NOTES AND COMMENTS

Is it true that there is no third choice? Dr. Wood Hutchinson thinks that there is not. In an address delivered before the American Medical Association he urges that a man past middle life ought to put on steam so as to reach the end more quickly. If a patient has a possibility of ten years more of life with proper care or the certainty of extinction after three years of strenuous living, he advises the strenuous life. Wear out and make room for the next generation is his precept. This was the choice of Achilles in the old story. Sometimes it is heroic to live so that the few years, or days, or minutes before death may be full of service. Under other circumstances it is cowardice or criminal folly to hasten the end. A short life and a merry one is a rogue's motto. If the principle is once admitted that a man may terminate his life when he wishes for no other reason than to avoid the trouble of living, a wave of suicide may be expected.

The instinct of self-preservation is strong in most persons. Even when life is a burden through sorow, ill health, or poverty, most men cling to life. It is not merely religious training which leads men and women to abhor self-destruction, it is something in the depth of their natures. This instinct cannot be wrong. To shorten life by overwork, undertaken with the express purpose of getting through sooner is no better than any other form of suicide.

Those who dread growing old should read Cicero's charming essay on old age. To be sure his knowledge was largely theoretical, as he was cut off by an assassin before reaching the pleasures of old age of which he wrote. But much of the pleasure of younger years consists in planning for old age. One leaves many things to do in the idle days before the end. There will be books to read, cities to see, the new generation to watch and love, and admonish, old teachings to ponder over. A man who has worked steadily is entitled to his hours of rest at the close of day. To remove from his thoughts all possibility of ceasing hard before death is to deprive him of one of the joys of living. A man who loves his work will stick to it as long as he has the strength, but if he is wise he will not murmur when days of forced idleness come upon him. Certainly he will not quicken the pace so that the end of work and the end of life may come together, and that speedily.

Besides wearing out and rusting out there is the third possibility of keeping bright and keen to the last without the pressure that breaks. One must not cease to regard life as a solemn trust to be kept, and to be kept useful as long as possible, but one must believe that even apparent uselessness after a life of use has its place in the divine plan.

Picture telegrams have been wired from Nuremburg to Munich, 100 miles away, and apparently could have been sent ten times that distance with equal ease. In Prof. Korn's apparatus the sketch or photograph must be translucent, and is attached to a cylinder of glass mounted on an axis by which it is slowly rotated, moving at the same time from right to left—in fact, moving much as the wax cylinder in the phonograph does. A beam of light is directed on the cylinder and passing through it, modified by the image on that particular part of the sketch, falls upon a selenium cell within the cylinder. This cell forms part of an electric circuit. The resistance of a selenium cell varies according to the light falling upon it, and in this way the current flowing in the circuit of which the line forms a part is modified. The receiving apparatus consists of a similar cylinder revolving synchronously with the first with photographic paper fastened outside it, and with a Nernst electric lamp occupying the place of the selenium cell. The light of the lamp fluctuates in unison with the light falling on the selenium, and so affects the paper and reproduces on it the image on the first cylinder.

ABSINTHE IN CLASSROOM.

Youthful Pupil in Parisian School Victim of Bad Habit.

An amazing discovery has been made in one of the communal schools in Paris. A class master noticed that after ten o'clock every morning one of his pupils, a little boy of seven, seemed to be a prey to fits of delirium. He thumped his neighbors, and when reproved by the master, rolled on the floor, shrieking, and groaning like one possessed.

The child was constantly in the habit of asking leave of absence for a minute or two, and the master had him watched. It was found that he carried a small bottle of absinthe in his pocket and took a nip as often as he could escape from the class room. It has been proved that the child's mother filled the bottle for him every morning.

EDISON ALWAYS AT IT.

