of gymnastic apparatus for the cats—tree trunks, wheels, little ladders to jump on, balls, both suspended from strings fastened to the ceiling and lying about on the floor. There are mechanical birds, like children's toys, which fly about, mechanical mice and a hundred toys and devices which children might envy. Here the cats and kittens spend whole days when it is fine. Their food is brought to them at stated intervals.

THEY GET BREAD AND MILK,

Liver and sometimes sparrows which the porter orders from a peasant. On Fridays they generally have fish. Large quantities of which can be had very cheaply in the harbor. "Downstairs and in the side wings are various rooms and kennels for 80 dogs. They seem to embrace every species under the sun. In fine weather they take exercise in the huge courtyard, but as mademoiselle will not allow them to go

farther afield, the bigger ones are always in ill health, for want of proper exercise. These dogs have the run of a huge open corridor in bad weather and the more delicate dogs, including English breeds, sleep in much warmer rooms. One woman does nothing else but brush and comb them.

"Several times I suggested to their owner that she ought to take a small farm out in the country and transport them there. But the little old lady, who is as pleasant as possible when she gets over her shyness, always shakes her head and says she must die in the house she was born in."

"And the 50 cats and 80 dogs?" I asked.

"I have already provided for them in my will," was the answer."

HEALTH

ANEMIA.

Anemia, from a Greek word meaning "want of blood," is of two kinds, primary and secondary. The primary anemias are so called because as yet medical science has not discovered their direct cause, and until this is done it is necessary to recognize and treat them as diseases in themselves. When the reason for the condition is found out, then the anemia, which is really only a symptom of some disease and not a disease in itself, will be called secondary instead of primary.

The principal forms of primary anemia are chlorosis, pernicious anemia, and leukemia. Chlorosis generally attacks young girls in the early teens. It is not very well understood, but seems to be a condition of poor blood formation rather than of blood destruction. Its treatment is simple, consisting in fresh air, good food, and the administration of some form of iron. The results are prompt, and with a little care a perfect state of health may be established.

Pernicious anemia is another matter. It attacks adults, both men and women, and is almost always fatal. The victims of this form of anemia are often clothed in flesh and look robust. Furthermore, their symptoms are in many cases mistaken for those of kidney or heart trouble, paralysis, disease of the liver, and so on, until an examination of the blood establishes the diagnosis.

Leukemia means literally, "white blood." In this condition the red blood-cells are greatly diminished. The course of leukemia is a great deal like that of pernicious anemia, and calls for about the same treatment—complete rest in bed, good air and food, plenty of sunshine, and the administration of some form of arsenic.

Secondary anemia can always be traced to some definite cause, such as rapid loss of blood from a wound, resulting in a condition of so-called acute anemia, the loss from hemorrhages from the lungs in tuberculosis, or the depletion of the blood from poisoning.

The poison in the system resulting from cancer or tuberculosis causes anemia by blood destruction, while wounds or hemorrhages cause it by blood loss.

More than half the blood in the body can be lost without death resulting. When this occurs in a hitherto healthy person, from a severe wound, for example, the system immediately sets to work to bring the blood back to its normal amount, the condition of acute anemia gradually yielding day by day as the body makes up its loss.

There is an anemia of the poor caused by a diet deficient in blood-building materials, or by inferior cooking, such as the habitual frying of meat.—Youth's Companion.

SHOW UNHEALTHY CONDITION

The finger nails, teeth and hair, more than any other parts of the body, indicate when the system is in an unhealthy condition. Hair shows the weakened state by falling out; teeth by softening, causing cavities, and the nails by breaking, having ridges and not infrequently being covered with small white spots. To improve these troubles the body must be strengthened internally, though local applications sometimes help.

FIGHT WITH DEVILFISH.

Experience of a Fishing Party on a Mexican River.

A party of English fishermen had an unusual and most exciting experience in the Panuco River recently with a large sting ray or devilfish, says the Mexican Herald. It is very rarely that these fish are seen in the river, for they are supposed to confine themselves to the sea, although they are often encountered near the coast along the south Atlantic and in the Gulf of Mexico. Occasionally a small devilfish is taken by fishermen near the coast of Florida, but their appearance in the Panuco River is something unheard of before.

The party of fishermen in question consisted of Capt. A. Paget, Capt. Molyneux, Sir Charles Cost, Major Ramsden, Capt. Rob-

ert Duff and Lady Juliet Duff, who were out in small boats in quest of tarpon when three of these monster rays were encountered. One of the boats being supplied with a small harpoon, threw it into the nearest ray. The other boats came to the assistance and made fast in an effort to keep the first boat, which was being fast towed seaward by the monster devilfish, but the five boats and a launch which had come up in the meantime were towed down the river with as little effort as if they had been mere toys invented for the playthings of this queer shaped monster. After several minutes of the wildest excitement which has ever been experienced by fishermen in the Panuco they succeeded in dragging the monster into comparatively shallow water and were congratulating themselves on the probable capture of the great fish when the monster gave a mighty flop that threatened to engulf all the small boats, dashed under the launch, almost capsizing it, and succeeded in tearing out the harpoon and thus escaped. This fish is said to measure at least eighteen feet from tip to tip of its wing-shaped fins, or flippers, while the two others from the glimpse gained were nearly the same size.

THE EMPEROR MENELIK

RULER OF ABYSSINIA IS A FATHERLY MONARCH.

Administers Chastisement With a Cane to Chiefs or Officials Who Displease Him.

It is probable that Emperor Menelik, of Abyssinia, holds the kingly record for early rising, for he gets up at three o'clock in the morning. He goes to early chapel and by six o'clock receives the reports of his secretaries.

