JAPANESE DETECTIVES.

ADMIRABLE SYSTEM OF DETECTION OF CRIME IN JAPAN.

They Have a Way of Finding Things out And Nobody Knows How—Claim to be Aware of Everything That is Going on in the Empire—Some Wonderful Instances of Clever Detective Work.

The detective service of Japan is admirable and is inherited from the days of the despotism, when it was necessary for the Shogun to know everything that was going on among the subjects writes a correspondent. There are two distinct detective agencies under the Government, one being connected with the ordinary police for the prevention and punishment of crime, and the other being political, under the Department of the Interior.

The latter showed its efficiency during the late war, for the Japanese knew more about the Chinese army, its fortresses, its arms and equipments, and the condition of the navy than Li Hung Chang himself. The agents of the intelligence department were not only ingenious and indefatigable, but a mass of valuable information was received at headquarters from volunteer spies and from persons who had visited China recently and knew facts of value to their Government.

The intelligence department has so complete a system that it claims to be aware of everything that is going on in the empire, and I presume that this is true, particularly in politics. The criminal department of the police is equally industrious and efficient. In the first place every citizen—man, woman, and child—in Japan is registered at Police headquarters, with his residence, his occupation, and even the wages he receives if he is a workman or an employee. Whenever he changes his abode, his occupation, or his place of employment, he is required to notify the registrar and correction is made upon the books. Every hotel is required to report the arrival and departure of its guests as promptly as possible, with the places they came from, the train they take, and their destination. Therefore it is easy for the police to ascertain the whereabouts of any person at any time and they have a good start when they are inquiring into a case.

Not long since, for illustration, Mr. Miller, official interpreter of the United States Legation in Tokio, failed to receive a letter which was sent him from a neighboring city with a draft enclosed, and he

NOTIFIED THE POLICE.

The detective assigned to the case began by ascertaining the day and hour when the letter was posted, from which he could easily calculate the exact time of its arrival in Tokio. By reference to the register at headquarters he found that there were two persons named Miller in the city, although their initials were different and they lived far apart. The postmen who served the district in which they lived were questioned, and one of them remembered delivering a letter to the house of the wrong Miller on the date named. Several members of the family recalled that such a letter that did not belong to them had been received, and one of the servants reported that she had handed it to a peddler, who had agreed to put it in the nearest post box and save her the trouble. The peddler was found and identified by the servant. His premises were searched and the money was discovered concealed under the matting of the floor. He had forged an endorsement and got the draft cashed by a merchant who had sent it to his bank for collection in the regular course of business. These facts were all ascertained, and the thief was sentenced to four year's imprisonment within a week after Mr. Miller made his complaint to the police.

Mr. James R. Morse of Yokohama happened to be spending the night with his friend, Mr. Denison, in Tokio, when a sneak thief entered the house and stole his pocketbook, containing $70 and a number of valuable papers. The matter was reported to the police in the morning, with a description of the purse and its contents, and within forty-eight hours the papers were recovered and the thief had begun a term of six years' imprisonment at Ishikawa, the national penitentiary.

The process of his detection was very prompt and simple. The crime was reported at Police Headquarters at 8 o'clock in the morning. By 9 the theft and description of the property had been telephoned to every precinct in the city and to all the suburban towns, and were known to every officer on duty. In a little village about ten miles from the centre of Tokio a man entered a tea house during the afternoon and showed a card upon which Mr. Morse's name was engraved. Tea houses in Japan correspond with saloons in this country, and the policemen watch them. The nesans, as the waiter girls are called, coquet with the policemen and

OFTEN AID THEM

in the performance of their duty. So it was perfectly natural for the policeman on that beat to tell the nesans the story of the robbery, and it was equally so for this nesan to report to the policeman about Mr. Morse's card. The circumstance was suspicious enough to justify an arrest, and before night the thief was in the central station at Tokio. He had the pocketbook and all the papers on his person, but had spent most of the money in a spree the night before and had been robbed of the remainder during a drunken stupor that followed.