Edison, the inventor, is nothing if not practical. Cranks have begged him to make the discovery of perpetual motion his next task, but he refuses to waste time upon it. "There are far more vital and pressing discoveries to be made," he says. "We must learn, for example, how to control the energy stored in coal. At present 90 per cent. of that energy is lost. If a means can be devised by which this enormous waste is saved, it will naturally revolutionize and vastly cheapen the production of power. It will enable an ocean liner to cross the Atlantic in unprecedented time, and with an expenditure of about one-tenth the amount of fuel now required. Coal will be put in a receptacle, acencies applied for developing its energies with an inappreciable wastage; through these agencies electric power of any necessary degree will be forthcoming. That problem seems to hold the greatest promise, to my way of thinking, and I propose to give it considerably more thought in the future than I have done hitherto."

TIME TO TAKE A FRESH HOLD

Rev. Dr. Newell Dwight Hillis Discourses on a Hebrew Patriot's Motto.

Text—"And the shadow went back ten degrees." I. Kings.

The other day the Dean of Cornell University showed me his shrubs, flowers and trees. While walking through the garden my eyes chanced upon a unique sundial. Studying the bronze plate, I deciphered these words: "Turn the shadow back ten degrees on the sun-dial and take a fresh hold." The Dean explained the motto by saying that he had heard the sentiment expressed in some sermon or oration. Thirty centuries ago a Hebrew patriot and poet was approaching old age. Grown weary, the tool was about to drop from his hand. But his country was suffering, and the poor needed him. In that hour he girded up his loins afresh and began anew. Addressing a group of dispirited followeres, the old hero, suddenly exclaimed: "Turn the shadow of life's dial back ten degrees and begin anew." From that day on the words became the motto of his life.

HIS DAYS PACKED WITH GOOD DEEDS.

After a while his fame began to spread. When he died, he was known as the man who packed all his days with good deeds and took the motto of his life from a sun-dial. Slowly his story began to move out into other climes and continents. History tells us that a crusader, a young English soldier, carried the fuchsia from Asia Minor to England, just as a Spanish missionary carried a vine from the hills of Valencia to Southern California, and so filled the world with purple clusters. And so the old Hebrew poet, who passed away thirty centuries ago, still lives, and walks up and down our earth.

In one of his last journeys he took ship to America, and made his way to Ithaca, for I found his footprints in Dean Bailey's flower garden! And when I look at a library of books and reports written by Prof Bailey and the group of scholars about him, I discovered the secret of the American scholar, as it was graven on a bronze plate on which the sunbeams lay pricking out these words for all who seek inspiration to fresh endeavor: Turn the shadow back ten degrees on the sun-dial and take a fresh hold."

DISCOURAGED PEOPLE SHOULD BEGIN AFRESH.

To all patriots and teachers and lovers of their kind who have sown widely and reaped few sheaves; there comes this word of hope from the great Hebrew, who began life afresh, and at last succeeded and made himself immortal. For those who bear the burden and heat of the day, life is often very hard. It is not an easy task to teach or write, or do reform work. Oft the harvest is postponed. Often the victory for reform is delayed for years. Full oft the philanthropist labors and sees no fruit of his labor. "I have done my share; let the young men come forward," exclaims the political reformer. "I have been at the head of this movement ten years; it is time for some one else to take his turn" cries the patriot or teacher. "I have earned money enough," says the merchant; "I am going to retire from business." But no man has ever done enough for his generation.

What! Refuse your voice and eloquence to the poor and weak and leave the great cause of the people without an advocate? Death alone has a right to silence your voice. What! Withdraw from the movement for reform or education or philanthropy, and leave the host without a leader? It is ignoble to desert. It is for you to die pushing the flag forward into the thick of the enemy and be carried off the field on your shield. What! You, manufacturer, or merchant, or financier, have made money enough for yourself? Go on making money for others, that you may be bread and raiment for the hungry and the naked. No matter how old you are, you are just at the beginning. There is time to write a new chapter in your life. You are in sight of the goal; one more forward movement and the victory is yours. "Turn the shadow back on the dia land take a new hold."

A MOTTO FOR YOUNG AND OLD ALIKE

To all who have reached middle age, who recall youth and anticipate life's decline; there is food and medicine in these words: "Turn the shadow back on the dial ten degrees and take a new hold." Strictly speaking, there is no old age. Is the Mississippi River any older now than it was a million years ago? The Mississippi River is water. The dirt banks between which it flows show time, but the Mississippi River is eternally young, eternally fresh, eternally pure, fed by the rains of summer, the snow of winter, and the clouds of the ageless ocean.

