

Cost of Running a Yacht.

Mr. Astor's Monthly Bill for the Nourmahal in Summer Probably Foots Up \$25,000.
By Rene Bache.

THE cost of running a steam yacht necessarily varies. A sixty-footer may be kept in commission for \$300 a month counting food supplies. For a 150-footer the monthly expense would be \$3,000 perhaps. But when it comes to a pleasure craft like Pierpont Morgan's Corsair, 304 feet on the water line, or John Jacob Astor's Nourmahal, which is even bigger, the outlay is enormously greater. It costs about \$26,000 a month to run the Corsair, and it is probable that Mr. Astor's bills for the Nourmahal in the summer time amount to not less than \$25,000 every thirty days. The pay roll of the officers and crew of such a vessel, which is a good-sized steamship, will touch \$4,500 or possibly \$5,000 a month.

A first-class steam yacht carries a crew of fifty or more men. The Aphrodite, owned by Col. Oliver H. Payne, requires sixty-two. There must be three cooks, a steward, two assistant stewards and six or seven men who serve as "chambermaids" and waiters. The Nourmahal also has a couple of stewardesses for the convenience of lady guests on board. Thirty sailors draw pay at the rate of \$30 a month; the captain gets \$200 a month—Howard Gould pays his captain \$5,000 a year—and two mates are employed at \$75 and \$50, respectively. The chief engineer draws \$125, the assistant engineer \$100 and an oiler \$50 a month. To these must be added four firemen at \$40 a month and four stokers at the same wages. Of course the chief cook is likely to be a French chef, at \$400 or \$500 a month.

Such a boat consumes twenty tons of coal a day, and at that rate, if she is kept going five months in the year, she will burn up something like 3,000 tons, the item of fuel alone coming to \$10,000 for the season. For the rest of the year she is laid up in a basin, at an expense of \$200 a month, and the cleaning and painting she has to undergo cost a pretty penny. It takes two weeks and an expenditure of \$1,000 to lay her up, and a couple of months and \$5,000 to put her into commission again.

From these figures it is easy to understand where the money goes for a steam yacht, though it should be realized that bills for food supplies (not reckoned in the above account) are simply huge, especially when much entertaining is done. Anybody would be interested to know what it cost Cornelius Vanderbilt, on his recent trip abroad, to entertain Emperor William on board his yacht, and to meet on an appropriately sumptuous scale certain other social obligations which were imposed upon him by his intimacy with the great ones of the earth. Very possibly he did not get off for less than \$100,000 for a few weeks' amusement.

Not a few rich men nowadays prefer sailing yachts, because of the superior accommodations which they afford. There is more comfort to be had they assert, in a 100-foot schooner than in a 200-foot steam yacht. Such a schooner costs only about \$30,000, and has a crew of twenty-five, with eighteen before the mast. Whereas a steam yacht is largely occupied by machinery and coal, which take up nearly the whole of the middle portion of the vessel, in a schooner the entire body of the craft is available for living purposes. Even a sloop, sixty or seventy feet long, and costing \$18,000, perhaps, will carry six or eight cabin passengers very cozily.—Philadelphia Saturday Evening Post

Improve the Cow.

Great Profit for Dairymen to be Won by Intelligent Breeding.

By Hark Comstock

THE 18,000,000 milch cows of this country find their product virtually consumed at home, leaving little for exportation. Yet few dairy farmers get rich. Perhaps it is upon the principle that few in any given business get rich.

All agricultural profit in these days comes of using improved methods and machinery. The farmer who still mowed his meadow land with a scythe would be left far behind in the competition of these days. The cow is the first item, and a most important one in dairy machinery. At the average she is a good deal what she was fifty to a hundred years ago, as far as relates to her dairy functions. In beef producing quality the case is entirely different.

