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ing before him on the table some piece of modeling, or book, and working while at his report.

THE BURNED GOOSE.

The only occasion on which Mme. Rodin has made her presence felt was at a dinner recently given by Rodin to a few select artists and journalistic friends. They came out to Meudon, invited to a dinner supposed to take place at 6 in the evening, but which was not placed on the table till 7. And then it was found that a goose—the principal part of the repast—was burnt.

Rodin told Mme. Rodin that the goose was burnt. Thereupon she flew into a towering rage, not with her husband, but with herself; the unfortunate goose was snatched bodily from the table; and Mme. Rodin went shrieking into the kitchen literally tearing her hair. Rodin sat for a moment in grave silence and looked at the faces of his dismayed guests. Then he burst into uproarious laughter, which was so irresistible that every one else joined in. After this incident the dinner passed off "without accident," as Rodin afterward said, and every one had a good time, for Rodin is a most entertaining talker, and his ideas are so original that it is always a treat to listen to him.

ABODE OF AN ARTIST.

Ten minutes spent in the Rodin home is sufficient to demonstrate that the place is the abode of an artist oblivious of everything except his work. Disorder seems the order of the day, so to speak. Rodin boasts of a fine picture gallery. This is just opposite the dining room. It is really a big lumber room. There is a set of parlor furniture in it; a fourposter bed and a lot of other "household stuff." Most of the paintings are not even hung. They rest on the floor with their faces turned toward the walls. Some of these paintings are by the very finest French masters—Carriera, Boussu and others who have, from time to time presented specimens of their best work to M. Rodin. Even a painting by John S. Sargent of Rodin himself, hangs in an obscure corner. Here and there about the room Rodin has glass cases containing little art treasures of his own. None of these has intrinsic value, but they are things chosen by Rodin himself, and money would not buy them. Among other things, is a little wooden model of a pigeon. It was brought from Egypt by a friend. To the outsider it seems to be worth about 20 cents; if that much. But Rodin goes into ecstasies over it.

HIS LITTLE WOODEN PIGEON.

"Just look," he exclaimed, "at those wonderful lines! (to the ordinary observer these lines seem to be very straight, and making fantastic angles, but Rodin sees things differently), "how much they express in a few simple strokes! What a wonderful people those Egyptians were!" Rodin thinks so much of this little wooden pigeon, admires it so greatly, that he frequently takes it to bed with him and places it on his pillow. He will contemplate it by the hour, and has even been known to bring it to Paris in his pocket.

Rodin believes in representing through art any subject found in nature—no matter how bestial or repugnant to taste it may be. Questioned on this point he said:

"Nature is my excuse. Whatever Nature shows me, that I try to exhibit in plaster. Whatever you see in nature is justifiable in art. My 'Doorway of Hell' has been denounced for the many horrible figures and disgusting emotions portrayed; but, I answer, if men do these things here surely we may represent them in hell."

This famous "Doorway of Hell," stands as a central object in Rodin's new studio. It is an enormous piece of sculpture, on which the artist has been working for years. Surrounding the gruesome portal are hundreds of figures in all imaginable postures—men and women, fiends and mortals. A description of these figures would not be permitted to go through the mails. Rodin is proud of this work, and the more it is denounced the better he seems to like it. He seems utterly indifferent to public criticism, and perhaps the secret of this success rests in the fact that he "works for himself."

HIS IMMENSE STUDIO.

His immense studio, which is a seasonal building of his own design, consists of one large room, with overhanging side galleries arranged like a museum. In glass cases throughout this building are hundreds, or rather thousands, of little figures of every description. Some of these little casts are not more than a few inches square, while others are colossal. Rodin delights in making tiny models of men and women, placing them in a case together and shaking the case up. They assume all sorts of queer postures, and Rodin leaves them this way. They give him ideas for groups he says.

One of the small rooms in Rodin's house is used as an office and in the last two years he has employed a secretary.



LADY WARWICK WHOSE SPEECHES FROM CARTAIL HELPED ENGLISH LABOR PARTY.

Lady Warwick, the court beauty, known as the "Democratic Countess," is given the credit for the seating in parliament of the dock laborer candidate, "Will" Thorne, on Jan. 15. The countess made several speeches from the tail end of a grocer's wagon.

Thorne is the only Socialist ever seated in parliament.

Lady Warwick is hailed as the Joan of Arc of the Labor party. She asserts that the new government would not last eighteen months.

SCIENTIFIC MISCELLANY.

The secretary is only kept for the purpose of reminding the artist of his engagements, of making contracts for works of art or writing letters to persons who may owe him money. The great artist has not departed from artistic tradition—he is always in debt. At times he will have several hundred thousand francs to his credit in the bank, and then in a few days there will be nothing. He buys immense stores of marble, puts up and pulls down new buildings about his place, takes expensive trips to see statues or buildings that may give him suggestions and treats money only as a servant of art. When Rodin has no money he lives like a pauper and his slave of a wife helps him to be as comfortable as possible under the circumstances.

