

WONDERFUL PANTOMIME.

A Great Stage Production in New York of the Latest Drury Lane Spectacle.

A new era in pantomime in America will be inaugurated November 14th, when Klaw & Erlanger will produce the latest Drury Lane spectacle, "Humpty Dumpty," at the New Amsterdam Theatre in New York. This will be one of the greatest entertainments ever staged in America. Fully 800 people will be employed in its presentation. Nearly 600 players will appear as principals, chorals, ballet and acrobats, and a small army will be employed in manipulating the scenery and spectacular and mechanical effects. The mention of "Humpty Dumpty" serves to recall to mind the original production of a pantomime under this title at the old Olympic Theatre in New York in 1868, when the late George L. Fox first appeared as a clown and made an international reputation as the legitimate successor of "Joey" Grimaldi, and incites interest as to whom this enterprising firm has selected to act the role made so famous by Fox and his contemporary, Tony Denier.

William C. Schrode, a young pantomime comedian, a pupil of the Hanlans, will be the Humpty Dumpty in this production, which will also present another clown in James A. Rice as "Humpty Dumpty's Brother." The harlequin, pantaloon and columbine will be played by Howard Prevost, J. H. Powers and Nora Sarony. These characters, quite as important in "legitimate" pantomime as the clown, have been played in the past by many noted actors, none of whom are probably remembered by the present generation of playgoers, for there has been no important production of pantomime presenting this notable quartette of comedy, since George L. Fox put on "Humpty Dumpty in Every Clime" in New York in 1875, during the run of which he became insane, and, and shortly after, died.

The remarkable advancement made in stagecraft in the past twenty-five years will be well exemplified in the coming production of "Humpty Dumpty." It represents the most gorgeous effort of Arthur Collins, the manager of the Drury Lane Theatre, of London, whose policy is to spend \$5,000 more each season in staging the holiday spectacles that have made this theatre famous the world over. In their production Klaw & Erlanger will utilize only the scenery, mechanical effects and costumes from Drury Lane. John J. McNally has written an entirely new book and Cole and Johnson have provided a new score. The management of Drury Lane gives the cost of the scenery and costumes for this production as \$155,000. Klaw & Erlanger will

spend many thousands more in adapting it to the New Amsterdam stage and in providing new mechanical effects and complicated trick scenery. Quite a contrast between this "Humpty Dumpty" and that of 1868, when an outlay of \$5,000, on a production was thought enormous. Quite a contrast, too, in the number of people employed. There will be eighty-four men under the stage working traps in this presentation, more than were employed in every capacity in the Fox or Denier "Humpty Dumpty" production.

Klaw & Erlanger's "Humpty Dumpty" will be staged in three acts and twelve massive scenes representing The Walls of King Solomon's Castle, The Throne Room, An Enchanted Wood, A Fairy Forest, The Royal Kitchen, Terrace of the Castle, The Siren's Home, Anemones' Retreat, The City of Coral, Under the Sea, The Kingdom of Mirrula, The Palace Eyrice and a wonderful transformation called "The Four Seasons of Wedlock." The scene of the City of Coral at the end of the second act will present a remarkably beautiful submarine effect. In this scene and the final transformation, the brilliant ballets will be seen, presenting over 500 people in gorgeous costumes.

The leading roles will be played by William C. Schrode, Frank Moulton, George Schiller, John McVeigh, Arthur Conquest, Lillian Coleman, James A. Rice, Nellie Daly, Maude Lillian Berri, Howard Prevost, J. H. Powers, Nora Sarony, Frederick Raymond, David Abrahams and Fred Ostrado. A new Grigolatis flying ballet will introduce entirely original aerial effects. During the past month the stages of five New York theatres have been used in the rehearsals of this wonderfully large company.

GOLD BY TELEPHONE.

(Collier's Weekly.) A new way of prospecting has been tried experimentally, and is reaching the point where it is practically useful. The method is based on the differences in the electrical conductivity of the earth due to the presence of ore deposits. Most ores are much better conductors of electricity than the soil and rocks, although some others are almost insulators.