According to the statistics of the Department of Agriculture the average dairy cow of the country gives 130 pounds of butter per year. In the dairy demonstration now progressing on the world's fair grounds at St. Louis the entire Jersey team of twenty-five cows has averaged more than that per head in sixty days. Admitting that better care and better feed have to do with the question, there yet remains a very wide margin that can only be credited to the functional capacity of the cows bred in their bone. When farmers began to select their bulls from thoroughbred herds possessing these great dairy values, letting the beef question and all side issues take care of themselves, they began to establish improved machinery in the shape of dairy cows.

Nearly 12,000,000 cows are devoted to butter making in the United States, and the product in round numbers is 1,500,000,000 pounds of butter, worth, at 18 cents a pound, \$270,000,000. Suppose that each of these cows could produce a heifer calf by a high class Jersey bull, and the improvement in butter capacity for the new generation was even as little as 5 per cent., which would be an exceedingly small estimate; the increased butter output for a single year, assuming that the price was not lowered, would be worth \$13,500,000—a net profit over present income due solely to the use of improved cow machinery.

Only in recent years has the disparity in value between the product of different individual cows been brought home to the comprehension of the average farmer and dairyman. Butter fat is the most valuable constituent of milk, whether it be made into butter or used otherwise. The creameries buy milk by its test of fat, allowing nothing for the skimmed remnant. Quarts no longer measure at the creameries and factories. They merely float the pounds of fat for which the dairy farmer is paid. The change to this plan was an eye-opener to him. He quickly found that his heaviest milker was not necessarily his most profitable cow. A machine for quickly determining the percentage of fat in milk is now used everywhere. The dairy farmer has found out where the money is and is beginning to look for a different cow from that which formerly excited his admiration.

The great step now in the improvement of the dairy business is the distribution of the bulls from the thoroughbred herds of Jersey, Guernsey, Holstein, Brown, Swiss and Ayrshire cattle throughout the dairy districts, as the beef raisers have been taking them from thoroughbred Short Horn, Hereford and Polled Angus herds to the grazing districts.—New York Sun.

Where Nerves Are Unknown

Happy Japanese Women are Free From Worries of Western Civilization.

By Robert Webster Jones.

THE women of Japan, in contrast to their Occidental sisters, have long been noted for their perfect poise and self-possession. Their placidity under what would ordinarily be considered trying circumstances has surprised American tourists. Patent medicines guaranteed to cure nervousness in its many forms have little sale in Japan. The meaning of the term "nervous prostration" is unknown. Japanese physicians are rarely rich.

An explanation of this happy state of affairs has been made by a returned traveler. "To begin with," says he, "there is never any change in fashions, so the Japanese woman has no worries at all on that score. Then, house-keeping is greatly simplified, so the Japanese housekeeper is hurt by none of the jars and frets that rag the nerves and prematurely age her Western sister. The Japanese house has no draperies, no dust traps in the shape of superfluous ornaments. People all put off their shoes on entering the house, so no mud and dirt are brought in. Japanese women have no heart-burntings over enchre prizes and 'bridge' stakes. They never have to compose club papers on subjects concerning which they know nothing. They never sit up nights planning how they might outshine their rivals in dress at some social affair. They do not bother their brains with schemes for marrying their daughters to rich foreigners. They never have to give eight-course dinners with two-course pocketbooks. They live simple, happy, peaceful, domestic lives, and live them long."

While we should be sorry to see American women restrict their lives to the narrow sphere of the Japanese, there is no doubt that three-fourths of their nervous worry is caused by "trying to do too much." Simplicity is the keynote of sanity and health, and American men as well as women may well profit by the example of the happy Japanese.

The 22-ton bell at the Sacre Coeur Church in Paris is tolled by electricity. A single choir boy can do the work which formerly took five men.

The red cedar that is used in the manufacture of lead pencils is found in large tracts in Colombia, near the Venezuelan border.

HOSPITABLE PERSIA

How That Modern Land Reminds One of the Spiritual Persia.

"Persia," said the Hon. Richmond Pearson, of North Carolina, the urbane gentleman who represents the United States Government in that ancient land, to a reporter at the Willard, "is a country that makes one frequently refer to the Old Testament, for the manners and customs of its people savor greatly of those ancient tribes of whose doings the sacred chronicles tell.