The soul is a living stream of thought and love and plan that flows through the lips in speech. The right hand and the left hand are like the right bank and the left bank of the Mississippi River. The body shows the mark and scar of time, but not the soul. For the heart that thinks and loves and prays, there is neither youth, nor maturity, nor old age. It is simply life that came from God. Out of the deep the soul came; into the deep it goes, like the river. And for those who open their heart to the inrushing tides of the divine spirit there is no old age.

ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE AGED.

As for the memory, Cato, at seventy-five, learns a new language, the Greek. As for philosophy, Richter makes his greatest intellectual discoveries after seventy. As for reform, Gladstone achieves his greatest eloquence, and makes his noblest plea after three score years and ten. As for art, Michael Angelo never finds himself until he comes to those years when the psalmist thought he ought to have been in the cemetery. As for poetry, in extreme old age the great German's spirit rises like a lark, floats into the sky, still pouring forth lyric melody. As for world achievements and civilization, Moses wrote his laws, social, political, domestic, after he was eighty years old.

God lives, the eternal sun, with whom a thousand years are as one day. Man is a spark struck out of the genius of God. Thinking God's thoughts, fulfilling God's plans, living God's life, the years have no power upon man. Therefore, begin life afresh. There is no growing old. Instead of dropping the tool, take a new grip. Instead of confessing defeat and withdrawing from the scene, plan a new advance. Have you discharged your clerks, preparatory to closing up the business, tear up the bond and make a new contract. Begin life afresh at seventy. Gird up your loins anew for a last dash toward the goal. Open a new furrow and sow one more harvest. Dig one more spring, build one more booth, bind up one more broken heart, and then—do it all over again! This day, the second Sunday in June, no matter where you are in life's race, "turn the shadow back ten degrees on the dial and take a fresh hold."—Newell Dwight Hillis.

THE S. S. LESSON

INTERNATIONAL LESSON, JULY 1.

Lesson I. Jesus and the Children. Golden Text, Matt. 18. 14.

THE LESSON WORD STUDIES.

Note.—The text of the Revised Version is used as a basis for these Word Studies.

Intervening Events. — Descending from the Mount of Transfiguration with Peter, James and John, Jesus healed the demoniac lad whom some of the disciples had been unable to heal. Of this incident Mark gives the longest account (Mark 9. 14-29). Shortly after this, while on a tour through Galilee with his disciples, Jesus again foretold his death and resurrection. Arriving at Capernaum, the incident of Peter's taking a shekel from the fish's mouth and paying therewith for himself and his Master the annual contribution to the temple treasury which was expected of every Jew, took place (Matt. 17. 24-27). Our lesson text is part of a longer discourse of Jesus on humility and forgiveness recorded in Matthew 18, and with short parallel passages in Mark and Luke (Mark 9. 35-50; Luke 9. 46-50; 15. 4-17).

Verse 1. In that hour—Immediately following the miracle of taking the coin from the fish's mouth referred to in the last verses of the preceding chapter. The working of the miracle had again excited in the disciples the hope of a glorious kingdom upon earth, and hence their question, Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?

2. Called to him a little child — The statement of this fact incidentally throws much light on the publicity of our Lord's work as teacher. No other great teacher in the history of the race was so continually and conspicuously in view of the public.

3. Verily — Literally, amen. This word occurring at the beginning of a discourse or sentence, means of a truth, surely, or truly; at the close of a sentence it signifies so be it, may it be fulfilled. The repetition of the word, as often in John, gives it the superlative significance of most assuredly.

Except ye turn — From the haughty and self-seeking spirit revealed in the question which the disciples had just put to Jesus.

In no wise enter — Much less be great therein, since the kingdom of heaven is a spiritual kingdom of humility.

4. Greatest — Literally greater, that is greater than others. So also in verse 1 above.

5. Whoso shall receive one such little child—To be taken in its literal sense as pointing to the function and calling of the disciples as teachers.