I saw a good deal of the Japanese detective corps while Mr. Foster was in Japan. As he had been connected with the Chinese Government, and his face and name were so well known to the public through their frequent appearance in the illustrated papers, it was feared lest some fanatic or soshi might attack him; therefore the Government, without consulting Mr. Foster, instructed the Police Department to keep him under constant surveillance while he was in Japan. All of the foreign legations are constantly watched by the police, and a detective with a jinrikisha is always on duty opposite them to follow members of the diplomatic corps wherever they go.

Mr. Foster was sometimes attended by five detectives. The Superintendent of Police at Kobe went with him as far as Kyoto, and the Kyoto Superintendent of Police as far as Nagoya as a mark of respect and although he protested against these attentions and assured the authorities repeatedly that he had not the slightest apprehension of danger, they replied that they held themselves responsible for his safety while in Japan, and must insist upon maintaining the guard. Sometimes while he was in Tokio and Yokohama Mr. Foster succeeded in eluding his shadows, much to their chagrin, but they very soon discovered that he had outwitted them and ascertained his whereabouts in some mysterious manner, which showed their efficiency. One night we slipped out of the hotel by the back door to call on a friend, and managed to reach his residence without being overtaken; but at the conclusion of the visit, as we were starting homeward, we found a half dozen detectives sitting coolly around the door. How they discovered our whereabouts is a mystery, for no one knew where we were going, and we left the hotel unobserved.

THE OLD FOLKS VACATION.

They Were Industrious and the Time Hung Heavy.

A hearty-looking farmer and his wife sa in the Union Station, Toronto, the other day awaiting their train. The reporter, struck by his general appearance, followed him as he went out to the refreshment stand, and over a couple of big red apples engaged him in conversation.

"I'll tell you what it is," he said, "There's nothing on earth so hard to do if you've always worked as I have, as to rest Mother and me have worked all our lives and now we've got a fine farm, the children are all settled, and John, my youngest boy and his wife, just married last month, have come to keep us company, and I told mother we'd just take a vacation this summer. We've always talked of taking one, and I saw no use in putting it off. So we turned things over to the young folks and started to a lake up in Muskoka. When we first got there things seemed pretty nice. We had the best rooms in the house—mighty little ones, too, I can tell you; our room opened on a porch, which overlooked the lake, and we felt that there was nothing lacking to make us have a grand time.

"We spent the first day watching the folks come and go and mother found an old friend among the women, so they talked a good deal. I made the acquaintance of a fisherman and went out with him and was content until about milking time, then I began to wonder if John would get along all right and thought of lots of things I had forgot to tell him. I sat down that night and wrote him all the things I remembered. Well, the second day dragged a little. Mother took it easier than I, for she had her knitting, but a man can't be eternally sitting around with his hands in his pockets. The third day was worse than ever. I got a boat and rowed all around the lake and found I wasn't tired enough to sleep at all that night. Well, it got so that we could hardly stand it before the week was over. The second week mother went into the kitchen and begged the woman to let her wipe the dishes, and after every meal she went out and wiped dishes for an hour. I got a boat every day and rowed round and round the lake until my arms felt tired. We stayed just 16 days, and now we're going home to roll up our sleeves and pitch in. Working people can't rest when they get a chance. I never spent such a time."

SNAKE IN HIS STOMACH.

It Was Fifty-eight Feet Long and Light Green.

