

Bread made with sea water instead of fresh water is the newest cure for dyspepsia. Some people prefer the dyspepsia.

A Christiania waiter, who occasionally contributes to the Swedish Academy of Science, recently provided himself with a pedometer to measure the distance he covered while serving customers. He now announces that from 9 a.m. to 12.30 midnight he took 90,199 steps backward and forward, equivalent to nearly eight miles a day.

The Kentucky distillers are preparing to ship 20,000 barrels of whisky to Hamburg and Bremen, to be stored there, as the charges for storage are lower than in America. This whisky is largely intended for California and cities in the Far West, and distillers have found that it will be cheaper to send it to German ports and from there ship to San Francisco than to pay the railway charges direct to the West.

The Countess Spencer, whose serious illness recently caused so much anxiety, is one of the few highly favoured persons who enjoy special and peculiar court privileges, for Lady Spencer has the right to pass the Sovereign carrying her train over her arm, which is a far more useful and comfortable exception than that accorded to a couple of noblemen, who are allowed to wear their hats in the presence of royalty if they are eccentric enough to assert their inherited rights.

"When England produces a Herreshoff I will challenge for the Cup, but it is evidently a question of brains. Herreshoff is a wizard, and Great Britain has no yacht designer who is his equal." This was said by one of the colonies, but the cableman omitted to mention that the plucky Irishman was "wickedly affected" when he gave vent to this frank admission. A London paper received by the last mail has the following additional interesting little bit of information:—"Sir Thomas seemed the bluest man on earth while talking in the above despondent strain, and twice tears came into his eyes."

A strange story comes from China of a remarkable operation for appendicitis performed by Mrs William H. Logan, wife of a medical missionary in China. When living in the far interior of that vast country, eight hundred miles from the nearest doctor, her husband was stricken with appendicitis. Dr. Logan saw that his only chance of recovery lay in an operation, which he asked his wife to perform according to instructions which he gave her. A more appalling position for a human being to be placed in could scarcely be imagined; but this heroic woman, who might, perhaps, have screamed if a mouse had run over her feet, placed her husband under an anaesthetic, and with her unskilled hand successfully removed his appendix. Afterward, when he had rallied sufficiently to be moved, she took him eight hundred miles by wagon and rail to a physician, who completed the cure.

Interviewed in England with regard to theatrical life in Australia, Mr Chas. Arnold said: "The expenses of living in that country are very little in excess of those which prevail while touring in the English provinces. The salaries, however, are much better, ranging from 50 to 75 per cent. more than are obtainable in the United Kingdom. There is a further distinct advantage in that the seasons are much longer in Australia; a manager never thinks of engaging a company for less than forty weeks, and very little time is lost in travelling. We travelled our company for fifty-two weeks, of which period they only lost a fortnight in journeying from one place to another. The theatres in Melbourne and Sydney are up to date in every detail. The highest price is five shillings and the lowest one shilling; and with a successful play the receipts ran up to as high a figure as from £350 to £370 a night. In one week, when presenting "What Happened to Jones," I played to £1913, which was the amount realised by seven performances. This piece ran for seven weeks in Melbourne and eight weeks in Sydney. There is no city of the size of Melbourne in England where the same results could be obtained."

The projected edition of the works of Dumas in English will run into seventy-five volumes. Even at that it will be far from complete. It is said that some thirty of these novels have never appeared in English before. There are legends that the works bearing the Dumas number 1000 volumes; that in one year he contracted to deliver, and did deliver, no fewer than forty volumes, and that, as a matter of course, many of these volumes were manufactured by his assistants, or even by young writers whose work he bought and put forth as his own. It is likely that the courageous publishers of the English edition have submitted them all to a careful sifting, and that the forthcoming seventy-five are all the real Dumas.

Several American newspapers of good standing print, with scathing comments, accounts of the remarkable behaviour by many of the American recipients of Sir Thomas Lipton's hospitality on board the Erin at the time of the sailing of the America Cup. Many of those invited for a single race attended every one, and brought their wives and relations with them, although these had not been included in the invitations. They practically ransacked the boat, pilfering spoons and other small things that could easily be taken as souvenirs. They helped themselves to wine by the tumbler, and filled their pockets with cigars and cigarettes; even the matlows were not spared, but were removed wholesale. They swarmed all over the boat to such an extent that the owner and his personal friends were driven into narrow and exclusive quarters.

The 1903 session of the Auckland Diocesan Synod will commence on Wednesday, October 28th, at St. Paul's Sunday-school, Symonds-street. On the evening of Tuesday, the 27th, the Diocesan Choral Festival will be held at the Cathedral, and the sermon preached. There will be Holy Communion and sermon at the Cathedral at half-past ten on Wednesday, and the Synod will open in the afternoon at three, when the Bishop will deliver his charge. The Synod will sit on October 28, 29, and 30, and November 2, 3, and 4, from 4 to 6 in the afternoon, and from 7 to 10 in the evening. On Saturday evening, October 31, there will be a men's mass meeting at the Choral Hall, and a woman's mass meeting in the same place on November 4, at half-past two in the afternoon. Both these meetings are open to the public, as is the meeting at the Choral Hall on the evening of November 4, in connection with the Maori mission. There will also be a number of conferences of a private nature in connection with the meeting of the Synod.