Receiveth me — A kindness rendered to a friend is in a very real sense a kindness rendered to us as well. In this sense the words of Jesus are to be taken.

6. One of these little ones that believe on me—The usual interpretation of this verse is that Jesus here refers not to children, but to those young and weak in faith. This aplication of the words of Jesus is perhaps justifiable and permissible, but since we have so few passages in which the attitude of Jesus toward children and their training is set forth, we should be slow to divert by a method of figurative interpretation such a passage as this one which, taken literally, as actually referring to those young in years, yields such a rich fund of spiritual truth.

It is profitable for him—And more especially also for those whom his life might, if prolonged, influence for evil.

A great millstone — Literally a millstone turned by an ass, that is, one too large to be turned by hand.

Sunk in the depth of the sea — The manner of death here referred to was comon among the Greeks and Romans, though probably not well known among the Jews.

7. Occasions of stumbling—To others who were seeking to live an upright and righteous life.

It must needs be—It is natural and in harmony with the actual course of events.

8. Verses 8 and 9 are a light divergence from the immediate thought of the preceding and following verses. From persons who give occasion for stumbling Jesus turns to that within the disciple's own life which may be a hindrance to his Christian life.

The eternal fire—The use of the article seems to indicate that Jesus referred to some place of torment, either well known in current teaching, or at least familiar to his hearers from his own previous teaching on the subject.

9. The hell of fire—Literally the Gehenna of fire. Ghenna is the Greek form of the Hebrew Ge-hinnom or "Valley of Hinnom," sometimes called "Valley of the Son of Hinnom"; also Tophet (Jer. 7. 31). This Valley of Hinnom was a deep, narrow gulch or glen southwest of Jerusalem, where in earlier times the cruel practice of human sacrifice to the god Moloch had been carried on. It was during the reformation under Josiah (2 Kings 23. 10) that the king "defiled Tophet, that no man might make his son or his daughter to pass through the fire to Moloch." In our Lord's time the valley was used as a place for depositing pollutions of every kind, even the bodies of criminals who had been executed. From this defilement and from its former desecration, Gehenna came to be used in a figurative sense to express the abode of the wicked after death. "The words 'of fire' are added either because of the ancient rites of Moloch, or, if a Rabbinical tradition is to be credited, because fires were always burning in the valley; or, further, as a symbol of everlasting punishment."—Carr. From the use of the term "the eternal fire" in the preceding verse it is probable that the last suggestion of Carr is the correct one.

10. —Literally, messengers.

Behold the face of my father who is in heaven—Not as if these messengers brought to God tidings of the wrong done to his little ones on earth, but rather that they stand in the presence of the throne ever ready to do the Father's bidding, and thus ready to speed on errands of help to protect these little ones and avenge their wrongs.

11. Following the reading of several excellent ancient manuscripts the Revised Version omits this verse, but there seems to be equally good authority for retaining the same. The verse reads, "For the Son of Man came to save that which was lost." It fits well into the thought of the discourse at this point.

12. Which goeth astray—Even while the sheep is yet in the act of going astray the careful shepherd has already begun his search. This parable in Luke is given in connection with two others, the parable of the Lost Coin and the parable of the Lost Son.

PRACTICAL BUSINESS METHODS.

Parents Should See That Their Children Are Well Versed in Them.

A prominent [illegible] of wide experience says that [illegible] his opinion, ninety-nine out of every hundred of those who make money or merit it lose it, sooner or later.

How many thousands of good, honest men and women there are in this country who have worked very hard and made all sorts of sacrifices of comfort and luxury in order to lay up something for the future, and yet have reached middle life or later without having anything to show for it; many of them, indeed, finding themselves without a home or any probability of getting one, without properly or a cent of money laid by for sickness, for the inevitable emergency, or for their declining years!

For the sake of your home, for the protection of hard earnings, for your peace of mind, your self-respect, your self-confidence, whatever else you do, do not neglect a good, solid business training, and get it as early in life as possible. It will save you from many a fall, from a thousand embarrassments, and, perhaps, from the humiliation of being compelled to face your wife and children and confess that you have been a failure. It may save you from the mortification of having to move from a good home to a poor one, of seeing your property slip out of your hands, and of having to acknowledge your weakness and your lack of foresight and thoughtfulness, or your being made the dupe of sharpers.