Willie Hetherington, a sixteen-year-old bell-boy at the Grand Central Hotel, St. Cloud, Minn., was recently relieved of a snake fifty-eight feet in length, which has been causing him great pain for many years. The reptile is more slender than the common garden snake, which it resembles, being marked in precisely the same way and of practically the same color—a light green. One of the doctors of the city has the snake in his office, and the boy is now attending to his duties of the hotel. Tuesday the boy was taken suddenly ill and began belching in a violent manner. While this was going on the watchers were thunder struck to see protruding from the mouth of the sufferer a snake's head. Doctors were sent for, and while making an examination the snake's head again came into view. The physicians administered medicine and a second later the snake began issuing from the boy's mouth, dropping into a big pan that had been prepared to receive it. As the last of it dropped into the pan it began twisting, coiling and tying itself into knots, all the time raising its head and darting out its forked tongue. The snake, which has been preserved in alcohol, is somewhat smaller around than a lead pencil. Its scales are soft instead of hard, as is the case with the ordinary snake. How it obtained a lodging place in the boy's stomach is something that even young Hetherington himself does not know.

Drinkum's Plan.

Didn't the doctor tell Drinkum to take only a thimbleful of whiskey?

Yes; but Drinkum had a thimble made to order.

A Bad Debt.

You need not speak so unkindly of Henry's debts, papa; he doesn't owe you anything.

Yes he does, miss; he owes me a long bored bill.

Just Escaped.

An English newspaper has a item about a little Scotch boy, who, while playing on the docks, fell into the water and was with great difficulty rescued by a bystander:

You ought to be very glad I was near by, said his rescuer.

I am, repled the boy. An' I'm so glad ye got me out. What a lickin' I wad got from my mither if I'd been drooned.

QUEER THINGS IN EUROPE

ODD HAPPENINGS THAT HAVE OCCURRED IN THE OLD LAND.

Accidents From Coal Oil Lamps—Novel Attempt at Suicide—— Phenomenal Spendthrift—Ignorance of the Russian Peasants—Court Society in Russia—Queer Post Office Names, etc.

Lately, near Berlin, a young lady fell from an express train while endeavoring to close a window. She will probably die.

A chapel measuring 9x12 feet will shortly be erected on Mount Blanc, 10,000 feet above the sea level.

Last year thirty-three persons in London lost their lives by the explosion of coal-oil lamps. In twenty-five cases the lamps were glass lamps, and it is therefore proposed to prohibit their sale and use.

In France it is a punishable offense for any one to give infants under one year any form of solid food, unless such be ordered by written prescription signed by a legally qualified medical man.

The Mahometan clergy denounce electricity as a damnable power.

A servant girl at Vienna attempted to commit suicide by a novel method. She undressed and then poured boiling water over herself; being interrupted in this she tried to throw herself from a window. And now she is in her proper sphere—the lunatic asylum.

The smallest clock in the world was on exhibition lately in a jeweller's show-window in Gottingen, Germany. The dial measures less than one-third of an inch in diameter and the weight which furnishes the motive force for twenty-four hours is suspended from a woman's hair.

L'Independence Belge says that a young Hungarian military docter named Bela Skarvan has been condemned by court-martials to three months' solitary confinement, to the confiscation of his property and the loss of his doctor's diploma, and to degradation to the rank of a private because in a letter to the military authorities he ventured to express his aversion to military service.

Several newspapers in Lissabon, Portugal, with malice aforethought, accused the Jesuits of stealing children. Since then, in consequence of these calumniations, many priests have been assaulted on the streets and seriously wounded by the very ignorant and very credulous populace. In fact, very vigorous measures were necessary to prevent the assassination of all clericals.

A son of Geheimrath Julius Schwabach, member of the firm of Bleichroeder, of Berlin, has shown himself, a phenomenal spendthrift. Within eighteen months he squandered over $250,000. He tried his best, or his worst to prove himself a fin de siecle blade. For instance, while residing at Leipsic, Germany, he sometimes telegraphed to his tailor at Berlin to come to him by special train to take an order. The rich fool is now under guardianship.

The Berlin Echo has discovered that among the Chinese the "milhi" is priced as the most delicious dish. It consists of new born mice, still blind. They are dipped in oil and then connoisseurs swallow them very slowly. At the marriage feast of the present Emperor of China not less than 5,000 of these sleek bonbons glistened on the festive board.

