

ACCIDENT IN HISTORY.

APPARENTLY TRIFLING MATTERS THAT WERE OF MOMENT.

The Nod of a Peasant at Waterloo—Attila and the Last Miniature—Two Casual Walks, and What Came of Them.

In his wonderful sketch of the battle of Waterloo, drawn with touches as bold and masterful as the crayon strokes in one of Michael Angelo's cartoons, Victor Hugo describes the fate of the world as hanging on the nod of a peasant. When Napoleon was examining the ground on which the English forces were awaiting his attack, he searched every spot carefully with his glass but failed to discover the sunken road of Ohain, which did not make so much as a ripple on the hillside, so completely was it hidden from view. Turning to the guide, a peasant of the neighborhood, he asked if there was any obstacle to the advance of cavalry. The guide shook his head. The cavalry were ordered to charge. They did so, and Hugo says that 2,000 horses and 1,500 men were buried in the sunken road. This he declares to be the beginning of the long list of disasters which determined the fate of Napoleon at Waterloo. Had the guide nodded instead of shaking his head, the cavalry might have been ordered forward by another route, and the fortune of the French Emperor and the

HISTORY OF THE WORLD

might have been changed. As though, however, to counterbalance this, the same writer says that had the little cowboy who acted as guide to Blucher advised him to debouche from the forest above Frischemont, rather than below Planchenoit, the shaping of the nineteenth century might have been different. Both incidents are probably apocryphal, for only one authority, and he by hearsay, speaks of the Blucher cowboy, and the existence of the sunken road of Ohain is disputed by several, who boldly assert that there was no such road at the point indicated; but either incident is significant, as showing by what trifles the course of history is deflected.

According to the testimony of at least two reliable historians of his own time, Attila's invasion of the Western empire, an event that brought incalculable misery on half of Europe for several years, was brought about by the seerest accident. From A. D. 445 to 449 Attila was engaged in continual hostilities with the Eastern empire, but in the latter year, both sides being tired of the war, an attempt was made to patch up a treaty. An embassy from the court of Theodosius was sent to the camp of Attila, and in the party was a young man from Rome, who was then on a visit to Constantinople. He was of noble birth, and had a sweetheart in the person of Honoria, a relative of the Roman imperial family. As lovers have been known to do, he carried on his person the miniature of his sweetheart, and while the party was in the presence of the savage chief he chanced to drop the picture out of his pocket. It fell unnoticed in the straw which covered the ground in Attila's tent, where, on the following day, it was found by an attendant and shown to the Hunnish monarch himself. Struck by the beauty of the face, the amorous King inquired in what part of the world such women were to be found, and when told from the inscription on the back of the picture that the counterfeit presentment was that of

AN ITALIAN BEAUTY

he at once made up his mind to go thither. So he started in 450, with his hordes of Asiatics, ravaged the heart of Europe with fire and sword, marched through a part of Germany into France, and, at Chalons, encountered one of the most tremendous defeats recorded in history. It is presumed that he forgot all about the Roman Honoria after this event, for he retired into Hungary, where he found another beauty, and while celebrating his marriage with her he died, either of bursting a blood vessel, as was given out, or of poison.

There is the testimony of the Book of Samuel to prove that the history of Israel was materially changed by a chance walk taken by King David on the roof of his palace. It was during this promenade that he saw the beautiful Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah, the Hittite officer, who though probably only a mercenary in the royal army, was still a faithful soldier; too faithful, in fact, for his own good; for David, after vainly trying several schemes, finally utilized the bravery of the deluded soldier to secure his removal. No more cowardly device could have been conceived to get rid of the deceived husband, and the crime of his blood was amply repaid by the long series of harem intrigues, revolts, murders and rebellions through which the son of Bathsheba was finally established on the throne as David's successor. An equally casual promenade had consequences quite as momentous for Italy during the second Punic war. It was after the great Hannibal had crossed the Alps and entered Italy. The Romans had been defeated at the Ticinus and Trebia, at Lake Trasymenus, and, worst of all, at Cannae, and Hannibal had taken up winter quarters at Capua. Here he took possession of one of the best houses in the city for his own use, and, while walking in the garden, heard a female voice singing not far away. He could understand nothing of what was sung, but was struck by the plaintive melody. In the rough and ready way of those good old days he commanded the singer to be brought into his presence, and when this was done was so greatly impressed by her appearance that he at once took her into his own household, ridding himself of her husband by the simple but effective method of