Many Nonconformists in England have announced that they will not pay the tax levied to support the schools on the plan provided by the law passed last year. The law puts the Church of England schools and the other public schools under one general management, supported by a local tax, or "rate," as it is called. The Nonconformists think that it is wrong that they should be taxed for a sectarian school. They are contending—at any rate, so it seems to them—for religious freedom and liberty of conscience. A similar problem was presented to English Nonconformists many years ago, when tithes were levied for the support of the State church. The Nonconformists objected to paying this rate on conscientious grounds, but usually paid it after what is now called "passive resistance." The story is told of an Exeter Quaker, a dealer in umbrellas, who satisfied his conscience every year by a mild protest. When the bailiff called for the tax he would say, "Friend Morgan, thou knowest that my conscience will not allow me to pay the rate." "Then, Mr. Prior, I must dis-train." Taking up a good umbrella, he would ask, "What is the price of this, Mr. Prior?" "Twenty-six shillings." "Then I will take this, and if it should realise more than the amount due I will return you the balance." Before the bailiff reached the door Mr. Prior would call his back with, "Friend Morgan, I will buy that umbrella back from thee." Then he put 17, the amount of the rate, on the counter, which the bailiff took, and returned the umbrella, to the satisfaction of both parties. The protest was made and the tax was paid, and the orders of Government and the rights of conscience were at the same time respected.

The Wellington "Post" remarks that recently the manager of a well-known New Zealand health resort was supplied with ammunition, to be used in providing game for the table. The other day, however, the Department which controls the sanatorium received a memorandum which began: "Re Cats," and went on to explain that during recent severe weather the grounds and house had been over-run with wild cats, and the nuisance caused by their nocturnal orgies became so serious that the manager had to start shooting them, with the result that 14 fell to one gun in 24 hours. The Government ammunition was used in the slaughter, but the manager confidently adds that "the carcasses were used for manuring the apple trees, so that no loss need be anticipated."

The term "cockatoo" was formerly applied to small farmers, while in Tasmania they were called "cockatoos"; (says the "Town and Country Journal" in answer to a request for the origin of this peculiarly Australian name). The name was originally given in contempt by squatters, who disliked the small farmers buying up the best bits of their runs. The squatters said that, like a cockatoo, the small freeholder alighted on good ground, extracted all he could from it, and then flew away. "Cocky" is a common abbreviation, and it is now used by farmers themselves. Some people distinguish between a "cockatoo" or "cocky" and a "ground parrot," the latter being the farmer on a very small scale. The first recorded use of the term was in Beveridge's "Gatherings Among the Gun Trees":

"O'm going to be married
To what is termed a Cockatoo—
Which makes a farmer."

The term was probably used in the first instance as an expression of contempt, but it has now almost ceased to be employed in that way.

On the occasion of a recent State dinner, the Kaiser, in a conversation with an officer of high rank, spoke of the report of the Commission on the South African war. "The revelations," said he, "clearly prove to me that complete readiness is the first and most important point in any war. Precious lives and enormous expenditure can be saved if at the beginning of a war a nation is in absolute readiness. The times of the Seven Years' War and the Thirty Years' War have passed for ever. In modern times a war will be necessarily short and decisive." The Kaiser further stated that the result of any war would also largely depend on the efficiency of the administrative department of the army. "Only a soldier," he said, "with the highest military training, and with the best organising talents, ought to be called to the responsible position of chief control." The Emperor spoke in terms of the greatest enthusiasm of the British officer and the British soldier, stating that he had the profoundest admiration for their courage and endurance.

When Melba was in New Zealand she made the great mistake of singing above her audience. Judging from Miss Ada Crossley's programmes in Australia, the famous contralto does not appear to be making the same mistake as her fair compatriot. Here are a few of her items:—"Caro Mio Ben" (Giordano), "Von ewiger Liebe" (Graham), "The Silver Ring" (Hammond), "Philia and Corydon" (Martini), "Oh, That We Two Were Maying" (Nevin), and "The Four-leaf Clover" (Willeby), "Love the Dearest" (Germann), "Home Sweet Home," Haydn's "Spirit's Song," Schubert's dramatic "Der Tod und das Madchen," Sainton-Dolby's well-known "Out On the Rocks," and other favourite airs; while she introduces for the first to a colonial audience a delightful song by Willeby, "Auntie's Rushes," and Mallinson's fine composition, "Die Schone Beatrix."

In referring to the production of a dramatisation of "David Copperfield" in London, a writer in "M.A.P." says:—"I shall never forget the indignation caused in London some years ago by the production at the Opera Comique of an American adaptation of 'The Old Curiosity Shop,' where in the most curious—but not the most treasured—article of all, was a cheery Little Nell in silks and frills and high-heeled shoes, who cheered herself in her affliction with the worse affliction of a banjo, and performed high kick dances when she ought to have been saying her prayers! It was a very shocking business altogether, and the faces of the critics—those of Mr Moy Thomas and Mr William Archer especially—were set with the expression of insufferable gloom, to which there came no relieving light when Quip fell into the Thames, and Little Nell, who arrived in time to witness his final struggles for life, poked his hat up from the wharf and to-ssed it to him with the feeling remark: "Hi! You've left some of your luggage!"

At Dunedin the other day Mr Edmund Cook, late chief postmaster at Dunedin, told his staff that when he first joined the service it was very small, and the work naturally was not very heavy. In fact, he had known times when the officers had had to resort to a game of marbles to fill in the time. (Laughter.) In those days there was only one English mail a month, and it was very irregular. The whole mail would then consist of 50 or 60 bags—two of letters and the rest of newspapers. There were no postage stamps and no receiving boxes. All matter to be transmitted was handed in at the post office, and the officials weighed it and received the postage for over the counter. With the advent of the seat of Government at Wellington things underwent a change there, and when the Otago goldfields were discovered inward mails were also made up for Dunedin as well as Wellington. Since then many alterations had taken place, and he foresaw the time when the Postal Department would absorb other branches. The public had every confidence in the post office and in the faithful work of its officers.

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