A late official report shows that contrary to common belief cases of religious mania are rare in the British isles. It also discloses the strange fact that more mental aberration is developed among the tribe of peddlers than among any other class, physicians and druggists coming next. Melancholia prevails most in Ireland.

How densely ignorant the Russian peasants are is shown by the fact that lately a swindler was arrested in the Government of Saratow for selling among the peasantry a large number of tickets to the planet Jupiter. Many of the dupes had disposed of everything they possessed in order to buy such a ticket. These would-be emigrants were promised large estates and a life of ease and luxury, of course, and had even been told not to take along the pictures of saints, since on Jupiter they would be likely to make their personal acquaintance.

A piano in a lion cage is the latest stage specialty. It has been introduced by a hitherto obscure female piano teacher who first performed in a lion cage in a menagerie at Dewsburg, England. The experiment is pronounced a "grand success." The kingly beasts are said to be very appreciative, and particularly partial to Chopin's airs.

Custom is tyrannical. Hence it is that the English servant maid, whenever she wants to shine when taking an airing, continues to actually hire a soldier from the barracks, glorious in scarlet coat and brass buttons, to accompany her at the rate of not less than sixpence per hour. By paying eight or ten pence she may monopolize the soldier's society; otherwise the martial gallant may let out half his smiles and his left arm to another maid at the sixpence rate.

An "only original" circus is now giving performances at Christiania, Norway. The members of the troupe represent various grades of nobility. One baron is director of the educated dogs, another baron is a clown, the latter's wife, a baroness, charms the public with her songs; a countess beats the cymbals, a marquise twangs the zither, and a duke blows the fife.

Vienese papers state that Czar Nicholas II. is a mere puppet in the hands of his mother. The reign of the Dowager Empress is, however, confined to politics. In court society the young Empress—a Hessian princess, with an English education—rules supreme; she has already succeeded in making English the dominant language in court circles, and is endeavouring to supplant Russian with English etiquette and habits. And now the average Russian would not be surprised to learn that the court cats are being taught to bark.

German railroad cars are not comfortable but German railroad management is fairt For instance, according to a late agreemen between the railroads, if a traveller now makes only part of the trip to which his ticket entitles him, the money paid in excess is returned to him, provided the station master of the station where the trip was cut short has certified to that fact on the ticket.

Some of the post-offices in the province of Brandenburg, Prussia, have queer names: Old Nag, Blue Monkey, Flying Horse, Green Deer, Hungry Wolf, Cow Beer, Pig's Whistle, etc. And the Postal Guide for the province further shows an astonishing assortment of foreign names: Annapolis, Ceylon, Charlestown, Beauregard, Corsica, Jerusalem, Jamaica, Malta, Maryland, Ninive, Pensilvanien, Saratoga, Zion, etc.—all these are lying and situate in the ultra-Prussian province and the ultra-German Kingdom.

The executioner of Paris, Mons. Deibler, had an insignificant law suit lately. But it led to the rediscovery of the fact that in olden times the French executioner was paid according to a fixed tariff. The highest price, 48 livres, was set on boiling a criminal in oil, 20 livres had to be paid for beheading a person, 36 livres for burning a witch, 10 livres for branding and 4 livres for whipping a malefactor, etc.

A DESPOT'S WILL.

Napoleon Was the Cause of Two Hundred Frenchmen Losing Their Lives.

It is only a few years since many English sailors were drowned because an admiral gave a wrong order, and another officer, who knew the order to be wrong, obeyed it. Admiral Bruix, of the French navy, was once in the English officer's position, and took a contrary course, although his orders came from no less a personage than Napoleon I. Both cases, it should be noted, occurred not in battle but on parade. At such a time, surely, a subordinate must be justified in saving the lives of his men, even at the cost of technical disobedience.

While Napeleon was at Boulogne, in 1804, he went out to ride one morning, leaving word that on his return he would review the fleet. During his absence, therefore, a message was sent to Admiral Bruix, that he might order the ship to weigh anchor and put out to sea. To the astonishment of the messenger, the admiral replied that he was very sorry, but the state of the weather would not permit the review to take place.