CUTTING OFF HIS HEAD

During the remainder of the winter the time of the great Carthaginian was given up to pleasure; business and discipline were alike neglected, and before spring the Carthaginian army was so demoralized by dissipation and vice that it was never afterward good for anything, and Hannibal's cause was lost.

Two historians of the time of Henry VIII of England are responsible for the statement that a lost horseshoe changed the religious and possibly also the political history of the insular power. After the fall of Anne Boleyn, and when her death had been determined, the Papacy prepared terms of reconciliation so favorable in every particular to Henry, and so flattering to the vanity of which he possessed rather more than a due share, that it was impossible for him not to accept them. A delegate was despatched from Rome with the proposals, and rode post haste across Europe with them. When only a day's journey from Calais, however, his horse cast a shoe and fell lame. As the horse was a favorite animal, the Papal messenger determined to wait for a day rather than take another steed which might not be so easy under the saddle. The next day the horse was well and the journey was resumed, Calais was reached, the Channel was crossed, and the delegate arrived in London only to find that on the day of his arrival Henry had been married to Jane Seymour, a Protestant; that Anne had been beheaded the day before, and all hope of a reconciliation was lost. He was a day too late.

A LOST HORSESHOE

had changed the course of a nation's history. A similar mishap is said to have been responsible for the arrest and detection of Louis XVI. at Varennes. A guard of cavalry had been sent to meet him at the village and escort him in safety across the frontier. One of the horses drawing the royal carriage became lame from the loss of a shoe, and the royal party was detained. Meantime the cavalry escort, fearful of attracting too much attention in the village, withdrew to a bridge a few hundred yards distant and on the opposite side from which the King was expected, and there waited his arrival. The delay and change were fatal. The king was recognized, the party was detained; the cavalry, becoming tired of waiting, and supposing the King had taken another route, rode off, and Louis went back to Paris and the scaffold.

History records one war that was caused by a glass of water which the English Ambassador procured for a celebrated French beauty at the Paris court; and of a treaty, that of Utrecht, which was brought on by a quarrel between Queen Anne and the Duchess of Marlborough about a pair of gloves. Odder than either, however, was the cause of the great Hundred Years' War between England and France, which impoverished both. It was in this wise: Louis VII. was no saint, but so far as the ladies were concerned, had a weakness that was constantly securing for him penances of one kind or another at the hands of his confessor. Finally he was guilty of some peccadilloes so very bad that the reverend father ordered him to have his luxuriant beard shaved and

HIS FLOWING LOCKS CROPPED SHORT.

This was done, and the change made in the personable appearance of the Majesty of France was so startling that when his Queen, the already not too faithful Eleanor, came into his presence, she laughed aloud at the spectacle. The poor King could not explain matters, for the explanation would have made a worse appearance than his close-cropped poll, so he was forced in silence to endure her jibes. If she had stopped at ridicule, the matter might have ended there and been forgotten when his beard and hair were grown, but he was rendered so contemptible in her sight that she openly kept company with the Count of Anjou, a nobleman of the court. The shaven King stood the disgrace as long as he could, but matters went from bad to worse, and finally he sent to the Pope the evidence in the case, and succeeded in having the marriage declared invalid. Eleanor then, finding herself free, married her lover, who afterwards became Henry II. of England. When she came to the throne of Louis, however, she had brought as her dower the rich provinces of Poitou and Guienne, and after her divorce from Louis sought to reclaim them. To this, however, Louis would by no means consent; he was glad enough to get rid of the Queen, but he was eager to keep her dowry. Henry pressed his wife's claims to the provinces, and then came on the series of wars which not only lasted for a century, but left an animosity not yet extinct.

