

NOTICE.

The Y. P. S. C. E. of the Presbyterian church will give their next monthly social in the church parlors, on Friday evening, January 22. Miss Peck, of Chicago, will read from her book, entitled, "The Voice that Grew in Park Court" and an exceptionally good musical program will be given. The members of the church and congregation, as well, as any interested friends, are cordially invited to be present. Offerings will be gratefully received, to assist the society in the support of their native pastor in Persia.

THE "CITY OF CRICKETS."

Seems to Be an Appropriate Name for San Antonio, Tex. — Insects Are Proliferous There.

"San Antonio ought to be called the city of crickets," said a man who has just returned to New Orleans from Texas, says the New Orleans Times-Democrat, "for I have never found as many crickets anywhere on earth as I found out there. It is not simply a case of the cricket on the hearth. It is a case of the cricket everywhere you go. I have been trying to figure out why it is that these insects are so plentiful in the Texas town in question. At night they swarm around the electric lights like the bugs we are familiar with in other places. It is impossible to walk along the streets without stepping on them. And there is just a bit of poetry about the situation in San Antonio with respect to cricket life there.

The people generally look upon them with a feeling of affection, and it is a rare thing to see a citizen show any sort of indifference to the members of this interesting family. No man would think of treading on a cricket. They take particular pains not to do anything that would in any way injure the lives or limbs of crickets. I was speaking of the poetry of the situation. It is a fine thing to hear the crickets crooning early in the evening. They chirp as cheerfully as if they were hidden away in the weeds of some romantic hedge or on the hearth which has been immortalized in verse and song. Men hurry along the streets; women brush along with their musical skirts, and all the while the crickets keep on crooning their little love songs, just as if the pulses of humanity were not beating about them. It is interesting, picturesque, poetic and, if I had my way, I would christen San Antonio the 'City of Crickets.' I think the name would add color to a city already romantic in its fish coloring."

Cold in the Upper Air.

The sending up of self-registering instruments upon kites at the Blue Hill observatory, near Boston, has shown that a passenger during an excursion into the upper air would need a variety of clothing. If it chanced to be a normal summer day on the ground, with the temperature at 72 degrees F., and the breeze blowing freshly at 20 miles an hour, he would need to take his furs and mittens, for by the time he had reached an elevation of 11,000 feet the thermometer would register nearly 40 degrees lower and the wind would be blowing a hurricane.

Possibly Dr. Wiley, who sends forth the danger signal that mankind is becoming bald, is trying to make a reputation as a wig-wag.

WELLS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

Large Areas in That Country Are Without Surface Water—Government Boring Plant Kept Busy.

Over large areas in South Africa the surface is streamless, and hence without a visible water supply. By boring to no great depth, though, the desired article can almost invariably be found, says the New York Tribune. An engineer in the public works department of the Cape government says that in the last five years the authorities have made 2,000 boreholes at an average cost of £50 each, and at least three-fourths of these have produced water in satisfactory quantities, the daily output from such wells now being about 28,000,000 gallons. The Transvaal government has also appointed an expert to study local possibilities.

These facts are naturally of interest to manufacturers of well-boring plants, who are already doing a considerable business with South Africa, and who may expect to see that business multiplied many times over during the next few years. During 1898, 1899 and 1900 applications for the use of Cape government drills averaged about 500 annually, and at present, so largely have these applications increased, no fewer than half a hundred drills are in constant operation, and the government is said to have booked sufficient work to keep the existing plant fully occupied for at least three years, and further applications will therefore have to be met by large increases of plant, and by extensive private enterprise in the same direction.

COINS WHICH HAD THEIR DAY.

Gold Pieces Which Are Rare and Curious—Some Which Collectors Are Anxious to Obtain.

Recent mention of the disappearance of the \$2.50 gold piece from circulation and the premium this coin commands as a curio has set many to rummaging in old pocketbooks and the bottoms of cash boxes and drawers in search of odd or out-of-date coins, says the Portland Oregonian. Some have found a \$2.50 piece, but not many. The \$3 piece, once quite common, but always a sort of curiosity, is oftener found, and many have specimens of the little gold coins representing 25 cents and 50 cents, which were not minted by the government and probably have not so much gold in them as they represent. They used to pass as coin, but were never in general circulation, being so easily lost that they soon became scarce. One of the handsomest coin relics seen is a \$10 gold piece bearing the mint stamp of 1799. It is larger than the present \$10 piece. The owner has it hung in a band and wears it as a charm on his watch chain. The owner says he refused an offer of \$150 for this relic. The old octagonal \$50 pieces were quite common in California in early days, when gold dust was largely used as a circulating medium. They were made of pure gold, and while they had not the elegant finish of the gold coins minted by the government in these days, many still remember them as the handsomest coin they ever saw. Many people now would consider them handsome on account of the \$50 in them.

A man who has assisted the sheriff in several hangings has sent him a sketch in which he represents himself with a rope in one hand and a black cap in the other. Honest pride in one's work is always refreshing.

One way of preserving that satisfied feeling is to dwell among those who are poorer than you are.

FORTUNE HUNTERS.

Marriages of Many American Girls of Wealth to Titled Foreigners Turn Out Unfavorably.

The marriage of many American girls of wealth to titled foreigners is just now receiving more than usual attention. The disclosures regarding the post-wedding experience of some of the brides who have left their homes and native land to become the wives of real or bogus noblemen of Europe are in many cases humiliating and distressing.

Margaret Van Etten in a cabled article from Vienna gives a few of the names of American women who have come to grief by such foreign alliances. There are thirteen on her list, and the number might be increased by a thorough study of the newspaper files. Every woman mentioned married a title, and most, if not all of them, were subjects of extensive newspaper notice when their weddings occurred. Their triumph was in the blaze of publicity; their humiliation and suffering have been chiefly in private. In every case cited these women have either secured divorces or are living apart from their husbands.

Some of the daughters of Americans of wealth, says the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle, have contracted happy marriages with foreigners and by their subsequent lives have reflected honor upon their native land in their new homes. There is no reason why an English nobleman should not fall in love with a rich American girl and marry her, precisely as he might have loved and married a poor English girl. It is not such cases which are open to criticism, but the numerous alliances which are clearly the product of fortune-hunting negotiators.

THE MODERN INDIAN.

Charges White Man an Admission Fee if He Wants to See Moki Snake Dance.

The Indians are rapidly "catching on" to the ways of the white man. The Moki snake dance for 1903 at Wolpi, Arizona, on the Santa Fe, is a good example of how the modern commercial spirit is spreading. Until now visitors have been permitted to witness this spectacle without money and without price, the Indians being content with what they could pick up from the camera fiends for posing, and from the tourists generally for baskets, pottery and blankets. This year each visitor was charged a dollar, with a sliding scale of special favors like going down into the kiva where the snakes are kept.

The dance was just as weird as ever and the spectators more than got the worth of their money; but the old-timers sadly viewed the change and predict that the dance will be discontinued before many seasons have passed. You would better go to the next one, or it may be too late to see this most remarkable pagan ceremony.

The Santa Fe has on exhibition in its Chicago office a notable painting by Cross of a snake dancer, based on a sketch made by him while in Mokiland in 1858. The difference between then and to-day is quite evident in minor details of costume, but the main features are much the same.

Built Like a Bird.

The lizard-like pterodactyl, which had membranous wings, with a spread of 20 feet, is the pattern for the airship which Prof. Langley, of the Smithsonian Institution, has built and recently tested unsatisfactorily.

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