

"Bradshaw" is essentially a British institution, like "The Times," football, "Punch," and cricket, observes a writer in "The Strand Magazine." It is about 65 years since George Bradshaw, a Quaker, and by profession a map-maker, reprinted the time-tables of the seven railways then existing, together with some maps and plans of his own, and issued the production, in cloth binding, as "Bradshaw's Railway Time Table" at sixpence. It was badly received by the railway companies. "Why," they said, "if this fellow goes on in this way he will make punctuality a kind of obligation." They refused to supply him with their time-tables, and to secure these promptly Bradshaw went so far as to become a stockholder in the hostile companies. The railway guide has grown from 38 pages to 1100, from a couple of ounces in weight to a pound and a half. Every single page is literally "packed" with bursting with type, not merely with words and numerals, but with characters and spaces—altogether 3000 to the pages; and the contents are "equivalent to a dozen ordinary octavo volumes."

Admiral Fanshawe is a great favourite with his officers and men (writes "Cristina" in the "Australasian"). He does not seem to have forgotten the time when he was a young midshipman, and he enters into their sport with keenness, and understands their attitude towards things in general. At the Hobart regatta he stood on the bridge and followed every race with the telescope glued to his eye, and when he thought the galley belonging to the Royal Arthur was leading he became as excited as any punter in front of the Marybrynon stand at cup-time, calling out "the flag's galley, the flag's galley!" This applies to the hearts of the bluejackets; they, themselves, stand in rows on the fo'c'sle and shout as their own boats shoot past those of other ships. Though the Psyche had six wins to its credit and the Royal Arthur five, the men of the Royal Arthur won the most money—their prizes were the most valuable, I suppose I should say. The other day, when the admiral went on board the Katoomba for inspection, he had all the stokers and engine-room artificers collected together in the nether regions, and said many nice things to them. The stokes of the Wallaroo, after the accident off the coast of New South Wales, were "turned over" to the Katoomba. The admiral told them "that he admired their pluck, endurance, and presence of mind." They were delighted, although they declared that they only did their "duty."

Bob Fitzimmons has had his mouth put in order by a prince among dentists; he has had 162 diamonds fixed in his teeth to fill cavities.

This dazzling installation has just been made, and Fitz will now be able to masticate anything and everything. There was a man once who had difficulty in mastication—he wanted a diamond set—and used to sit all day and sigh because he could not tackle as of old such tough lovelinesses as porter-house steaks, devilled turkey drumsticks, and crackling off the pork.

Presumably these luxuries, as well as the bones, would be easy to Fitzimmons with his De Beers molars.

There is really a lot of common sense in the use of rough gums for the purpose named, as any one who has seen a diamond drill at work can appreciate. In fact, it would make one's living much easier if every youth and young girl had the fit-up, even if parish or State aid were solicited—they could get the artificial emulment on the time payment plan.

How much cheaper would one's bills be, and how much less fastidions would be the community? A tough leg of mutton would cease to be the cause of bad language, while a good but hard-as-brick wing rib of American beef—delivered as best Scotch—would never again cause dissension at a family Sunday dinner at Teatime.

No longer would the diamond tiaras, sprays, and collarettes of dainty ladies be the sole attraction at the theatre, as there would be a premium for the low comedian to make the men of the party laugh, for at the first burst of hilarity from boxes, stalls and dress-circle there would be a flush from hundreds of masculine mouths.

Incidentally it may be mentioned that the diamonds for teeth-building are used in the fillings and bridges, and are for the most part visible.

The story that Lord Russell of Killowen thought Mrs Maybrick innocent continues to be repeated.

The unfortunate part of it is that he never thought her innocent at all, neither at any period of his career did he give utterance to any statement open to such a construction.

What he did say over and over again was that there was not sufficient evidence to hang her; in other words, had the trial taken place across the border the verdict would have been "Not proven," as in the case of Madeline Smith.

Lord Russell wrote to successive Home Secretaries on the subject, because, in common with most people, he was of opinion that the verdict being "Guilty," Mrs Maybrick should either have been hanged, or, if the Home Office interfered at all, allowed to go scot-free.