Everybody has heard of the chance which led Columbus to change his course in mid-ocean, and thus leave North America for the English to settle, but everybody has not heard of the game of chess which led the Spanish monarch to take an interest in the explorer and espouse his cause. It is a Spanish tradition that the fate of Columbus once hung on

A GAME OF CHESS.

For years the schemer had haunted the Spanish court, trying to interest some one in his cause, but at last despairing he determined to leave and go to France. The night before his intended departure he sought an audience of the Queen to communicate his intention and to take his leave. The Queen asked him to wait, while she made one more effort to interest the King, and left the room for that purpose. She found Ferdinand engaged at a game of chess, and disturbing him by her entrance and thus causing him to lose a piece, he let fly a volley of oaths at seamen generally and at Columbus in particular, and then informed Isabella that the result of her petition would depend on the result of the game. It grew worse, and things looked blue for the discoverer of America, but Isabella, overlooking the board, whispered to his Majesty a suggestion as to a move that could be made; the King adopted the suggestion and America was saved. It is a queer story, but no stranger than the one told in Rome at the time the divorce of Henry VIII. was under discussion that the negotiations were broken off by the Earl of Wiltshire's dog. This unmannerly cur had followed his master into the court, and when the Pontiff, at the close of the audience, put out his foot to be kissed by the Earl, the dog bit it, and so angered the Pope and horrified the court that the negotiations were suspended. The story may be true or false, but in either case of an excellent demonstration of the value the trifle occurs in the life of an exalted personage, and gives point to the remark made by Pascal along the same line, that if the nose of Cleopatra had been an inch longer or shorter the course of the world's history might have been materially changed.

The Greek cities all kept matrimonial rolls in the public offices, open to the inspection of any interested person.

THE HOME.

My Mother's Hands.

Such beautiful, beautiful hands!
They're neither white nor small;
And you, I know, would scarcely think
That they were fair at all.
I've looked on hands whose forms and hue
A sculptor's dream might be;
Yet are those aged, wrinkled hands
Most beautiful to me.

Such beautiful, beautiful hands!
Though hearts are weary and sad,
Those patient hands kept toiling on,
Toat the children might be glad.
I always weep, as looking back
To childhood's distant day,
I think how those hands rested
While mine were at their play.

Such beautiful, beautiful hands!
They're growing feeble now,
For time and pain have left their mark
On hands, and heart and brow.
Alas! alas, the nearing time,
And the sad, sad day to me,
When 'neath the daisies, out of sight,
These hands will folded be.

But, oh! beyond this shadow land,
Where all is bright and fair,
I know full well these dear old hands
Will palm of victory bear;
Where crystal streams through endless years
Flow over golden sands,
And where the old grow young again,
I'll clasp my mother's hands.

Pickings by the Way.

Let me suggest to the mothers who have not sufficient milk for their little ones, that they try crust coffee at meal time. It is very nourishing. Vinegar and water in equal proportions and as hot as can be borne, is a remedy for outward application in cases of sprains and bruises.

Rye carbonized and finely pulverized is used daily as a tooth powder soon stops caries, and promptly cures the small abscesses which are often found on the gums.

Keep old newspapers handy in the kitchen; they are of numberless uses. They light the fire, polish the glass, silver and tinware, cover the shelves, brighten the stove, spread on the table to keep spots from drippings of meat, make splashes for the wall, and are good covers, etc.

Wood ashes and water boiled for a few moments will remove the flavor of onions from a frying or a stew pan. Scour brass kettles with ashes, then use a wash of salt and vinegar. To backen a scuttle or anything of that kind, take ten cents worth of asphaltum, mix it with the same quantity of benzine and turpentine, to the consistency of paint, and apply with a brush.

Try a wineglass of strong borax water in a pint of raw starch, for collars and cuffs. To keep lamp chimneys from breaking, put a cloth in the bottom of a kettle or pan, fill with cold water, and place the chimneys in it, cover and boil one hour, take from the fire, and let the chimneys remain in it until cold. We kept a chimney so treated eleven years.

