

ly invited to big shoots in Lithuania, where bears and wild boars abound. Sienkiewicz has shot much bigger game still in British East Africa, and has written delightful stories of adventure in those lands.

HIS FIRST TWO WIVES.

Sienkiewicz's domestic life has not been uneventful. In fact, his matrimonial affairs have afforded much material for gossip. He married first Maria Sienkiewicz, with whom he lived happily for several years. They had two children, a boy and a girl. The former is now a student in the Polish university at Cracow. The girl is remarkably pretty, of a rather English type, with a lovely complexion and beautiful fair hair. She is of a charming disposition and very popular among the younger members of the intellectual society in Warsaw.

Sienkiewicz remained a widower for several years. His second matrimonial venture was of a very different character. The lady was the young and beautiful daughter of a Polish landed proprietor named Wolodkiewicz. She had read Sienkiewicz's books and conceived a violent passion for the writer. Persuading her father to bring her to Warsaw, she soon contrived to meet Sienkiewicz, and fell in love with him immediately. Her affection was requited, and after a very brief courtship they were married and started on a foreign tour for their honeymoon. At Vienna, however, the first stage of the journey, some extraordinary disagreement seems to have taken place. The youthful bride telegraphed for her mother and left her middle-aged husband in the Austrian capital. Husband and wife never met again, and later a divorce was obtained. The lady has married again, not a distinguished author, but a plain country squire and thoroughly good sportsman named Dabrowski, with whom she is said to live very happily.

HIS THIRD ROMANCE.

Even this almost tragic event in his life didn't prevent Sienkiewicz from embarking again upon the troubled sea of matrimony. Alongside of the Warsaw city hall stands a small church, and attached to this church is the convent of Canonesses. It was founded in the fifteenth century by a Countess Zamoyksi, member of one of the most illustrious Polish families, whose descendant, Count Maurice Zamoyksi, is the greatest noble in Poland. The convent is reserved strictly for ladies of aristocratic houses, who are styled Canonesses. The rules and regulations under which they live are by no means severe. They may do go out into society, travel abroad and entertain visitors of both sexes in the convent, which they are quite free to leave at any time, and marry if they choose to do so.

Among the Canonesses was a lady named Babka in whom Sienkiewicz became greatly interested. He was soon a frequent caller at the convent, taking tea with Mme. Babka nearly every afternoon and paying her marked attentions. After some time they became engaged, when suddenly one day, without the slightest warning, Sienkiewicz left Warsaw for Paris, without even



WINSTON SPENCER CHURCHILL.

CHURCHILL TO WED MURIEL WILSON.

Winston S. Churchill, who is just about to start on a motor tour of the continent with the Duke of Marlborough, is filling a large place in the public eye just now. He has just completed the life of his father, Lord Randolph Churchill, for which three of the largest publishing houses are competing. He is reported to be engaged to Miss Muriel Wilson, the famous beauty of the London season, and he is trying to grow a mustache. Winston Churchill's alleged matrimonial designs on Muriel Wilson is an old story. He was said last year to be desperately in love with the Earl of Aberdeen's daughter, who has since married her father's ex-secretary.

genius, and that his works are of no account whatever. Despite the venom and persistency with which these assaults were accompanied Sienkiewicz has consistently held his peace, refusing to pay any attention to them. His friends came to his rescue, however, and after a long controversy the "decadents" were completely silenced. Ever since the Russian-Japanese war began the novelist has devoted much of his time and attention to Polish national politics, and his pen is ever at the service of his country, and he has con-

tributed many political pamphlets and newspaper articles in the cause of Poland. Sienkiewicz is intensely patriotic, and is credited with having Russia and the Russians with a holy hatred.

Apart from his political work he is now engaged upon a historical novel, "On the Field of Glory." The story deals with the reign of the Polish King John Sobieski, in the seventeenth century, the deliverer of Vienna from the Turks.



WU TING FANG.
CHINESE MINISTER.

WU TING FANG RECOVERING

Wu Ting Fang, the under secretary of the foreign board and former minister to the United States, who was wounded by a bomb explosion recently, is recovering. The bomb was exploded inside a private car at the railway station, near Peking, as a train carrying one of the four missions ordered abroad to study foreign political methods was leaving. Four minor officers were killed and more than 20 wounded. The affair caused a profound sensation and fear for the safety of members of the court and leading officials. The government offices and the railways are strongly guarded. The departure of the commission has been indefinitely postponed.

going through the formality of bidding his fiancée farewell on taking the train to tell her that he was going away. He remained three years in Paris, and during the whole of that time he never wrote a line to Babka. Naturally enough the lady was too proud to say anything either, and there was no communication of any kind between the erstwhile lover and the Canoness.

At the end of three years Sienkiewicz returned to Warsaw, and soon afterward called at the convent one afternoon just as if nothing had happened, apparently expecting to pick up his engagement with Babka at the point where he had so unceremoniously dropped it. The Canoness, however, doesn't seem to have taken quite the same view of the case, and it is said she refused for a long time to have anything to do with her somewhat eccentric suitor. Sienkiewicz continued to call, however, most regularly, and after a persistent siege of a couple of years she weakened and finally consented to become the third Madame Sienkiewicz. They were married about a year ago, and the union is said to be a very happy one.