In making use of these facts to locate beds of ore two electrodes are grounded about 100 yards apart. In the circuit is an induction coil with a glass condenser, and two spark gaps. The current as it passes through the ground is tested by two telephone receivers connected to portable electrodes which are usually grounded about seventy feet apart. The make and break of the current in passing through the ground is heard in the telephones as ticks. As the electrodes attached to the telephones are moved about, the variations in the intensity of the tapping in the telephones give an indication of the presence and position of the ore deposits. Although the method is not out of the experimental stage, yet it seems to promise much for itself in the future.

THE PRINTS OF FINGERS

Have Proved of Great Value in England in Detecting Crime—Have 70,000 Sets Registered at Scotland Yard.

London, Oct. 28.—The thumb print theories of "Pudd'n' head Wilson" as set down by Mark Twain, have been seriously adopted by England's criminologists, and the interesting statement is made in the official review of last year's crime, just issued, that at the close of 1903 there were 60,000 sets of finger prints of criminals registered with the police of New Scotland Yard.

Since this official report was closed some thousands of additional records have been obtained and the register is now increased to about 70,000 sets. It is growing at the average of 350 weekly. The Commissioner of Police states that as a system of crime detection it is showing "excellent results." The system is thoroughly established throughout England and Wales, and many police officers have come to London from the colonies to study how it is worked at Scotland Yard.

A wing of the Scotland Yard Building at Westminster is specially set apart for this finger print museum. In the quietude of this block of offices Inspector Collins and his staff are daily classifying pigeon-holing, and re-examining their prints of the finger tips of the habitual criminals of the United Kingdom. The record room is pigeon-holed elaborately, as a chemist puts away his facts, drugs, and other things in his little receptacle, all criminals whose finger prints show corresponding characteristics brought together, until about 1,024 pigeon-holes have exhausted all the subdivisions of finger characteristics which the scientific examination of human fingers has been able to discover.

Soon this system must yield a complete index to all our professional criminals—index almost infallible, owing to two established facts: (a) Each individual's finger differs materially from the fingers of all other persons. (b) The thin capillary ridges on the tips of the fingers undergo no natural change of characteristics from the cradle to the grave.

STRIKING COMPARISON.

On the Cost of War, Fires and Railroad Accidents.

Wall Street Journal.) Count Okuma estimates the cost of a two-year war between Japan and Russia at \$1,000,000,000 for Japan and \$1,500,000,000 for Russia. The war has thus far been in progress less than a year, so that this immense cost cannot be rightly charged against 1904. Nevertheless, it is of interest to compare this cost of war with the cost of fires in the United States. The comparison is as follows: Cost of war to Japan and Russia, two years, \$2,500,000,000 Loss by fires in United States, one year, 250,000,000 Thus, in 1904 (three months estimated), the loss by fire in the United States alone will amount to 10 per cent. of the entire money cost of a two years' war between Russian and Japan.

What that war has already cost in life is not reported. The battle of Lioyang alone, is said to have resulted in 27,000 killed and wounded. That was one of the bloodiest battles ever fought. If the losses at Port Arthur were as heavy, there have already been 53,000 men killed and grievously wounded by the war. For the sake of argument, let us take this estimate as approximately correct. Now, in the fiscal year, ended June 30, 1904, there were 9984 persons killed and 78,247 injured by railroad accidents in the United States. Let us put these figures together, and see what they look like. Killed and wounded, Russian-Japanese war, 54,000 Killed and wounded, railroad accidents in United States 88,231

A WONDERFUL BABY.

A colored girl baby was born at the Maryland General Hospital in Baltimore, last Saturday night, which has six fingers on each hand and six toes on each foot. The mother of the infant is Agnes Garner. The fact that the child has 12 fingers and 12 toes is especially remarkable, because there is no malformation on either hand or foot. The fingers and toes are so symmetrical and perfectly formed that one would not notice the oddity at first glance. The two middle fingers, and toes are, respectively, uniform in length, and this makes the peculiarity all the more deceptive. Yesterday the X-ray was applied to the hands and feet, and it was found that the bones were perfectly formed and well developed. The hands and feet are larger than in newly-born children, but they do not appear so on account of the remarkable proportion between all the fingers and toes. Usually when a child is born with extra digits, the odd ones are removed. In this case, if the sixth finger or toe were removed, the result would be a lesion and not a benefit to the symmetry of the hand or foot.

