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New-York Tribune (New York, New York) · Sun, Dec 23, 1900 · Page 16
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THE END OF THE CENTURY.

ANOTHER ATTEMPT TO MAKE ITS TIME OF CLOSING CLEAR.

SPREAD OF THE QUESTION TO DECADES—THE FALLIBILITY OF ENCYCLOPEDIAS.

Freeborn, Minn., Dec. 19, 1900.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: I have just read the article in The Tri-Weekly Tribune of the 14th inst. about the new century—when it begins. I read the article through in hope the writer would say something about the decades—when they begin. I have been entangled in some disputes about that, and I wanted to be set right. I haven't seen any authoritative statement on that topic. I have seen plenty of arguments defending the theory that the new century begins January 1, 1901. All the arguments I have seen have been on that side. These writers all have an air of confidence that is very charming. I have read all I have seen on the subject with interest, because I want to be convinced, so as to be with the majority. I am loth to feel that all the learned men in the country are against me, or that my views differ from those of all learned people. And I don't want to set myself down as one who is too obtuse to understand reasons that are plain to everyone else. The writer of the article mentioned above says the question in regard to the beginning of the century is settled. The learned mathematicians have settled it. Everybody of learning and prominence has acquiesced in the settlement except the Emperor of Germany and the president of Wellesley College. Well, when do the decades begin? Is that question settled? If so, how? Have we begun a new decade, or must we wait till January 1, 1901? What years are comprised in a decade? When we speak of the sixties, for instance, do we mean the years between 1850 and 1870, or the years between 1861 and 1871? And the seventies, is that decade included between the years 1870 and 1880, or between the years 1871 and 1881, and so on? It seems to an unlearned man that it ought to be possible in some way to get rid of that useless and perplexing figure 1 in our reckoning and begin a new decade when we begin to write new figures. And so of the centuries. From 1800 to 1900 should include a century, even and square, and that without using the word inclusive. That would be the natural, common-sense way to do. To put on a 1 every time is unnatural and awkward.

Now I am not a learned man. I did attend a school when I was a boy away up in one of those steep hillsides in Vermont for a few terms. The district is now almost depopulated, and the site of the schoolhouse could hardly be located accurately. That is the highest school I ever attended in any sense of the word. I got but little of that, and that little was long ago forgotten. So, when it comes to learned things, I am not in it. I can understand some arguments and some I can't. I can understand how the hundredth dollar is needed to pay the $100 debt and how the nineteen hundredth dollar would be needed to pay the $1,900 debt, but I can't see why, if we are reckoning from the birth of a person, the dates should not correspond with the age of that person. Assuming that Jesus Christ was born January 1, at the beginning of the Christian era, and we have the right reckoning if He had lived till January 1, 1900, He would have been 1900 years old on that day. He would have lived His 1900th year in 1899. That idea has got stuck so fast in my thick skull that I find it hard to get it out. The ordinals are always one ahead of the numerals. Christ wasn't a year old when He was born. I can't see why we should not reckon the years of His age just as we do those of anybody else. When I get to be one hundred years old I am going to say so the very first day of that year. I am not going to drag through another year before I can call it that I am a century old. And when I get to be two hundred years old I am going to say I have lived two centuries on the very first day of that year. At the age of 1900 I am going to declare that I have lived my full nineteen centuries, and if I live a day longer it shall count on the twentieth century of my life. I am not going to feel that I am a year behind time at every one of these centennial periods.

Now, the author of the article we are considering, headed "La Fin de Siècle"—I don't know what in Sam Hill that means—says there never was a year 0, nobody ever heard of anything happening in the year 0, and that such an idea is an unaccountable thing. Well, perhaps, such an idea is an absurdity, but it seems to me it would be a mighty sight handier to have such a year than it is to try to get along without it. Then, if you are reckoning time which includes years before Christ with years afterward, you have straight work. For instance, if a child was born in the year 5 B. C. and died the same time of the year 5 A. D., if you had a zero year you could simply add the two dates together and you would have the age of the child. If there is no zero year there, then instead of the child being ten years old at death it would have been only nine. If history has failed to recognize that then history has made a mistake. It is just a little off. Chambers's Encyclopædia says that Augustus Cæsar was born September 23, in the year 63 B. C., and that he died August 19, in the year 14 A. D., and that he was in the seventy-seventh year of his age. If there is a zero year at the commencement of the Christian era Chambers's Encyclopædia is right; if there is no zero year then Chambers's Encyclopædia is wrong. Augustus Cæsar was not almost seventy-seven years old; he lacked a month of being seventy-six years old.