Innocent or guilty, the unfortunate woman has now to undergo an ordeal far worse than either hanging or penal servitude, for, like Isabel in "East Lynne," she must never reveal her identity to her own offspring. A more terrible punishment cannot be conceived. To the majority of people it will perhaps appear a needless and superfluous act of mental torture.

Viscount St. Cyres contributes to "Cornhill" a very rare account of Theodore Hook and his jokes. He quotes Coleridge's tribute, to the effect that Hook was a genius, like Dante. The story is told how he took his revenge on an old lady who had offended him. He wrote to every sort and kind of person, over four thousand in all, asking them to call upon the old lady on a certain day.

But, perhaps, the most entirely typical of all Hook's jokes was the hoax he played on the doctor. Driving back from a party at some unholy hour in the morning, he found he had not a farthing in his pocket. Suddenly he remembered that in the same street as his own there lived a medical man, famous for his skill on interesting occasions. He stopped the cab at the doctor's house, jumped out, and rang with frantic energy. Presently a half-dressed figure appeared at the window. "For heaven's sake, doctor, come at once!" panted our hero. "My wife—prematurely—not a moment to be lost!" "Directly," answered the doctor, and soon emerged with all his paraphernalia under his arm. In a twinkling Hook hauled him into the cab, slammed the door, and bade the cabman drive as fast as he could to the address of a prim old maiden lady against whom he happened to have a grievance.

According to the latest genealogical calculations, there are more than eleven thousand people in England alone who are descended directly from royalty. This may seem a somewhat startling statement though, nevertheless, a true one, and the reason for it must be looked for in the fact that from the thirteenth century onwards to the sixteenth, sons of kings, and, in some cases, even kings themselves, thought nothing of wedding the daughters of the nobles who very often had won their way to fame and riches through of humble birth.

The children of these marriages in turn intermarried with those of the "upper ten," and so, as generations passed on, royal blood became suffused throughout all the more important families in the land.

The eleven thousand people referred to, however, have not to go as far back as the Plantagenets to trace their claims as descendants of royalty, for, according to a work which has just been issued under the title of "The Blood Royal of Britain," 11,723 living people are the direct descendants of Henry VII., and from that time till the last generation no fewer than 36,735 people have lived who carried the blood of the Tudors in their veins.

It is rather interesting to trace the descent of these people from the Tudor family. History records that Henry VII. had two daughters. The elder of these married James IV. of Scotland, and so became the grandmother of Mary Queen of Scots. The younger daughter was Mary Tudor, who married first, against her will, Louis XII. of France, and afterwards Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk, a great favourite of Henry VIII.

Now, the descendants of the younger daughter number, as far as can be judged at the present time, some 10,283 persons in a direct line. It is a remarkable fact

that the descendants of the two sisters have kept in two distinct lines, for from the elder sister, Margaret, came the Stuarts, who afterwards occupied the English throne; and all the crowned heads of Europe to-day, with the exception of those of some of the minor States in the South, can trace their descent back to Margaret, but none to Mary. Thus, all European monarchs are more or less related.

Once, in a country branch of a big bank, the manager issued a number of new notes, but forgot to notify head office of the fact, and the omission was not discovered until the worn-out notes began to come in to be destroyed. Then a letter came from headquarters asking for an explanation, and the manager, in reply, told the simple truth—that he had forgotten to send the notice. Headquarters were not satisfied. "Mr X. has not yet explained why the omission was made," the next memo. ran, carefully marked "3" in red ink. The manager marked "4" with equal care and wrote—"Mr X. regrets that he cannot explain his forgetfulness. It may be that he has forgotten why he forgot." There was no further correspondence; but that manager left the bank long ago.

Large sums of money are spent annually by society women in England on scents and toilet waters, and the fashion among them is to keep to one perfume only. Rose water has come into vogue again.

In the matter of scents the Queen is most fastidious, and soaps and sweet-smelling washes are made for her in great variety. The perfume which Her Majesty always favours is a delicious compound of flowers, and the secret of making it is in the possession of a Parisian perfumer. The name of the scent is "Coeur de Jeanette."