Castor oil plants are ornamental; at least one or two should be grown in a flower yard. The leaves placed in a room containing flies will soon clear it as if by magic. Housekeepers, make a note of this. There is no cosmetic so great as strict attention to diet, exercise, and cleansing of the blood. To clean cutlery, use sifted wood ashes. Cut the end from a potato. Dip this in the ashes and rub the cutlery, then polish with a flannel dipped in dry ashes or lime.

Lamp burners that have become dim can be renovated by boiling them in strong soda water. A tin can is best for the purpose. Then scour the burners with sapollo. Don't fail to keep a cake of sapollo in your kitchen; the cost is a trifle, and its uses are many; it brightens tinware, removes discolorations on table ware caused by tea, fruit stains, etc.

Hot, strong lemonade taken at bed time will break up a bad cold. If you want to kill burdocks, cut them off closely and pour coal oil on the stumps. If a blood purifier is wanted, dig up the burdocks, root and branch, cleanse the root, pour over boiling water, and let stand a few hours. Drink of this infusion several times a day. Renew the roots every few days; it is an excellent blood purifier.

Ostrich plumes can be recurred and renewed, generally, by shaking them vigorously in the smoke of burning corn-cobs over which salt has been strewn. The cobs should be placed on a bright bed of coals before sprinkling the salt. The harder the plume is shaken the better it will look. To clean a white plume, first wash in suds, rinse and shake nearly dry, after which shake in the smoke; it will look like new, almost.

Washing chapped hands in lemon juice and water, wiping dry, and then rubbing over with cold cream at night, will keep them in good condition.

Useful Recipes.

Canned Fruit.—If you find upon opening your canned fruit that it has not kept perfectly, but that there is slight fermentation, add a little water and sugar if it is not already well sweetened, and cook for a few minutes over a brisk fire. You will find it much improved; scarcely any trace of fermentation will remain.

Bean Soup.—One of the best ways to cook beans is with a soup bone. Soak a pint of beans in water over night. In the morning put a soup bone cooking with two quarts of water. Boil the beans by themselves for five minutes, turn off the water and add the beans to the soup; season well and cook slowly for two or three hours or until the meat is tender. More water should be added as it boils away. Serve hot. Beefsteak cut in small pieces, or beef in almost any form, may be used instead of the soup bone.

Potato Soup.—One quart of water, one pint of raw sliced potatoes, butter size of an egg, salt and pepper to taste; cover and cook until the potatoes are soft; add a well beaten egg and half a pint of creamy milk, let it boil again and stir in two tablespoonfuls of flour mixed smoothly with a little creamy milk. Serve hot with crackers.

Pot Pie.—Put a soup bone cooking with

two quarts of water. Mutton or beef in almost any form may be used instead of the soup bone. When nearly done take a teacupful of butter milk, stir stiff with flour into which a level teaspoonful of soda has been sifted. Drop the dough, a spoonful at a time, into the soup; cover closely and boil briskly for fifteen minutes. Serve hot.

Gold Cake.—Threequarters of a cup of granulated sugar, 1½ cups of flour, 2 tablespoonfuls of softened butter, ½ cup of milk, yolks of three eggs, 2 teaspoonfuls of baking powder and a teaspoonful of vanilla. Cream the butter and sugar; heat the yolks well, add them to the creamed butter and sugar and beat vigorously for five minutes, or until the sugar is thoroughly dissolved. Flavor, add the milk and flour and lastly the baking powder, dry, first sifting the latter. Place immediately in tins and bake. Use as layer or loaf cake.

Love Puffs.—To the yolks of eight eggs add one pound of the best pulverized sugar, and beat very light. Flavor highly with vanilla. Take colored paper and cut round pieces about twelve inches in circumference, then crimp each piece all around with a pen-knife, and it assumes a cup shape. Then shape it with the fingers so it will set flat. Fill each of these cups half full of the batter, and bake in the slowest of slow ovens. If there is a warmer to your stove they can be cooked in that. They are served in the paper cups piled up in a stand. Use several different colors for the cups. Nice with ice cream.

TUBERCULOSIS AT BRANDON.

Twenty-One Cattle at the Experimental Farm at Brandon, Man., Infected With Tuberculosis.