In the old almanacs the hour between 12 and 1 was represented by an 0. Half-past twelve was put 0:30. I asked my father once what sense there was in having an hour represented by a cipher. He said it was because the first hour was not yet completed. Why it should be any more absurd to have a zero year than it is to have a zero hour I don't understand. My ideas may seem very foolish to the learned, but there are a good many plain, blunt men, tillers of the soil like myself, that think the new century ought to begin with the new figures. It would be less confusing, and whatever the scholars may say about our thick-headedness we think it would be more in accordance with good, sound horse sense to have it so. For one I am exceedingly sorry our mathematicians find so much difficulty in figuring it out that way. I assure you, Mr. Editor, that I have all the deep and lasting regrets about this matter that the importance of the subject demands. Very truly yours,

WILBUR FISK.

It is truly a comfort to get a letter like this. It is plain, straightforward, candid, modest and honest. The writer asks frankly for an explanation which he can understand, and it is a pleasure to try to give him one. If he could see the letters on this subject which have been received at this office in the last week, the most of them stupid and silly, some of them abusive and all of them except his anonymous, he would blush for his side of the case. For he is himself obviously a gentleman and a man of sense. And he is not so thick-headed as he makes himself out to be, as is shown in several ways. In the first place, he has written a long letter which can be printed without correction, and that is a rare thing, even for an old and experienced newspaper writer. Then he has discovered that in reckoning from B. C. to A. D. it is necessary to subtract one from the sum of the numbers, and, finally, he has detected Chambers's Encyclopædia in an error by no means obvious. But of that by and by. The attempt shall now be made to clarify every point which Mr. Fisk says is obscure to him.

The decades begin with the years numbered so-and-so-and-1, and end with the years whose numbers end in 0. To be sure of this, it is necessary only to go back to the beginning, just as with the centuries. The first year began (theoretically) just when Christ was born, and ended when He was one year old. That was Christ's first year, the first year of his life, the first year of the Christian Era, the first year of our Lord, the year 1. The next year, beginning when He was one year old and ending when He was two years old, was His second year, the year 2. The first ten years were the years 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10. That was the first decade. There are ten years in it. Count them. If the year 10 were not counted in it there would be only nine, and they would not make a decade. The year 10 having been counted in the first decade, it cannot be counted in the second. The second decade began with the year 11, and it did not have ten years in it, and was not a decade, till it had included the year 20. And so on. If ever a decade were counted as ending with a year whose number ended in 9, then a year must have been dropped out of some decade to make it come so. This fact is not affected by the common expression "in the sixties" or "in the seventies." These expressions doubtless mean, respectively, the years from '60 to '69, including both, and the years from '70 to '79, including both. But it is merely a loose and conversational mode of speech, like many another. It has no historic or mathematical significance, and has nothing to do with the question. It must be borne in mind, however, that the word "decade" means merely a period of ten years, regardless of when it begins or ends. The period from July 4, 1876, to July 4, 1886, is just as much a decade as any other period of ten years.

Mr. Fisk and others should also remember that numbers and their relations are not the inventions of men. A mathematician cannot help ten years making ten any more than he can help 2 and 2 making 4. The mathematicians have merely discovered and learned many things about numbers; they have not arranged and dictated those things. Mr. Fisk thinks that it would be more convenient and sensible for decades to end with the years '79, '89, '99, etc., and for the century to end with the year '99. That is a matter of opinion, and on that subject Mr. Fisk has as much right to his own opinion as the Astronomer Royal. But the fact is that the decades and the centuries do not so end. If all the mathematicians in the world wanted to make the decades and the centuries end in that way, they could not do it. To say that it would be convenient for the century to end with the year '99, and that, therefore, it does end with the year '99, would be no more sensible than to say that it would be convenient for men to have eyes in the backs of their heads.