"In Persia they are pursuing the same tasks in the same way that has been in vogue for centuries, and outside of the cities not a trace of modern civilization can be seen. As a rule, life goes on very evenly over there, and hardly a ripple of excitement breaks its monotony, except for some such incident as the killing of Dr. Labarre, the American missionary who was assassinated by a band of fanatics last March. The sequel to that crime the Post has told—how the principal criminal, claiming to be a descendant of Mohammed, was caught after considerable trouble and put in jail, where he now lies awaiting punishment. I may say here that I was given immense assistance in the capture of this murderer by Dr. Wishard, a former resident of Indiana, who is in charge of the American hospital at Teheran.

"The Persians are the most polite people and the greatest sticklers for form and etiquette in the world. In making the journey from the seacoast to the capital, they showered attentions and ceremonies on me that were almost crushing in their civility. Through every province I passed there was a repetition of these forms of welcoming—salutes were fired in my honor, castles were put at my disposal and gifts were coming in all the time. One of these donations was a bleating lamb the disposition of which was a problem. I didn't want it as a pet; I couldn't have killed it for a good deal, and so I had to carry it along till the end of my journey. But, all the same, Persia is an interesting country, and I am not at all sorry to return to it."—Washington Post.

WORDS OF WISDOM.

God's presence makes a desert a garden of paradise.

A swindle can not be sanctioned by calling it a church fair.

A tailor made man will satisfy a trinket hearted woman.

The least prayer that reaches God's throne shakes His footstool.

When angels sing they do not have to wait for cultivated ears.

Fear may force a man to cast beyond the moon.—John Heywood.

Nothing is more impractical than the neglect of the spiritual.

When you find one sharp as a needle he is all eye and no head.

Truth is the highest thing that man may keep.—Geoffrey Chaucer.

The old hope rises, that this sorrow, which at this hour seems more than I can bear, may dwell with me always as greatness from which my life may take its tone.—Ellen Watson.

Possibly want and woe will be seen hereafter, when this world of appearance shall have passed away, to have been, not evils, but God's blessed angels and ministers of His most paternal love.—F. W. Robertson.

Farm Lands in England.

The English press mentions indications of great shrinkage in farm lands of that country generally. It is said that in Lincolnshire farms have decreased in value nearly one-half, that a farm of 315 acres held at \$75,000 had been offered for \$20,000; that another large farm would not bring more than 50 per cent. of its cost, and another which sold three years ago at \$110,000 was appraised for probate at only \$34,000.

Just the reverse of these conditions have occurred during the past few years in the United States. Many farms have doubled in value, and the average advance is 30 to 40 per cent. here. Perhaps this more nearly equalization of farm values abroad and here is largely due to the lowering of internal and export freights, and to the increased invasion of the British markets by American farm products. It is said that English land owners are feeling the squeeze seriously. If it results in the dividing up of large estates and placing the land in the hands of men of moderate means to farm, it may result in leveling up the middle classes and in great benefit to the English nation.

Makes Pets of Humming Birds.

Mrs. Warren Willard of Putney, Vt., feeds humming birds daily from the time they arrive in the spring until the approaching cold drives them south. She places a syrup made of melted sugar upon the piazza and the birds come regularly from the woods to get the food. When she began the practice years ago there were but two birds, but the number has gradually increased to twelve.

Sour milk is the latest remedy for prolonging life, but no one wants to prolong it in that way.

CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT.



BABY'S SAND PILE.

In a great big wooden box,
Nice and smooth, to save her frocks,
Is the baby's sand-pile, where all day she plays:
And the things she thinks she makes,
From a house and barn to cakes,
Would keep, I think, her family all their days.

Once she said she'd make a pie—
Or, at least, she'd like to try—
So up she straightway rolled each tiny sieve:
For her plums she used some stones,
Made a fire of cedar cones—
Not a real fire, you know, but make-believe.