Early in the year the superintendent of the experimental farm at Brandon reported that two animals in the herd of cattle there were showing symptoms of what he feared to be tuberculosis. He was promptly instructed to isolate these and other animals which might be suspected of disease, and to keep them isolated until they could be tested with tuberculin. Prof. Saunders of the Ottawa Experimental Farm, went out to Brandon and took with him the necessary material for testing them, and was authorized by the Minister of Agriculture to destroy all those giving indications of the disease. Four animals had been isolated at Brandon on suspicion. Three of these were found to be affected, while the other proved healthy. The testing was continued until every animal in the herd had been subjected to the influence of tuberculin, when it was found that 21 in all were affected out of 28, 19 of which were thoroughbred and two of them grades. Nine of these animals were bred in Manitoba, and 12 came from Ontario. In conducting these tests and in the subsequent post-mortem examinations, Prof. Saunders had the assistance of Dr. S. J. Thompson, veterinary inspector for the province of Manitoba, and of Dr. F. Torrance, V.S., of Brandon. In every instance where the disease had been indicated by the tuberculin it was found on post-mortem examination to exist in greater or less degree, thus furnishing additional testimony as to the reliability of the tuberculin for this purpose. Most of the animals were in good condition, and it was a matter of surprise not only to the director, but also to the superintendent of the farm, and the attending veterinary surgeons to find so many of the apparently healthy and vigorous animals showing evidence of this disease. The Local Government of Manitoba have a careful and trustworthy worker in the veterinary inspector, Dr. Thompson, who has already tested several private herds in different parts of the province, and with the consent of the owners, has slaughtered those animals which the tuberculin has shown to be diseased. This work is still in progress. The animals composing the herd of cattle at the Indian Head farm were tested in a similar thorough manner. There Mr. Saunders had the assistance of the following veterinary surgeons: Dr. F. Torrance, of Brandon, and Dr. J. Harris, of Moosomin, N. W. T. At this farm 13 animals out of 38 gave the reaction indicating the disease, and on post-mortem examination all were found to be more or less affected. In this instance nine of the animals were thoroughbreds and three grades. Four were bred at Indian Head and nine sent up from Ontario. The disease in many of the animals at both farms was in its earlier stages, and could not in such cases have been detected by only physical symptoms. The barns and stables are now being thoroughly disinfected, and it is believed that the disease on these farms has been eradicated.

Process of Producing Artificial Silk.
The process of producing "artificial silk," invented by Dr. Lehner, was shown to a party of scientists, at Bradford, Eng., last week. Waste cotton, wool, jute or other suitable material is reduced to an emulsion by means of a mixture of nitric and sulphuric acids, when it is formed into threads by forcing it through glass tubes of small bore, and is passed over a series of rollers and wound in the ordinary way on bobbins. Before the artificial silk is used in manufactures or is sold it is denitrated to destroy the explosive properties and is also rendered unflammable, which will render it suitable for many purposes, especially as it is said to resemble real silk very closely. According to some writers the silkworm has had "notice to leave."

Getting Rid of a Plague of Mice.

An ingenious method was recently employed in France of ridding the country of small rodents which had become so numerous and destructive that it was impossible to produce any crop. Every acre of land furnished a home for thousands of these pests. The method adopted was to dissolve some gelatine cultures of pathogenic bacteria capable of producing an infectious disease in mice, then soaking a great number of small cubes of bread in this solution, and placing the bread near the holes every day for three days in succession. Within two weeks from the time when this treatment was begun, scarcely a live mouse was to be found in the district. When the burrows were opened, their galleries were found to be filled with dead mice.

A PROMISING OUTLOOK.

Vancouver, B. C., Bound to Become One of the Most Important Ports on the North Pacific Coast.