In due time the emperor returned, and inquired if everything was ready. The admiral's response was communicated to him. At first he seemed not to understand, but on its being repeated he stamped his foot and ordered the admiral summoned into his presence.

The admiral came at once, but even so he was not quick enough for the emperor, who met him half-way. The emperor's staff followed, and stood ranged in silence about him.

"Sir Admiral," said Napoleon in an angry voice, "why have you not obeyed my orders?"

"Sire," answered the admiral, with respectful firmness "a fearful tempest is preparing. Your majesty can see it as well as I. You cannot wish to expose uselessly the lives of so many brave men."

Constant, the first valet de chambre of the emperor, and one of his firmest apologists, is constrained to admit, in relating the story, that the aspect to the sky at that very moment fully justified the fears of the admiral; but Napoleon was too much irritated to listen to reason.

"Sire," he said, "I have given orders. Once more, why have you not executed them? Obey!"

"Sire, I shall not obey."

At that word the emperor advanced, riding-whip in hand, as if to strike. The admiral recoiled a step and laid his hand upon his sword.

"Sire," he said, turning pale, "take care!"

The two men faced each other; then the emperor dropped his whip, and the admiral withdrew his grasp from the handle of his sword.

"Rear-admiral Magon," said Napoleon, "you will execute instantly the order I have issued. As for you, sir," turning to Admiral Bruix, "you will leave Boulogne within twenty-four hours and retire into Holland. Go!"

The rear-admiral did as the emperor had bidden. The tempest broke as the admiral had predicted, and more than two hundred Frenchmen were drowned before the emperor's eyes.

The Advance of Cholera.

Reports of the advance of cholera across the Pacific Ocean may be any day expected, and the latest one to the effect that the dread pestilence had reached Hawaii is not urprising. The Philadelphia Record is quite right in saying:—"The increasing trading intercourse between the States of our Pacific coast and Asian countries where cholera is now raging has transferred the imminence of danger to the other side of the continent. It is not at all surprising to hear that cholera has been imported from Japan or China to the Sandwich Islands. It will require the utmost vigilance upon the part of the Governments of the United States and Canada to keep the dread pestilence from establishing a lodgement at some of the Pacific ports." The Vancouver and other British Columbian health authorities should remember that "early and provident fear is the mother of safety," and govern themselves accordingly.

Fruit Ripened Under Electric Light.

By lighting his hot-houses at night with electric lights 5,000 candle power, all told, Dr. Werner von Siemens ripens raspberrie in seventy-five days, grapes in two months and a half, etc. The expression "in season" may soon lose significance in this connection, since by the application of electricity fruits and vegetables can be had at any time of the year. The fruit thus produced are remarkable for brilliant color and fine aroma, but are not as sweet as those ripened by the sun.

Test for Insane Persons.

Buston Ward, the celebrated English physician, says: "There is one infallible symptom indicating whether a person is sane or not. Let a person speak ever so rationally and act ever so sedately, if his or her thumbs remain inactive there is no doubt of his or her insanity. Lunatics seldom make use of their thumbs when writing, drawing, or saluting."

A MURDEROUS WEAPON.

HAND-TO-HAND SLAUGHTER WITH CUBA'S NATIVE MACHETE.

The Terrible Implement of the Husbandman—Skilful User Cuts, Rips Open and Tears the Spanish Enemy and Sometimes Severs His Head.

Cuba has a terrible national weapon. In the present conflict in progress in Cuba the insurgents have done such deadly execution with it that the Spaniards have decided to arm their own infantry with it in order to be able to meet the insurgents on more nearly equal terms. This weapon is the machete.