Mr. Fisk is mistaken when he says that, "assuming that Jesus Christ was born on January 1, at the beginning of the Christian Era, if He had lived till January 1, 1900, He would have been 1900 years old that day." He would not, and Mr. Fisk will see it, if he will count again, carefully. He would have been 1899 years old on that day. Mr. Fisk makes the mistake of supposing that the number of the year means Christ's age. It does not; it means the year of His life which is passing—the year of our Lord. Go back to what was said a little while ago. The years of the Christian Era began to count from the birth of Christ. When He was a year old one year had passed, and that year which had passed was the year 1. When He was ten years old ten years of the Christian Era had passed, the last of them being the year 10. When 1899 years had passed and the year 1900 began, He was 1899 years old. Can anything be plainer? Try it another way. How do we ordinarily determine a man's age in a given year? By subtracting the year of his birth from the year in question do we not? Very well. Christ is supposed to have been born on January 1, in the year 1. How old was He on January 1, in the year 1900? Subtract 1 from 1900 and you have 1899, and that was His age. It is not to be believed that Mr. Fisk can fail to see the point, when he looks at it in these two ways.

The term "fin de siècle," which troubles the writer of this letter, is one which has been heard a good deal in the last fifteen years or so. It means "end of the century."

Now, as to the year 0. Mr. Fisk feels that "it would be a mighty sight handier to have such a year." The answer to this is the same one which has already been used. The question is not whether it would be handier, but whether there was such a year. And there was not. Not in history, that is. In the previous article in The Tribune to which Mr. Fisk refers, it was not thought well to confuse the reader with a long explanation of the astronomical year 0, which has no significance in the present discussion. But Mr. Fisk is a man who wants the whole truth, and it is fair that he should have it. Here, then, is a quotation from the article on "Chronology" in the Encyclopædia Britannica:

> Astronomers denote the year which preceded the first of our era by 0, and the year previous to that by 1 B. C., but chronologers, in conformity with common notions, call the year preceding the era 1 B. C., the previous year 2 B. C., and so on.

But it will readily be seen that even if this year 0 were counted by historians, as it is not, it would not affect the question of when the century ends, because it comes before the Christian era begins at all, and is not a part of it. History made no mistake. The years were there, and history had to count them as they were. The fact that astronomers chose to count differently, for convenience of making elaborate calculations, has no more to do with the matter than the fact that certain mariners count the day as beginning at noon, instead of at midnight, has to do with Mr. Fisk's time of going to bed.

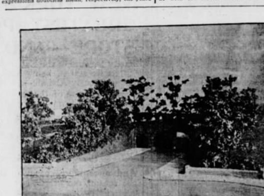
"Chambers's Encyclopædia" is wrong about the age of Augustus Cæsar, and Mr. Fisk is right. He died in his seventy-sixth year, lacking a month, as Mr. Fisk says, of being seventy-six years old. Encyclopædias are not infallible, as is shown by the fact that the "Encyclopædia Britannica" says that Augustus Cæsar died in his seventy-fifth year, thus making a mistake of exactly the same size in the opposite direction. The writer of the article in Chambers's doubtless merely added sixty-three and fourteen, carelessly forgetting what Mr. Fisk has discovered, that it is necessary to subtract one after doing that. What the writer of the article in the Britannica could have been thinking of is difficult to see. But the editors of Chambers's really knew better than to reckon in that way, or some of them did, as is shown by this extract from the article in that work on "Chronology":

> It is manifest that, since there is no 0 A. D. and no 0 B. C., we must diminish the sum of the nominal years B. C. and A. D. by unity to find the interval. Thus the years between January 1, 753 B. C., and January 1, 1888 A. D., are not 2,641, but 2,640.

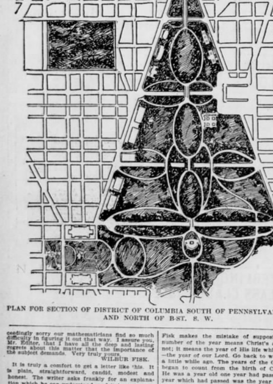
This is exactly the process which Mr. Fisk rightly says is necessary in reckoning a period which is partly B. C. and partly A. D. It is a pity that it is so inconvenient, but it cannot be helped. There are much more difficult things than this in mathematics which cannot be helped.