He is a most fatherly monarch, and rules his subjects with a firm hand. When one of his chiefs or officials has displeased him, Menelik summons the offender to his presence, but instead of casting him into some dungeon to pine away and die, the energetic old man administers prompt chastisement with a stout cane.

Nor do the common people escape his parental care. The Palace at Adis Abeba stands on a crest of a hill and dominates the entire city. The Emperor has had a tower of observation specially built from which a good view can be got of all the principal streets and open spaces.

IMPERIAL PETS.

At one time he kept a number of full-grown lions in the grounds of the palace. These wild animals were allowed to wander about free and unrestrained, much to the terror of the foreigners and visitors generally.

Another imperial pet was an elephant that used to wander about the city. It was this animal that nearly threw the French explorer, Buffet, into a fit.

He was sitting down to his evening meal when suddenly a dark form blocked the door of the cabin and in less time than it takes to tell every scrap of food, including a dish of potatoes, an omelette, and a chicken, had vanished from the table and into the elephant's throat. Unfortunately, when the animal tried to withdraw, its head got stuck, and it simply walked off with the frail cabin resting on its shoulders like a straw hat. When Buffet went waiting to the Emperor the latter laughed till tears flowed.

He was particularly pleased with the British Mission that was sent out to him under Mr. (now Sir) Rennell Rodd, and with the presents they took to him.

EMPEROR AMUSED.

Mr. Rodd mentioned that he had intended to bring out a set of Röntgen Rays apparatus, but at the last moment the idea fell through.

"I am very sorry," said the Emperor, "for I particularly wish to see the invention."

Mr. Rodd went on to explain that the reason the apparatus was left behind was because some people had feared he might be treated as one dealing in black magic, the Emperor was intensely amused.

At a time when blank cartridges were unknown in Abyssinia, an American Mission presented a quantity to his Majesty, together with a rifle.

The Emperor solemnly loaded the weapon and levelled the rifle at a group of officials. Instantly there was a stampede for dear life with the Emperor's new rifle bang, banging at their backs.

The Emperor's real title is "Negus Nagasti"—King of Kings."

Only one man in 205 is over six feet.

Of all white nations, the Americans are the biggest fruit eaters. "You are really most careless, Mary. That is another glass you have broken this week." "Ah, ma'am, but I've been lucky this time." "Lucky?" "Yes, because it's only broken in two pieces. You've no idea, ma'am, what trouble it is picking up the little bits!"

Fashion Hints.

FADS AND FANCIES.

Voiles and silks all have borders. The petticoat is being reinstated. Scarfs are as much sought for as ever.

Hat ornaments are large and conspicuous.

Giant bows are popular, pinned close to hats.

Children's hats turn up or down; they are rarely straight.

Every hat sets low on the head—even lower than the wicker hat. Figured serge and figured tussore are both exceedingly popular.

Loose lace coats to wear over muslin robes will be stylish.

It seems that Irish crochet is to be the popular lace of the year.

The gored skirt with plaited sides and panel front is conspicuous.

Satin cloth is occupying an honored place among the handsome woools.

Shepherd's plaid suits are going to be popular for the young girls.

Foulards, radium, and all the soft satins are seen in charming variety.

Military effects in buttons and braids trim a good many suits in novel ways.

Hats and not hair this season are to be considered a woman's crowning glory.

One of the new colors is Merisette shade, matching the juice of crushed wild cherry.

Plain, simple effects are coming to be more admired than the gold and glitter of the hour.

The delicate faille ribbons are even more prominent than the soft satins and glaze silk upon hats.

Passementerie drop trimmings are offered in all the modish colors, as well as in jet and metallic effects.

The coarse nets are liked especially well for gowns which are made over satins rather than muller silks.

The cart wheel rosette is charming; it is pinned at the throat, binding the two sides of the collar together.

Some of the new sleeves are trimmed with bands of different material; the mode is called bracelet trimming.

Satin coats are to have a big run for the summer coats that are unlined or that have bright, thin silk linings.

Many children's hats have embroidered scalloped borders of color on white, or of white on color, as the case may be.

Net girdles of wide, soft mesh are embroidered in ribbousine and fringed with it. They come in all the fashionable colors.

Jet, as the modish touch, means to supersede in every kind of apparel the glint of gold that has had a full year's sway.

Pongee ribbon about six inches wide, printed in oriental designs and colors, is one of the useful things brought in for dressmakers.

Many of the handsomest gowns are still high in the waist at the back, though the front has come down in some cases to its normal place.

Among the materials one finds diagonal homespun back in its old place, but brought out in colors richer than this rough fabric ever before appeared.

Big, round Eton collars will probably hold their own all through the spring. They may be made of plain linen or decorated with squares of lace set in.

Gold, both in lace and cords, is much used as a trimming for new ruffs for spring. A narrow strip of gold is effective, used as a band on a white or black befrilled ruff.

MASTER OF DISGUISE.

Glasgow Convict Posed as a Marathon Runner.

Edward Toye, a convict who escaped about a month ago from the Duke Street Prison, Glasgow, was recaptured there recently on what was to have been his wedding day.

Toye slipped out of his cell when the Warden's attention was attracted elsewhere, squeezed through the bars at the end of the corridor, and dropped twenty feet to the ground. Then he divested himself of his prison clothing, and clad only in his underclothing, he got out of the prison by lying along the axle of a lorry that had been delivering supplies.

As soon as he got out he started to run, and those who saw him thought he was a Marathon runner in training.

One day recently the police learned that Toye was to be married that day, but on going to the place appointed they failed to find him. Then they learned that he was hiding in a house on the south side of the city and surrounded it. Toye, who was in a room on the third story, slid down a rain pipe, but landed in the arms of the policemen who were waiting for him.

It is said that during his period of liberty he walked about under the noses of the police dressed as a woman and carrying a baby.