Next she baked some buns and bread,
"For her dollies," so she said,
"Cause, you see, they like my cooking best of all;"
Though her flour was only sand,
Dolls, she knew, would understand,
And excuse her if her batch of dough should fall.

Sometimes cook will miss a pan,
Or a bowl, or spoon, or can;
But I think she's very sure where they'll be found;
For she knows it's just such things
Baby uses when she brings
All her dollies to her sand-pile on the ground.

—F. C. M., in St. Nicholas.

A FUNNEL FOUNTAIN.

I never knew a boy who did not love to fuss with water or to watch a fountain play. Now here is a sort of fountain and pump combined which is so simple that it would be a pity if any boy should be deprived through ignorance of the pleasure of seeing it work.

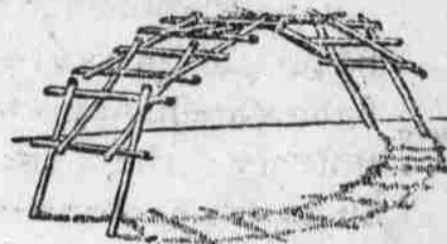
The apparatus needed is only a common tin funnel, the bigger the better.

you might try it in the bathroom or the laundry, if you remember that it is neither necessary nor desirable to force the jet quite to the ceiling, nor yet to make it shoot across the room.

A TASK FOR NIMBLE FINGERS.

Here is a bridge, and a pretty strong one, considering its material, which is made of matches without using rivets, glue, string or any other fastening except friction.

It is quite a trick to put it together, and the bridge builder must have patience and a steady hand, but the result is worth a little trouble. If you go about it in a haphazard, hit or miss fashion, even with the aid of the illustration, you will be pretty sure to fail, and will soon vote the whole



COMPLETED MATCH BRIDGE.

thing stupid and give it up, but the task is not so very difficult if you go to work in the right way.

Lay a match on the table, and upon it, near the ends, lay the heads of two other matches, the other ends of which rest on the table. These two matches must lie at right angles to the one first mentioned. They are the ones which start from the ground at

PICTURE PUZZLE.



WHERE IS HER YOUNG LOVER?

—Brooklyn Eagle.

It is worked by plunging it, with the mouth down, in a bathtub or washtub half full of water. If you press the funnel down rapidly and forcibly the water under it, not being able to get out of the way quickly enough, will be pressed up into the funnel, and, because of the tapering form of the latter, a jet of water will be forced out of the small end of the funnel and will rise to a height that will surprise you. With a funnel which has a wide mouth and a small tube you can make a fountain ten feet high.

Of course, you understand that the fountain does not play all the time,



MAKING THE FOUNTAIN PLAY.

but that a jet shoots up each time you force the funnel down.

You see, also, that this is not a parlor entertainment. The trick should be done out of doors if possible. If not,

the near end of the bridge in the picture, and the match on which their heads rest is the second cross piece.

Now, across these two parallel matches lay a fourth match—the first cross piece in the picture.

Next, lift up the match you laid down first, raising the others with it, and slip two more matches under it and over the one you laid down last (the first cross piece in the picture). Lay the heads of these last two matches on another (the fourth cross piece), and across them lay still another (the third cross piece). Now you have two links of the bridge done.

Lift up the cross piece, slip in turn more matches under it and lay over the third, add the next pair of cross pieces and go on in this way, link by link, until you have five or six links, which will make a strong bridge of graceful shape. More than this makes the arch too high, less makes it too flat.

The matches should be long, strong and either square or quite rough, so that they will neither roll nor slip.

As in all such tricks, it is advisable to use safety matches and to handle them carefully.

It is still better to use burnt matches if you can get them long enough and of equal length. Toothpicks or any other little sticks of uniform length and thickness may be used instead of matches.

The Swiss Alpine Club has within the last four years spent \$24,000 in building refuge huts on various mountains.

Old Calabar, the headquarters of the Southern Nigeria Government, has just been connected by telegraph with England.