

## SOUSA'S PRESENCE OF MIND

On one occasion John Philip Sousa by his promptness was the direct means of stopping a panic which might have had the most disastrous results. While his band was playing before 12,000 people in St. Louis the electric lights in the hall went out suddenly. People began to move uneasily in their seats, and some even began to make a rush for the doors. Coolly tapping with his baton, Sousa gave a signal, and immediately his band began playing 'Oh, dear, what can the matter be?' A tiny ripple of laughter that went round the audience showed that confidence had been partially restored. When the band began to play, 'Wait till the clouds roll by,' the laughter deepened into roars of merriment that ended only when the lights were turned on again.

## A VERY USEFUL TREE

A remarkable tree of South Africa—a region notable for its natural history wonders—is that called the cow-tree. It receives that name because, at certain seasons, it yields an abundant supply of milk. It grows in hilly districts, usually where very little moisture is to be had for several months of the year. This makes it more singular that a plentiful flow of milky fluid will come from the trunk, on boring into it deeply, though the branches look dried. If the milk is put aside for a time a thick cake forms upon it, under which is a clear liquid. Some of it kept in a bottle well corked up was once preserved for several months. The cork, on being extracted, came out with a loud report, followed by a bluish smoke; the milk was a little acid, but not disagreeable to taste. The tree bears fruits of moderate size, each containing one or two nuts, which are said to have the flavour of strawberries and cream. From the bark of the tree, soaked in water, a bread has been made, which proved nearly as nourishing as wheaten bread.

## DESERVED NO SYMPATHY

At a village cricket match in Yorkshire the captain of the home side, in playing a fast ball from the 'demon' bowler of the visiting eleven, received a sharp crack on the knuckles. As the batsman danced round the crease in obvious pain, a small boy in the crowd was heard to exclaim, 'Serve 'im right!' 'You shouldn't talk like that, my lad,' observed an old gentleman, reprovingly. 'The man's hurt, you know!' 'Yes, aw know,' retorted the youngster, 'an' it'll tache 'im what a rap o'er th' knuckles is loike!' The batsman was the village schoolmaster.

## THE LEINSTER MONKEY

On the Leinster coat-of-arms are three monkeys, standing with plain collar and chained; motto, 'Crom-a-boo' ('To Victory'). This is the only coat-of-arms that has ever borne a monkey in the design. It was adopted by John Fitzthomas Fitzgerald in 1316 for romantic reasons.

While this Earl of Leinster was an infant he was in the castle of Woodstock, which is now owned by the Duke of Marlborough. The castle caught fire. In the confusion the child was forgotten, and when the family and servants remembered him and started a search they found the nursery in ruins.

But on one of the towers was a gigantic ape, a pet of the family, carefully holding the young earl in its arms. The animal with extraordinary intelligence had crawled through the smoke, rescued the baby, and carried it to the top of the tower.

When the earl had grown to manhood he discarded the family coat-of-arms and adopted the monkeys for his crest, and they have been retained to this day. Wherever you find the tomb of a Fitzgerald you will see the monkeys at the feet of the effigy or under the inscription.

## FAMILY FUN

Telling a Domino Number.—Ask a member of the company to select a domino from the set, and with a little calculation you can tell him what is the number chosen. Tell him to multiply one of the numbers by 5, add 7 to the quotient, to double this number, add to it the other number of the domino, and tell you the result. You then mentally subtract 14 from this number and the result will be the figures on the domino chosen. Suppose the domino chosen was a 6-3. The player multiplies the 6 by 5 which gives 30, adds 7, which gives 37, doubles this, which will give 74, adds the other number on the domino, 3, and the result is 77. You subtract 14 from 77 and the remainder is 63, and you immediately say that the domino chosen was the 6-3. But suppose he choose the 3 instead of the 6 for his calculations. Three multiplied by 5 is 15, 7 added makes 22, twice 22 is 44, and 6 added to 44 makes 50. Subtract 14 from 50 and the remainder will be 36, and the domino is therefore known to be 3-6 or 6-3, as you choose to name it.

