

A starving contest is to be held between the Italian Succi and Ann O'Dilia Diss Debar. The latter will hold seances every day during the fast, and will also fast ten days longer than Succi, he going forty days without food, and she will go on for fifty.

The *Popular Science Monthly* for February is as vigorous, intellectual and practical as usual. It contains several powerful articles on live topics, and in the departments of Miscellany and Notes many scientific topics of interest are briefly touched upon. New York, D. Appleton & Company; fifty cents a number, \$5.00 a year.

A very successful tableau entertainment was recently given in New York, the subjects being taken from illustrations in the current magazines. The idea is a simple one, and if the subjects are well chosen it can be made very interesting. The Century Company has prepared a list of suitable pictures with suggestions for any one who wishes to get up the entertainment. They will send it free on request.

The number of suicides occurring in New York during the year ending Dec. 31, 1890, was 239, of which number 190 were men and 49 were women. Of the former 141 were of foreign birth and 49 were native born; while of the women 27 were of foreign birth and 22 were native born. These figures show that of the total number of suicides for the year 168 were of foreign nativity, and only 71 were natives of the United States.

Public Opinion, the eclectic weekly of Washington and New York, has just announced the offer of three cash prizes of \$150, \$100 and \$50 respectively for the best three essays upon the question: "Is any extension and development of trade between the United States and Canada desirable, if so, what are the best means of promoting it?" The topic is particularly timely, and the contest will doubtless attract considerable attention. Full particulars may be had by addressing the publishers of *Public Opinion* at either New York or Washington.

It is reported that the Chilean Government has prohibited the export of nitrates.

A report that a secret alliance has been signed between Guatemala and Honduras against San Salvador is current in the city of Mexico. Guatemala is preparing for war.

General Count Alfred von Schlieffen, who succeeds General von Waldersee as Chief of the General Staff at Berlin, is regarded as one of the most able officers of the Staff.

The Pope contemplates making a large accession to the Cardinalate in the coming summer. The death of Cardinal Cristofori leaves 32 Italian Cardinals and 28 Foreign Cardinals.

News from Kieff states that a gentleman and his fiancée, while out walking in a wooded portion of that country, were attacked by a pack of hungry wolves and devoured alive.

The *Star* says an interesting suit for damages is to be brought against certain prominent personages. It is the outcome of the game of baccarat in which the Prince of Wales and other distinguished gentlemen took part. One of the players, a wealthy military coronet, was accused of cheating at the game, and has instituted this suit for libel against his accusers. The Prince of Wales will be one of the witnesses.

CONSUMPTION CURED.—An old physician, retired from practice, having had placed in his hands by an East India missionary the formula of a simple vegetable remedy for the speedy and permanent cure of Consumption, Bronchitis, Catarrh, Asthma and all throat and Lung Affections, also a positive and radical cure for Nervous Debility and all nervous complaints, after having tested its wonderful curative powers in thousands of cases, has felt it his duty to make it known to his suffering fellows. Actuated by this motive and a desire to relieve human suffering, I will send free of charge, to all who desire it, this recipe, in German, French or English, with full directions for preparing and using. Sent by mail by addressing with stamp, naming this paper, W. A. Noyes, 820 Powers' Block, Rochester, N. Y.

CITY CHIMES.

Lent commenced on Wednesday, so it is to be presumed that the merry-round of social life will become less exciting in its movements during the season of meditation and self denial. Many of our society dames and belles will be thankful for a rest from dances, and glad to take their pleasures leisurely and soberly for a few weeks. Dress makers' services will now be in demand, for their is no time like Lent for getting new gowns made, and every one wants to be fully equipped for spring and summer before house cleaning time arrives. The difficulty of getting dresses well made is so great in Halifax that many ladies almost wish they could dress like the women of Burmah, in long strips of cotton or silk, according to circumstances, wound around them. This would save dressmaking, but there would be other disadvantages connected with such a primitive stylo of costume.

Not a week of this year has passed without a heavy storm. Four Sundays have been very disagreeable and not such as would tempt anyone to stir out. The churches have, naturally, not had very large congregations. The idea that Sunday is a day of rest is very prominent when it storms.

The private afternoon parties carnival was repeated at the Exhibition Rink on Monday evening, which was fortunately fine. It was a great success and the costumes and fancy skating were much admired.

Professor MacMechan delivered an interesting lecture on "A Young Man's Influence" in Orpheus Hall on Tuesday evening. Despite the bad walking a fair audience was present. The lecture was under the auspices of the Y. M. C. A.

Miss McGarry has returned from Montreal and resumed her classes in elocution at the Ladies College.

The approaching departure of the West Riding Regiment is inducing a pale cast of thought in the minds of many of the fair ones of Halifax. The trouble ranges through all classes, from the domestic below-stairs to my lady in the drawing room. This departure of the sons of Mars will no doubt leave many broken or badly-damaged hearts, but the new comers, with a sense of duty truly heroic, will say, "Once more into the breach, dear friends," and before many weeks have elapsed the wonted state of this garrison town will be kept pretty much as usual. Seriously, though, the good fellows of the West Riding will be much missed among their many friends in Halifax.

The benefit to Mr. Lytell drew a large audience at the Academy of Music on Monday evening. "The Shaughraun" was the play, with Mr. Lytell as "Conn."

Tuesday's storm made the walking far too juicy for comfort. Rubber boots were the only things that would keep out the water, which possessed the penetrating qualities that snow-water is famed for.

To-morrow will be St. Valentine's day, and also the middle of the month, or as near it as possible in a month of twenty-eight days. Winter ought to be nearly over now, and unless the boisterous month of March proves unusually cold, winter's chilly blast will be superseded by spring's balmy breezes before we know where we are. The weather is scarcely warm enough, however, for the birds to mate to-morrow, as according to tradition they ought to do.

Cough-Cures

Are abundant; but the one best known for its extraordinary anodyne and expectorant qualities is Ayer's Cherry Pectoral. For nearly half a century this preparation has been in greater demand than any other remedy for colds, coughs, bronchitis, and pulmonary complaints in general.

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—F. J. Olden, Salto, Buenos Ayres.

"A few years ago I took a very bad cold, which settled on my lungs. I had night sweats, a hacking cough, and great soreness. My doctor's medicine did me no good. I tried many remedies, but received no benefit. I was nearly despaired of my recovery. I was advised to use Ayer's Cherry Pectoral, and, as a last resort, did so. From the first dose I obtained relief, and, after using two bottles of it, was completely restored to health."—F. Adams, New Gretna, N. J.

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