One of the tokens of signal favour on the Queen's part is when Her Majesty bestows a box of this scent, as she is most particular to reserve the brand for herself and prevent it becoming popular.

The Queen naturally recognises the smell wherever she goes. The liquid costs something like six guineas a pint, which is by no means expensive as perfumes go.

The Czarina favours an especial brew of violets redolent of fresh Parma flowers, but she is capricious in her tastes, and for a long time she was devoted to jonquil and jessamine extracts made for her by a Russian chemist.

The German Empress, who is characteristically simple in her tastes, prefers "Newmown Hay." The Queen of Holland cannot endure scent of any description with the somewhat uncompromising exception of eau de cologne.

"Leon Brodsky": A letter just received from Mr William Archer, to whom I wrote for advice concerning an Australian National Theatre, suggests that the best way to start is with municipal theatres in Melbourne and Sydney. He thinks the cash difficulty the least of all. "A manager, actors, repertory and traditions will all be very hard to obtain." The repertory will certainly offer its problems for solution, but it and the traditions can stand over. The absence of a past in Australia certainly militates somewhat against the creation of an artistic atmosphere (who was it

said there was nothing as uninteresting as the woman and the country without a past?), but, then we shall have the chance of avoiding much error which is encouraged in a lot of European tradition. Of the four difficulties mentioned by Mr Archer, the one that seems the greatest to me is that of the actors. I doubt if at the present moment we were to get a theatre for purely art purposes, whether we could get together a good enough company. At present the plays produced in Australia mean nothing, and consequently an actor's success is conditioned by his personality, his looks, or something else that does not count as art. The sooner, therefore, we can get a new school of young men and women, with a broad general knowledge and some real enthusiasm for art, to train for the stage, and to train only in good plays, the better. Valuable work can be done in this connection by amateur clubs.

An M.D. says that it is worth while reflecting that the following diseases may be directly or indirectly caused by some form of alcoholism: Acute gastric catarrh, chronic gastric catarrh, gastric dilatation, intestinal indigestion, constipation, gout, cholera, morbus, peritonitis, dropsy of the abdomen, catarrhal jaundice, congestion of the liver, cirrhosis (hob-nail liver), chronic tubal nephritis (chronic Bright's disease), diabetes mellitus, chronic bronchitis, congestion of the lungs, oedema of the lungs, lobar pneumonia, fibroid phthisis (interstitial pneumonia), chronic valvular disease of the heart, dilatation of the heart, chronic fibroid heart, fatty degeneration of the heart, palpitation of the heart, arterio sclerosis, aneurism of the aorta, meningitis (brain fever), apoplexy, congestion of the brain, brain thrombosis and embolism (in youth), nervous vertigo, tremulencia (a plain drunkard), delirium tremens, dipsomania.

Alcoholism predisposes to sunstroke, chronic pleurisy, inflammation of the nerve trunks, spinal congestion, spinal meningitis, spinal sclerosis (four forms, one of which is locomotor ataxia), disseminated neuritis, melancholia, mania (insanity), delusional insanity, phagedenic ulcer, erysipelas, blood tumour, fatty tumour, monomania, general paralysis (paretic dementia), acquired feeble-mindedness, acne rosacea (whisky nose and cheeks), and trifacial neuralgia.

It will surprise many people that the origin of "lynch law" and "lynching" is declared in the latest instalment of the "Oxford Dictionary" to be undetermined. The expression, say the editors, is often asserted to have arisen from the proceedings of Charles Lynch, a justice of the peace in Virginia, who in 1782 was indemnified by an Act of the Virginian Assembly for having illegally fined and imprisoned certain Tories in 1780. But Mr Albert Matthews informs us that no evidence has been adduced to show that Charles Lynch was ever concerned in acts such as those which from 1817 onward were designated as "Lynch law." It is possible that the perpetrators of these acts may have claimed that in the infliction of punishments not sanctioned by the laws of the country they were following the example of Lynch, which had been justified by the act of

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