## On the Land

The method of killing trees with arsenic has frequently been employed in the Sydney Botanical Gardens, and the results have usually been very satisfactory. The system is to make white arsenic into a thin paste or strong solution with caustic soda in the proportion of two parts of soda to one of arsenic. Bore downwards into the trunk of the tree three or four holes with an inch auger about three to four feet from the ground. Fill these holes to two-thirds of their depth with the liquid and hammer in a wooden plug. In a comparatively short time you will find that the tree will die and give forth no suckers.

There was a fairly representative yarding of all descriptions of stock at Addington last week. The yarding of store sheep was a large one, consisting mainly of equal proportion of lambs and ewes. Fair two-tooth ewes made 12s to 13s 3d, inferior 9s to 10s 9d. In store lambs an exceptionally good line made 10s 7d, the next highest price being 8s 9d. The yarding of fat lambs was the best that has been penned this season. Exporters took the bulk of the yarding at prices ranging from 9s 5d to 16s 3d, the majority being bought at 13s 6d to 14s. The range of prices for fat sheep were:—Prime wethers 15s 6d to 18s 2d, others 11s 9d to 15s; prime ewes 12s 6d to 17s 9d. Fat Cattle: Best steers £7 12s 6d to £13 5s, best heifers, £5 to £10 5s. There was a good yarding of fat pigs, which sold at from 4s to 5s for baconers and choppers, being equal to 4d per lb.

The Cambridge School of Agriculture has issued a statement of some alleged improvements made in the production of strong wheat, using the word from a baker's point of view. Canadian and Russian wheats are generally stronger in this sense, and the flour from them produces a better shaped loaf than English wheat of the common sorts. Consequently they make a better price in the market. Unfortunately, the yielding ability of these foreign wheats when tried is far from satisfactory. The Home-grown Wheat Committee intimate that the crossing of Red Fife wheat with Essex Rough Chaff has produced a hybrid named Burgoyne's Fife, which is an improvement on any known home sort, and is satisfactory in yield. There is some dubiety as to what makes one wheat strong and another weak, but the generally accepted idea is that it depends on the amount of mineral constituents, especially phosphates in the flour. Some wheats have these almost all in the bran, and they are lost in modern milling.

The Ayrshire has been a distinct breed for over 150 years (says the *Dairy Farmer*). While at the present time they may not be as popular as some breeds, they are fast coming to the front, both in the dairy and show ring. As to their conformation, they can hardly be improved upon, their evenness of form being particularly noticeable. The chief characteristics of the Ayrshire in appearance is fine face, with clean cut features, brightness of eye, up-turned horn, thin neck, fine shoulder, good heart and lung capacity, straight back, strong loin, large abdomen showing food capacity (or a silo of their own), long, broad hips, large finely balanced udder, large well-placed teats, well developed mammary gland and soft, loose skin of medium thickness, covered with a thick coating of fine hair, equal red and white, brown and white, or verging to nearly all white. In temperament it is docile, but alert. The Ayrshire is a very hardy and vigorous animal. This natural vigor combined with their activity and other superior qualities particularly fits them for all climates and conditions. Perhaps the Ayrshire has been called the 'farmer's cow' owing to the fact that her milk is well suited for dairy, cheese or city market. As the Ayrshire breed becomes better known so it will become more appreciated.

Of all the countries of Europe Denmark has made the greatest progress in pastoral and agricultural matters in recent years. This is attributed mainly to the spread of technical education and to co-operation. The Danish farmer is an expert. He is also a student. He has studied the breed of horses until he knows what can be raised to the best advantage, and what the German most wants. The same is true of cattle, pigs, and chickens. He knows to a nicety just how a cow should be fed to produce the best butter. He knows how to breed the best pigs. He makes his butter and produces his eggs of a uniform quality. He packs them so that they will please. And he is aided in countless ways by the State. The State is always at his service. The other great factor is co-operation. The Danish farmer gets all that he produces—absolutely all. The State owns the railways and protects the farmer from exploitation. And he himself performs all of the processes of production, distribution, and exchange. The co-operative movement began with dairying. Up to about 1880 each farmer made his own butter. It was very costly, and there was no uniformity in the product. About this time a new device was invented for butter-making. A number of farmers got together and purchased one of the machines. Its success was immediate. Other villages followed. To-day there are 1087 co-operative dairies, with a membership of 150,000 farmers. There are also 200 other private dairies. Nearly 95 per cent. of the farmers are members of the co-operative dairies, which ship nearly £200,000 worth of butter a week to England.