KNOWS MEANING OF POVERTY.

Rodin knows what abject poverty means, and you only have to glance at Mme. Rodin to see that she has fought this fight for her husband. Today she is a broken woman of about 60, who seems to hold no place in the great sculptor's life other than that of general household drudge. Rodin, in his own home, is so absorbed in his art that he has not a moment to dwell on anything else. He thinks art morning, noon and night, and it has doubtless never occurred to him that his wife at one time might have been a real human being. There is one thing to be said in the great sculptor's favor—he is not a tyrant in his own home in the usual manner of artists—that is, his temperament is even. He never indulges in furious rages or smashes things. His life is calm and untroubled. He is gentle and quiet-thinking only of one thing—his work. His habits are abstemious; he drinks little wine and leads a simple life, thoroughly content in the ministrations of Mme. Rodin and the close proximity of his great studio where he lives and works and has his being.

W. B. NORTHROP.

Recording bird migrations, Otto Herman, a Hungarian ornithologist, is surprised to find that swallows take 105 days to complete their passing from Gibraltar to Lulea, in Sweden.

A peculiarity of nearly or quite all of the fishes allied to the celebrated "climbing perch" (anabas scandens) is that they place their eggs in nests or floats of bubbles. These fishes are all brilliantly colored, and all are natives of the Indo-Malayan rivers except one African species. Among the species making these nests are the gourami, renowned for its excellent flesh, the paradise fish, and the fighting fish, the last so-called on account of a domesticated breed kept by the Siamese for fighting. Specimens of the two latter recently studied by an English naturalist, have built their bubble rafts, of dome shape, in an aquarium. The paradise-fish gradually increases the layers of bubbles—which are blown by the male—until the eggs are raised above the water and are so hatched.

The alpha rays of radium have been found by Prof. Rutherford to have one-eleventh as great velocity as light.

The duration of sunshine in German and other European cities has been compared by Prof. Eichhorn, a meteorologist of Jena. Jena and Wiesbaden are the brightest places in Germany, the former averaging 4.8 hours of sunshine daily, and the latter 4.5 hours. The Swiss average is 4.7 hours. In Padua it is 3.6, in Rome nearly 7, in Pola and Abazia it is 7.5. Madrid with an average of 3 hours of sunshine daily, is the cheeriest city in Europe.

In the two new electric fire engines of the Vienna fire brigade, the accumulators are designed to propel the car about 28 miles at 12 1/2 miles an hour. They are placed in front of the driver's seat over the front wheels. The wheels are 2 1/2 feet in diameter, with 5-inch rubber tires, and each front wheel has a 3-horse-power Lohner-Porsche hub motor. Five speeds—from 3.5 to 22.4 miles per hour—are available.

From photographs of the spectra of Uranus and Neptune, the outermost of the sun's family of planets, it is inferred that free hydrogen is abundant, especially on Neptune, and that helium exists on Uranus. Water vapor is indicated, and possibly gases yet unknown.

The pictured halo of the saints is

claimed as an occasional phenomenon of every-day life. M. Pere reports having observed it in three cases, but he has found nobody else who has seen it. Two of the subjects were women affected only during the paroxysm. The phenomenon lasted for hours in one case, but only a few minutes in the other. In one subject the orange-colored luminosity left the skin of the same color. The third subject was a woman who sometimes awoke in agony from a deep sleep, the halo accompanying these attacks.

The sailing of new-born babies seems to be a practice of certain European nurses. A tribe of Asia Minor keep the skin covered with salt for 24 hours, and the modern Greeks sprinkle salt over the bodies. The practice is traced to a superstition that the salt ensures health and strength, and keeps away all evil spirits.

The many species of yeast hitherto known are all useless in tropical countries, as they are destroyed by a very moderate heat. A remarkable new ferment has been obtained by Johnson and Haro from eucalyptus leaves, and this has proven so resistant to temperature that it converts sugar into alcohol at 105 degrees F., and has even withstood for a short time a temperature of 170 degrees. A further advantage is that foreign micro-organisms can be destroyed by heat without injuring the yeast. The name saccharomyces thermantitonicus has been given the new yeast, and it is regarded as so valuable that it has been protected by 55 patents in different parts of the world. The cells are more oval and rather smaller than those of ordinary yeast.

Radium breaks up into helium and lead. If Rutherford's inferences are true, Radium has an atomic weight of 226, and if each of the five alpha particles given off is an atom of helium of mass 4, the residue must have an atomic weight of 206, about that of lead. This metal, moreover, is present in all radioactive minerals.

A simple method of nature printing is supplied by the "physiotype" of an English inventor. Impressions are made on white paper of ferns, leaves, feathers, sections of wood, or other objects, and these are made visible as clear and permanent pictures by the chemical action of a fine powder that is dusted over the paper. The designs may be transferred to lithographic stones or aluminum plates, for reproducing any number of copies.