Many men who once had good stores of their own, are working as clerks, floorwalkers, or superintendents of departments in other people's stores, just because they risked and lost everything in some venture. As they now have others depending on them, they do not dare to take the risks which they took in young manhood, and so they struggle along in mediocre positions, still mocked with ambitions which they have no chance to gratify.

Thousands of people who were once in easy circumstances are living in poverty and wretchedness today because they failed to put an understanding or an agreement in writing, or to do business in a business way. Families have been turned out of house and home, penniless, because they trusted to a relative or a friend to "do what was right" by them, without making a hard and fast, practical business arrangement with him.

It does not matter how honest people are, they forget, and it is so easy for misunderstandings to arise that it is never safe to leave anything of importance to a mere oral statement. Reduce it to writing. It costs but little, in time or money, and when all parties interested are agreed, that is the best time to formulate the agreement in exact terms. This will often save lawsuits, bitterness and alienations. How many friendships have been broken by not putting understandings in writing. Thousands of cases are in the courts to-day because agreements were not put in writing. A large part of lawyers' income is derived from the same source.

Business talent is as rare as a talent for mathematics. We find boys and girls turned out of school and college full of theories, and of all sorts of knowledge or smatterings of knowledge, but without the ability to protect themselves from human thieves who are trying to get something for nothing. No girl or boy should be allowed to graduate, especially from any of the higher institutions, without being well grounded in practical business methods. Parents who send their children out in life, without seeing that they are well versed in ordinary business principles, do them an incalculable injustice.—Success Magazine.

10,000 FEWER SOLDIERS.

Reducing British Army for the Sake of Economy.

The British Government has decided to reduce the infantry strength of the army, and the indication is that 10,000 men will be struck off the list at an early date.

It is held that money can be saved only by lessening the personnel and withdrawing all unnecessary strength from the colonies. There is no intentions to remove whole battalions. Economy will be effected by reducing existing establishments.

The authorities believe that 30 per cent. of the soldiers now enlisted are unfit for active service, and that in war time this proportion would be left at home. If one sound man is substituted gradually for every three of these unfit men, the actual fighting strength of the army, it is claimed, will not be diminished, and only the hospitals will be more empty.

With the reductions indicated and some economies in other directions, it is hoped to effect a saving of two millions on the estimates for 1907-8.

MAGNETIC KNIVES.

Discovery of New Peril to Navigation.

Many fishing vessels have been wrecked in recent times because of inexplicable errors of the compass. This fact has induced the underwriters of fishing vessels sailing from Grimsby, England, to make an investigation, which has led to the discovery that the knives commonly used by fishermen are a positive danger to navigation.

Strong knives are needed in the fisherman's work, and a style of large clasp knife that has been specially treated in forging is on sale at all ports, and is highly popular with fishermen.

It has been discovered that this knife possesses magnetic properties so powerful that in the pocket of the man at the wheel it will deflect the needle two or three points.

A press representative secured one of the knives yesterday, and with it he visited the works of a well-known Grimsby compass adjuster. Standing near a binnacle with the knife in his pocket, he saw the needle perform all manner of weird gyrations.

"There can be no doubt that the knives are a positive danger to navigation," said the adjuster.

Grimsby shippers think the same, for orders are now being issued forbidding any one to enter the bridge house with a knife in his possession.

A few men earn more than they get, but the majority get more than they earn.

NEW ARTISTIC VOCATION

PAINTING OUT BLACK EYES IS A WORK OF ART.

Artist Find It a Profitable Branch of the Profession — How It Is Done.

Painting out a black eye approaches realism in art so closely that the person ten feet from the painted eye cannot tell where the skin stops and the brush color begins. Incidentally, as the knowledge of the art has spread, a few victims of fistcuffs have appeared now and then to a few artists, who may have been surprised themselves at an order, and then have experimented with the application of flesh colored paint.