The machete is the Central and South American agricultural tool. It is pronounced as if spelled mah-tchay-tay, with an accent on the ay of the second syllable. It is the husbandman's implement in all sugar-growing countries. There are some three or four hundred styles used in Brazil, the Central American States, Mexico and San Domingo. Each country uses a different blade, and of each there are about a hundred varieties.

But wherever it appears and whatever its style, it is a murderous weapon in the hands of those accustomed to its use. It has played no small part in the history of all uprisings in the Spanish-speaking provinces. But in Cuba it has done such execution that if the island should win her freedom the machete ought to be included in the coat-of-arms of Cuba libra.

In Cuba every man possesses a machete, no matter what else he doesn't own. It is the tool of the Cuban workingman. With it he earns his living cutting the sugar cane. With it he cuts the firewood for his own use. Indeed, it is

HATCHET AND KNIFE

combined for him.

Every Cuban except those who live in the big cities, like Havana, is familiar with the use of the machete. The rank and file of the Cuban insurgents, who come from the plantations, are not skilled in the use of firearms. But they make up for it by the ferocity with which they engage in close-quarter encounters with Spanish soldiery with the faithful machete. When this is the case the Spaniard fares badly and the machete man leaves a lot of bloody corpses or wounded bodies behind him.

One of the horrible features of a field of battle where machetes have been used is the number of partly beheaded or partially ripped open bodies that are found.

A young Cuban explains the most common manner of using the machete. It is entirely different from sword practice; the thrust is not employed at all. The aim of the machete user is to cut, rip and tear his opponent and disable or kill at once. Among the insurgents the privates, who are armed with machetes, carry the weapon in the scabbard at the left side of the belt or dangling from a chain about the right wrist. In any case the weapon is not held for use until the lines are within a few yards of each other.

When the word is passed the machete is pulled from the scabbard with an upward stroke diagonally to the right, with the longest and the sharp edge towards the enemy. This constitutes one stroke, and is

AIMED AT THE ABDOMEN

of the attacked person with the design of cutting or tearing the body below the waist. With the weapon raised to the length of the right arm the wrist is simply turned over, and the machete makes a stroke back to the left so as to slash the attacked person's neck and if possible partially behead him. With still one more turn of the wrist the edge of the machete strikes downward, cleaving the body again.

This is all done with wonderful dexterity. These strokes are the easiest form of attack to learn among edged weapons. In the hands of the insurgents who are habituated to the use of the machete and are very strong the blows are described as wicked. Many times heads are all but severed from the body, and a machete wound is usually fatal.

The machete used by the insurgents at present is a very cheap and ordinary looking affair and costs less than a dollar. It is made in England and in Germany. The blades are from twenty to thirty inches long. Some of them have a blade slightly curved backwards towards the thick, dull edge, with a rounded point curved back to the thick edge. The favorite and the one which has done most damage to the Spanish forces has the thirty-inch blade, about three inches wide, long, straight and clean looking, and with the end cut off diagonally to a point as a milliner cuts the ends of a ribbon bow. The handle is of rough-looking bone, the handle of the blade being run through the centre and fastened together with what looks like four ordinary nails with the heads cut off. There is no guard at all, and the machete man often gets his fingers badly wounded. That is the simplest machete.

Others have the bone handle curved to fit into the palm of the hand. When the Cuban husbandman gets his machete it isn't at all sharp. He, however whets it up until it

CUTS VERY EASILY.

A Cuban who had been with the insurgent army described the scene after an encounter, when the insurgents sat around, each busily sharpening his machete for the next assault.

Not only the privates but the officers as well use the machete. The officers have a shorter weapon and of better stuff. The long blades of the machete of the privates will almost bend double without breaking. The shorter, broader, thicker weapons have not the same elasticity.

Astonishing stories are told of the force of the blow that the insurgent can give with the native knife. In the National Museum at Madrid is an American rifle which, it is claimed, was completely split in half lengthwise with a blow from a machete.

Women have been known to use the machete, and during the Ten Years' War there were numerous instances where women whose husbands were away fighting defended themselves and children with the machete.