HIS METHODS OF WORK.

Sienkiewicz is a methodical and systematic worker. He thinks his stories out very carefully and even elaborately before putting pen to paper, and as a consequence his manuscript and proof sheets are singularly free from corrections. Much of his work has been done abroad, as he is exceedingly fond of traveling. In fact, his friends declare that some of his finest things have been written in hotels. Possibly the fact that he is less liable to interruptions when away from home, may have something to do with this. During the last two years the novelist has been the object of bitter attacks from the younger school of writers in Poland, the so-called "decadents," who held the view that the author of "Quo Vadis" has no talent, and

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must become the greater within a few years. Sanitation has reduced the death rate, particularly among infants, and this alone has postponed the beginning of the decline toward the present time. The falling off in the birth rate—due partly to selfishness and love of pleasure and partly to our strenuous modern living—is most serious among the middle and upper classes.

The new method of producing general anesthetics, as proposed by Schmidt of Berlin, consists in giving three hypodermic injections—two hours, one hour and half an hour before operation—of scopamine with some morphine. Unconsciousness continues some hours after the operation.

The hearing of vowels has been a subject of investigation by Dr. Marage, the French physician. He has used a "vowel siren," and has shown that every vowel is perceived at a certain distance with a minimum of energy on some particular note, and that, in consequence, the ear hears each vowel better on some notes than on others. The e and i need the sharp notes; the o and a carry the voice. The experiments seem to indicate that the present "re-emitted" by the sirens of lighthouses could be changed to some other note that would carry farther with less expenditure of energy.

Poisoning by eggs is an idiosyncrasy that has been noted by a number of medical men. Dr. Capitan finds it first mentioned in 1856 by Marcellus Donatus, the patient being a young man whose lips swelled and who had purple patches after eating eggs. In 1884 several cases of violent poisoning were reported by Jonathan and Robert Hutchinson. In a family known to Morrell Mackenzie the members through four generations were poisoned, the symptoms being marked by indigestion, insomnia, swelling and contraction of the throat, swelling of the eyelids and redness of the face. The idiosyncrasy has been followed by Bright's disease in two patients, suggesting a possible connection.

The remarkable deposit of oak reported by a timber merchant of South Russia is in a river, and exists in layers scattered, in depth of three or four feet, over an area of 150 square miles. The varying colors are attributed to different kinds of mud. The colors are pink, blue, yellow and brown, and as many as 12 shades have been noted. The logs are from 40 to 200 feet long.

The work of the last three years in Germany and France is estimated by Prof. Currie to have yielded about a pound of radium. Austria's stock of radium salt, reduced to the strength known as one million, would half fill a lady's thimble.

A peculiar fertility seems to belong to some of the land near St. Petersburg. At Tsarskoe Selo, 17 miles south of the city, experiments in cultivating peapods, hemp, sage, etc., gave results far beyond expectations, and Prof. Pell attributes this to the radioactivity of the soil at that place. The presence of radium was demonstrated in specimens of the plants, the greater portion of the emanation proving to be held in the roots, less in the stem and leaves.

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ANNOUNCEMENT.

The Giles Mercantile Agency and the American Mercantile and Reporting Agency have consolidated and business will hereafter be conducted under the name of The American Mercantile Agency. Sept. 1 the business will be located at 409 to 411 D. F. Walker Bldg., 409 floor, telephones, 220 for reports, and 221 for collections.

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leaves, and still less in the flowers. Similar results have come from special experiments in the botanical gardens of the Military Medical academy at St. Petersburg, and have led Prof. Vartich also to express the opinion that the growth of medicinal plants in the vicinity is stimulated by radium.

Cheap leather. It is pointed out, is now weighted with glucose and berium, being thus made to pass the weight test of first quality material. But it absorbs moisture freely, and a shoe made from it is never really dry. Even in the driest weather, the perspiration of the feet makes such footwear dangerous, and soon rots the inner sole.

Hair growing by the methods of gardening is claimed as a successful new industry by a Turkish physician. He scratches the bald scalp, and then transplants hairs, taken from another head and clipped at both ends, in the incisions. After a time, it is affirmed the hairs thus set out actually take root and grow.

The most successful imitation pearls are now glass balls lined with silvery and iridescent fish-scales. The scales come from a small fish known to the English as the bleak, and must be picked off by hand, 18,000 fishes being required to supply a single pound of perfect scales. The artificial pearls are made in France.

Wood alcohol is coming into quite general use for lighting in France and Germany, where it is as inexpensive as kerosene. The alcohol is led to a special burner by a wick, which does not require trimming, and with a small Welsbach mantle in a slender glass chimney a smokeless and steady light of 4 candle-power is produced. This very brilliant light can be regulated perfectly and is quite odorless.

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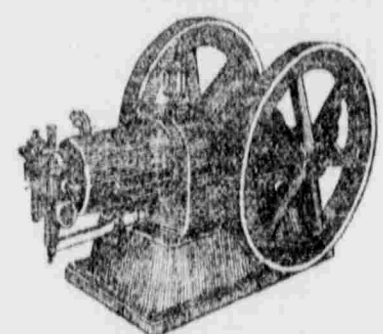


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