But painting a blackened eye is not an easy thing for the average painter to do. There are varying degrees of blackness of the eye, there are varying positions for the settling of the pigment under the lids, there are variations in the protruding of the eye-brows, and in the shadow effects in an uninjured eye itself there are possibilities for the inexperienced artist making the other eye stand out in whitened contrast worse than before.

All of this is suggestive of a new industry in the great cities—that of the artist studio which has for its one feature the elimination of the black eye in any and all of its stages.

MUST BE IN OILS.

An oil paint is necessary, for the reason that with water colors the excretions of the skin will start the pigment to running. In the oil paint, too, it will need to be remembered that turpentine cannot be used as a drier for two reasons:— First, that a touch of the paint so charged will blind the eye it it comes in contact with the lids; and, second, that when turpentine is used it dries in puckering fashion not at all artistic.

Japan will furnish a harmless drier that acts naturally in the drying process. For the operation of painting out the blackened eye, the painter backs his patient's head into a barber's chair headrest, with both the patient's eyes impartially in the light. The idea is not only to paint out the blackened areas of the single eye but to leave the blackened eye a perfect likeness of the other eye.

Two coats of paint will be necessary on a good black eye, with a necessary half day for drying between the coats.

An artist who knows how should be able to put on an artificial eye that will stick just tight enough

FOR THREE OR FOUR DAYS.

Where a double coat has been put over an unusually dark optic, four days of the paint will be sufficient to make a second application of one coat to do. Frequently in applying the paint a glossy effect may be produced, but the artistic distribution of a little powder will dissipate the unnaturalness and shine. For a genuinely black eye the wearer will have to count upon two treatments at least before he can appear in public without "sitting" for another painting.

Five dollars an eye may be considered as a fair average price for an optical illusion at the hands of an artist. Ten dollars ought to be easy enough in hundreds of cases, while $25 in a ripened emergency isn't impossible. The man who would not pay $2.50 for a bit of one coat work naturally would be a man who had no regard for appearances in any way.

SALT FISH PUNISHMENT.

Agonies of Thirst Are Induced in the Prisoner.

The hunger cure was at one time a very popular punishment in Siberia, but the latest punishment invented is the eating of salted herrings. This is regarded as especially useful in the case of prisoners who refuse to disclose secrets or to betray their accomplices.

Those who have experienced it say that the continued eating of very salt herrings is the worst form of torture imaginable, thumbscrews and iron collars are mild inconveniences compared to it. The victim is shut up in a well-heated, small cell, and nothing is given to him to eat but salted herrings; no water, not even any bread.

The thirst thus induced causes the most maddening agonies, and it is almost invariably found that when the prisoner is brought before the Examining Commission he is ready to give all the information required to him. The sight of the first drink of water that is given to him generally brings on an attack of giddiness and fever, and for a short time he feels as if his mind were giving way.

MURDERER BEFRIENDS HIS JAILERS.

It is not often that a condemned murderer takes up the pen in defence of his jailers. This has been recently done by Lucheni, the murderer of the Empress of Austria. The regicide's conduct in jail has been so good that he is allowed to possess a few books in his cell, and to read certain journals. French by preference, because, though an Italian, he has taken a fancy for learning French, and takes constant lessons in it from a prison official. Reading in one of these journals that he is harshly treated in prison, and that his features have become almost unrecognizable as a result, he became very angry, and although warned that letters from him could not be despatched, wrote a memorial to the Swiss Government declaring that his treatment is humane and even kind. This memorial is written not only in French, but in good French, of which, at the time of his condemnation in 1898, the regicide knew not a word.

1st Sailor—On my last voyage I saw waves one hundred foot high!
2nd Sailor—I've been a sailor forty year and never seen 'em over forty!
1st Sailor—P'raps not! but everything is higher now than it used to be mate!

MARRIAGES IN BRITAIN

BIRTH RATE FELL OFF THE FIRST THREE MONTHS OF 1906.

Smallest Number of Deaths on Record—Natural Increase 115,106 for Three Months.