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E. F. KNIGHT AND THE JAPS.

The Veteran War Correspondent Says They are Wonders in Warfare and Silence.

E. F. Knight, a veteran war correspondent, and author of a number of splendid war stories, passed through Winnipeg last week on his way home to London, England, from Manchuria. Mr. Knight is the chief of the war correspondents on the staff of the London Morning Post, and was at the front at the commencement of hostilities between Russia and Japan. He was attached to General Kuroki's army, and was one of the few favored correspondents who were permitted to go to the front in time for the first important engagement. He remained with Kuroki till after the battle of Liao Yang, when a number of correspondents gave up the idea of going further.

"The restrictions placed upon correspondents by the Japanese officers allows so little chance of obtaining news of the battles that it is almost useless to be in the field," said Mr. Knight to a Telegram reporter. "We were not allowed to see much for ourselves, and we could get no information from the officers. In fact the officers would not even impart to us as much information as they sent out in their official reports of the actions in which they were engaged."

"The Japanese officer is a model of courtesy but when it comes to giving out information such as the correspondents want his reserve is adamant. He has his instructions from headquarters and he observes every letter of them. One officer who became talkative in a general way with the correspondents was called home because it was feared he might be inclined to forget himself and say something that would be of use as news."

Mr. Knight had acquired a high opinion of the Jap as a modern soldier. He says the correspondents saw many things that were entirely new to them. Surprises in the art of warfare were sprung one after another every day. The Japs had carefully learned all the tricks of other nations, and had supplemented them with a great many ingenious ones entirely of their own. "Their medical staff and its equipment was the finest I ever saw," said Mr. Knight, "while in rapid transportation of troops and supplies they are simply marvels."

FOR THE OPEN SHOP.

(Leslies Weekly.) It is gratifying to be informed by the secretary of the Chicago Employers' Association that the "open shop" idea is making rapid progress in that city, and that nearly all the shoe factories, brass manufacturers, the metal trades and the furniture makers have surrendered their union labels. It is evident from this, and other indications, that the end of the union label nuisance is in sight. It involves a species of silly and petty

tyranny that could not long endure in this country any way. What this same union label folly and its accompanying abolition, the boycott, have done for the city of Danbury, Conn., has been made public recently in a pamphlet published by the American Anti-Boycott Association. As the centre of the American hat trade Danbury was not many years ago one of the most prosperous and rapidly growing cities in the United States. But the boycott, the union label and the "closed shop" struck the town, and the result is that to-day Danbury is in a stagnant condition, with property depreciated and its population dwindling. Building activity, we are told, has ceased and the cost of building has increased 35 per cent. Real estate is a drug in the market. This is a dear lesson in the abuses of unionism. Neither the boycott nor the union label is in the least degree necessary for the growth and success of labor organizations, and the sooner they discard such weapons the sooner they will gain the respect of all honorable and self-respecting men.

NEW DANGER IN KISSING.

Disease in England Traced to Osculation—Was Imported from Africa.

London, Oct. 28.—A new danger has been added to the many which medical men assert surround the habit of kissing. According to Deener Whittles, a lecturer on dental histology and pathology at Birmingham University, the cawcaw disease, common on the west coast of Africa, has been introduced into this country. Birmingham, he says, has hundreds of cases, while traces of the disease have been found in many other places.

The disease is due to the presence of the nematode worm, which has a peculiar penchant for destroying the white corpuscles in the blood. The chief symptom is an intense itching of the skin. Kissing, Mr. Whittles asserts, is one of the means by which the disease is disseminated. There are large numbers of courting couples suffering from cawcaw in Birmingham, he said, and often not one transmits the disease to the other by kissing. In one case which came under his observation, the engaged girl was kissed by her sweetheart, who was a victim of the disease. Shortly afterward she complained of a terrible itching. The trouble was incorrectly diagnosed, and the young woman, who slept with her sister, transmitted the disease, and the latter passed it on to a younger brother. Thus four persons became affected through kissing. In another case a barmaid went to see her brother a soldier, on his return from war. They kissed each other, and the result was the young woman a few days subsequently complained of intense itching of the skin. The soldier was unaware of the fact that he himself was suffering from the disease, the nematode worm being distinctly shown in a number of bloom

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