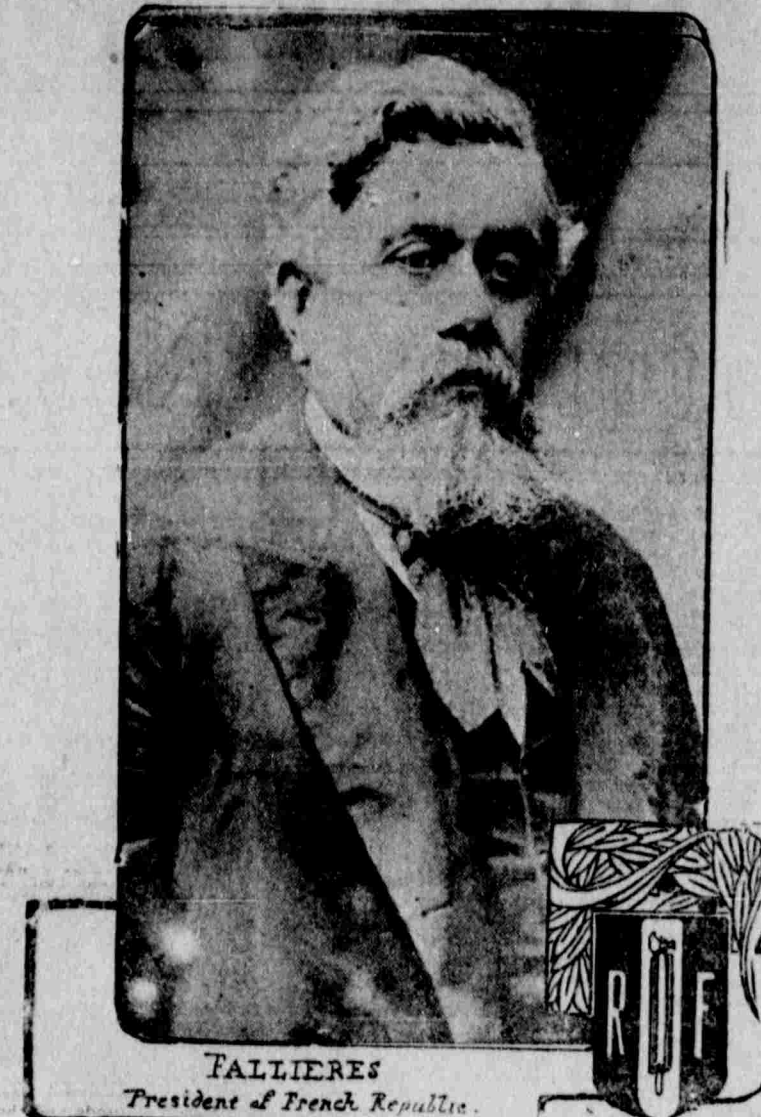
Banaharina, the new flour of fine quality from the plantain, is reported to have proven an agreeable and healthful food. In Venezuela, where it seems to be gaining favor, it is especially recommended as a nutritious food for children and invalids.

Mice exposed to radium for 20 days, in the experiments of Dr. Roax of Paris, lost their hair, and when the hair grew again it was quite white. Longer exposure developed muscular paralysis.

In calcium carbide cartridges for mining, a membrane separates the carbide from the water. The membrane is ruptured electrically, and five minutes later the gas generated is exploded by another electric spark.

It has been decided that the meat of animals used for obtaining bone is not made unfit for food. The carcasses of many calves that have been vaccinated are sold in the London market, and their use as food effects a saving of many thousand dollars annually.

The "ice flowers" of many of the lakes constitute a curious feature of Alpine scenery. In a little lake at Davos Platz, for instance, beds are formed every year of these strange "flowers," which are not flowers at all, but radiating patches of soft ice from an inch to eight inches or more across.



FALLIERES President of French Republic.

PRESIDENT-ELECT OF FRANCE.

The National assembly met last Wednesday in the congress hall of the royal palace at Versailles and on the first ballot elected M. Fallieres, president of the senate, to be president of the French republic. He will assume office on Feb. 18.

M. Fallieres received 449 votes against 371 cast for his opponent, M. Doumer.

Although several candidates were mentioned for the presidency, the real contest was between M. Fallieres and M. Doumer, president of the chamber of deputies. The former had the general support of the advanced socialist and radical groups, constituting the famous party which sustained the Combs ministry.

There is a great deal of similarity between the new and the retiring presidents of the French republic. Like M. Loubet, M. Fallieres is, before everything else, a man of the people. His grandfather was a blacksmith and his father a magistrate's clerk. Like M. Loubet, he is a man of absolute integrity, trusted even by his bitterest political opponents and esteemed by all.

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Sidi Mohamed

MOROCCAN DELEGATE TO INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MOROCCAN REFORMS.

There are fears in many diplomatic quarters that the questions to be discussed at the international conference of delegates on Moroccan reforms will lead to an international imbroglio. Mohamed Sidi, or Sidi, as he gives him his full name, Mohamed Sidi el Mokheri, is looking after Morocco's interests. Despite his appearance, he is an able and wily diplomat.

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