The Registrar-General of Great Britain, in his annual report for England and Wales, again records a falling birth rate. But this is accompanied by an appreciable drop in the death rate, and at the same time marriages, taking the country generally, were more numerous in 1905 than in 1904, though in this particular London still shows a decline.

In the following table the numbers of marriages, births and deaths, with the rates per 1,000 of the population, and the changes as compared with 1904, both as regards England and Wales and London alone, are duly set forth:

England and Wales—	Number.	Rate.	Change.
Marriages	260,489	15.3	Inc. 0.1
Births	929,457	27.2	Dec. 0.7
Deaths	519,939	15.2	Dec. 1.0
London—			
Marriages	39,631	16.9	Dec. 0.1
Births	126,620	27.1	Dec. 0.8
Deaths	70,542	15.1	Dec. 1.0

IN ENGLAND AND WALES

the marriage rate for the year was 0.5 per 1,000 below the decennial average. The birth rate was 1.8 below and the death rate 2 lower than the average, both these being, in fact, the lowest of any recorded year.

In London the decline of marriages was equal to 1 per 1,000 on the decennial average. In this case, too, the birth rate, which was 2.8 below the average, was the lowest on record, and so was the death rate, which fell to 2.7 below the decennial average. The density of the population of the County of London in 1905 is returned at 40,075 persons to the square mile.

The quarterly return for the first three months of 1906 continues the tale of decline in births. In England and Wales they numbered 237,396, or at the rate of 27.9 annually per 1,000 of the population, which again is the lowest on record for any first quarter of the year. The deaths numbered 140,462, or at the rate of 16.5 annually per 1,000, as compared with 18.7 for the ten preceding first quarters.

In the United Kingdom 296,741 births and 181,635 deaths occurred in the quarter. The natural increase in the population, therefore, was 115,106.

COMPLETELY CURED.

How a Hypochondriac Was Made a Well Man.

A doctor tells this story about a hypochondriac: "Sometimes he would think himself a teapot. Again he would be a kettle, or his legs would be turning to glass. He was, altogether, a trying subject to deal with, but one morning the limit was reached, for when (says the doctor) I asked him how he felt he said, gruffly:—

"How do I feel? Why, I don't feel at all. I'm dead. I have been dead for several hours. How can a dead man feel?

"I determined for once to humor him. So I said:—

"'Yes, you are dead, right enough. Come upstairs. We'll send for the undertaker.'

"The patient consented to this, though with a rather uneasy look, and got into bed and stretched himself out.

"Then two or three at a time, his best and oldest friends were admitted. These friends, having been well coached, gazed at the 'corpse' and shook their heads sadly.

"'Ah,' one would say, 'so he is dead at last, eh? Well, a greater villain never lived.'

"He must have died hard,' another would murmur. 'They say the wicked die hard always.'

"A third friend exclaimed: 'He cheated me once out of $2,500. I lent the money to him without security, and he pretended that he had never received it.'

"At this the hypochondriac sat up.

"'You lie, George,' he said bitterly.

"Here I pushed him back, whispering to him to remember he was dead, and he subsided again.

"But when an old and trusted servant said of him in a loud voice, 'Well, the old crumudgeon is gone and I am glad of it,' the hypochondriac could restrain himself no longer. He leaped out of bed and seized the servant by the throat.

"'You scoundrel!' he exclaimed. 'I—'

"Then a great shout of laughter went up: the patient seemed for the first time to realize his folly; he turned and went out for a walk, and never again did he permit his hypochondria to make a fool of him."

ARMY VETERAN'S PLIGHT.

After 21 Years Serving Country He Goes to Workhouse.

After serving his country for 21 years, Staff-Sergeant-Major Hoyne, late of the Army Service Corps, has become a helpless invalid. As he was born at Kilkenny, Ireland, the military authorities have intimated to the local guardians that the discharged veteran will be sent to the care of the union.

At their last meeting the guardians refused to receive Hoyne in the workhouse, stating that the War Office ought to make some better provision for him.

The man is presumably entitled to a pension after his long service, and surely a place might be found for him in some hospital or home for old soldiers.