The Vancouver papers recently reported the arrival of the Warrimoo from Sydney, N. S. W., with a full cargo and full passenger list, and on her outward voyage the captain had to refuse freight, her full capacity having already been engaged, the passenger list also being full. The success which the new line has met with is most gratifying and is a sufficient reply to those who deprecated the establishment of the service as a doubtful venture. The trade which the Warrimoo has brought to Vancouver has been taken away from San Francisco, where hitherto the Australian traffic has centred. Not long ago certain San Francisco papers ridiculed the idea of Vancouver ever becoming a competitor for ocean trade with the California port, but at that time the San Francisco News-Letter took a different view, holding that the growth of Vancouver presented conditions which would have to be met by increased activity on the part of the mercantile bodies of San Francisco to attract trade and keep it. The News-Letter seemed to have viewed the future clearly. Vancouver has become a competitor and a vigorous one. The recent railway strike and the forced suspension of railway traffic from the coast has done much to discredit the San Francisco route and shippers will be inclined to favor the Canadian route as entirely unexposed to the labor disturbances becoming so common in the States. At first the traffic of the Australian line was slight, but in six months it has grown to such proportions that increased steamship accommodation will have to be provided, showing that the promoters of the line had clear and wise foresight when they advocated its establishment. Full success has vindicated their judgment and the future promises to provide ample reward for their enterprise and industry. The increased trade also means much for Vancouver, a port destined, in our opinion, to become one of the most important on the North Pacific coast.

MYSTERIES OF MEDICINE.

The Great Progress Made in Materia Medica in the Last Twenty or Thirty Years.

"When a person takes a dose of medicine," said a doctor the other day, "he never stops to consider what a wonderful provider nature is. When you consider that we are able to give drugs which will go through the entire system without having an effect upon any part or organ until it comes, perhaps, to some nerve upon which it expands all its force, it is indeed a miracle of the most wonderful kind. We don't know why it does it, but we do know what it does. The progress in materia medica has been wonderful. By proving the specific effects of drugs have been discovered, so that they can be given with specific results. Medicine is gradually emerging from the dark valley of guesswork into the bright sunlight of science. The modern physician does not make a mixture of seven or eight drugs, hoping that some one of them will produce the effect desired. He does not take chances upon striking a remedy one in seven. He knows now just what drug will produce the results he wants and then he prescribes that. I attended a man the other day who had not been sick for twenty or thirty years. I went into the room, and, after observing his symptoms, asked for a half a glass of water, into which I dropped a small pellet, a triturate. The old man looked at me after I had given him a dose of it, and then smiled. 'Well doctor,' he said, 'you treated me for this complaint when I was sick many years ago, and I don't think that a person could mix a more horrible concoction than that was. Now, you treat me for the same disease and the drug is almost tasteless. How do you account for that?' 'Progress,' I replied. And progress it is! Every day increases our knowledge of drugs and our power to alleviate suffering and save human life."

Gave a Diamond-laden Shoe to a Tramp.

A young man whose clothing was in most dilapidated condition, but who is said not to have had the general appearance of a tramp, called at the residence of Mr. Walter Leonard, on Rittenhouse street, Germantown, Penn., a day or two ago, and asked Mrs. Leonard if she had any disused coats, trousers, or shoes to give away. She thought the case a deserving one and told the man to call a little later when her husband would be at home. He did so, and Mr. Leonard joined with his wife in hunting up some old clothes, including a couple of pairs of discarded shoes of Mr. Leonard. The man took them very thankfully and went away.

Within a few minutes it dawned upon the kind-hearted donors that in one of the old shoes there had been placed some time before, in order to be safe from possible burglars, some jewelry, highly valued, not only for its intrinsic worth, which was said to be several hundred dollars, but also as heirlooms and for its associations. The property was said to include four or five costly diamond rings and a brooch set with brilliants. The Leonard family were said to have had some experience with burglars, and had adopted this plan of checkmating them, if any such again paid them a visit.

England's Poisonous Snakes.

There are 1,500 different species of snake known to naturalists, and only four kinds of snake or snake-like creatures are to be found in England. Of these, but one is poisonous, and it is very rare. The ordinary snakes to be found in countries inhabited by civilized man are harmless, and but few of the poisonous snakes are deadly in their poison, even though the effects may be serious. A study of snakes and their ways would do much to do away with the educated fear of the reptiles that most people have.