RACE FOR SEA POWER

BRITAIN STILL LEADS IN THE WORLD'S FLEETS.

United States, France and Germany Hustle in Building Battleships.

Despite much talk of retrenchment among the great powers, they are engaged in the great race for naval supremacy.

The annual comparison of fleets issued by the Admiralty shows that Great Britain still remains behind in the building of battleships. The United States and Germany are ahead in respect.

The exact position can be seen at a glance from the following table, which gives the first-class battleships completed or to be laid down in the United States, France, Germany, Great Britain, Japan, Russia, Italy.

WE ARE NOT [illegible]

Great Britain [illegible] to armored cruisers laid down during the year [illegible] sign to be powerful [illegible] tion, of greater [illegible] modern armored [illegible] first-class battleships.

Compared with other powers Great Britain [illegible] in regard to the building of battleships [illegible] Great Britain, United States, France, Japan, Russia, Germany, Italy [illegible]

[illegible] the Admiralty [illegible] to be [illegible] in the return.

TESTS BY ORDEAL

Criminals in Sinai Subjected to Death by Fire or Water.

In the Sinai peninsula [illegible] condemned in the [illegible] bedded is still practiced. It gives particulars [illegible] system in Sinai. In all criminal cases [illegible] are forthwith [illegible] hacked, [illegible] fire by water [illegible] the judge [illegible] until it is red [illegible] a vessel of [illegible] Unless it [illegible] on the tongue [illegible] greatly. The [illegible] tongue presently [illegible] greatly has [illegible] fear of being [illegible]

The test by water [illegible] laws: "The Mudir [illegible] cused and the [illegible] a copper jug full of water [illegible] This jug is [illegible] per 13 more [illegible] of witchcraft or [illegible] returns back [illegible] is pronounced [illegible] stops opposite [illegible] nounced guilty.

This description is [illegible] detail and it is difficult [illegible] jug which only appears [illegible] a trustworthy index. [illegible] dream the "Mabsisa" [illegible] is a dream if the accused [illegible] not.

HE LIKED ON POISON

Old Turk Who Found Opium Not Strong Enough

Here is an odd yarn from the Times of March 31, 1906, [illegible] living in Constantinople [illegible] name of "Solyman, the [illegible] sive subliminate." He is [illegible] old. In his youth he [illegible] self, like all Turks, [illegible] after increasing the [illegible] tent, without the wish [illegible] ted the use of [illegible] daily, for upwards [illegible] drachm, or 60 grains. [illegible] since went into the [illegible] Jew, to whom he was [illegible] asked for a drachm of [illegible] he diluted in a glass of [illegible] lowed in an instant. [illegible] became greatly alarmed [illegible] be accused of poisoning the [illegible] his astonishment [illegible] when the next day the [illegible] and asked for a similar [illegible]

KAISER AS RIFLE CRITIC

Creeps Behind a Soldier and Reprimands Him for Negligence.

The Kaiser's keen eye for [illegible] matters is illustrated by an [illegible] which occurred near Metz a few days ago during rifle practice.

While the men were firing at [illegible] range, the Emperor threw himself on the ground and crawled behind the firing line, to [illegible] takes.

He found one man aim [illegible] ing correctly adjusted the [illegible] creeping still closer to him, [illegible] ed, shouted in his ear, "You [illegible] you will be imprisoned for at least [illegible] days for that mistake if any officer [illegible] it."

The soldier, greatly alarmed to [illegible] that the Imperial Commander-in-Chief had detected his negligence [illegible] remedied the error, and the Emperor proceeded on his tour of inspection along the ground.

THE NEW CHINA.

This little sidelight on life in a Chinese city is clipped from the Peking-Tientsin Times: "Two men who have been killing dogs and cats and selling them to the people as meat in the western part of the city were caught a few days ago and investigations by the police revealed a tale of shocking cruelty. One has been sentenced to two years, and the other to ten days' hard labor and a very light sentence, too."

NOTHING BUT SYMPATHY.

"Then you have no sympathy for the deserving poor?" asked the person working for charity.

"Me?" replied the rich and great man. "Why, sir, I have nothing but sympathy for them."