The manner of writing the time between midnight and 1 o'clock in the almanacs as "0:30," for half past 12, does not mean that that hour is no hour or is a zero hour. It is obviously the first hour of the day, and when it ends it is 1 o'clock. When the second hour ends it is 2 o'clock, and so on. The method of writing means that no hours and so many minutes have passed since midnight. There was also, perhaps, a feeling that it was better to have different designations for midnight and noon, the latter being marked "12."

Now, if it is possible to make this whole subject any clearer than it has been made, The Tribune would be glad to do it, but it is not easy at the moment to see how it could be explained more simply.—Ed.]



ONE OF THE TRANSVERSE ROADWAYS IN THE NEW WASHINGTON PARK PLANS.



PLAN FOR SECTION OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA SOUTH OF PENNSYLVANIA-AVE. AND NORTH OF B-ST. S. W.

THE OLD GUARD BALL.

OFFICERS AIM TO MAKE IT THE MOST NOTABLE EVER HELD.

The Old Guard, ever youthful, is to give its annual ball and reception at the Metropolitan Opera House on Thursday evening, January 24. The major commanding and his staff of officers are busy sending out invitations that are engraved and ornamented with the American eagle carrying in its beak and talons the flag of the Guard.

The ball this year is to be more brilliant than ever. The music will be by the two Old Guard bands, consisting of two hundred pieces. The decorations of the opera house are to be beautiful and unique. The drill will be very attractive, and the great variety of uniforms will be one of the features of the evening. Boxes may be obtained at the Old Guard armory, Forty-ninth-st. and Broadway, or at Captain James F. Wenman's office, No. 12 Old Slip.

FATHER AND SON MEET HORRIBLE DEATH.

Philadelphia, Dec. 22.—Edward Clark, sixty-eight years old, and his son William, thirty-eight, both of Camden, N. J., met horrible deaths while at work in this city to-day. The men were blacksmiths, employed by a firm of machinists in North Second-st. The younger Clark shortly before 11 o'clock was seized with chills, and in an attempt to get relief climbed a ladder to the top of a large boiler. In a few minutes his fellow workmen, among whom was the father, heard the noise of escaping steam.

The father, realizing his son's danger, mounted the ladder to William's rescue. He missed his footing and fell on a big cog wheel, and was ground to pieces. Meanwhile the son was on the top of the boiler, surrounded by escaping steam, and the workmen below were unable to give any assistance until the steam in the boiler had spent its force. Young Clark was then dead, having been scalded to death. The safety ball of the boiler had dropped off and allowed the forty pounds pressure of steam in the boiler to escape. Both men left families. A fourteen-year-old son of William's witnessed the death of his father and grandfather.

THE PRINT CLOTH MARKET.

Fall River, Mass., Dec. 22 (Special).—Brokers report that the sales in the local print cloth market during the week amounted to less than seventy-five thousand pieces, all odds. No regulars were disposed of during that time, as there was no demand for them. Cotton goods, though less active than at the same time last year, are none the less strong in tone. Quiet trading, however, is expected at this time of the year, and although advanced prices are prospective on account of continued high prices of cotton, buyers are purchasing in only small lots, in the hope that hand to mouth trading will prevent a rise in the price, and keep their trade supplied. No attempt will be made to force an advance by the Selling Committee until orders warrant it and the new price can be maintained. Mills are well sold ahead on wide goods, and no concessions are being made in the price. Cloth brokers here conversant with the situation believe the buyers fail to realize the smallness of the stock of cloth on hand, the comparatively small sales of the last few months leading them to think that if they continue buying from hand to mouth for a while they may secure price concessions. Manufacturers know of the excessive needs of buyers, and, while prepared to fill the demand, will insist on good prices for their production. Prices follow: Thirty-eight and one-half inch, 64 square, 4½ cents; 39 inch, 68 by 72, 5¼ cents, and regulars, 64 by 64, 3¾ cents f. o. b., at which the market is very firm, though inactive.

WASHINGTON'S BIG PARK.

THE SECRETARY OF WAR APPROVES THE PLANS FOR A MALL FROM CAPITOL TO MONUMENT.

For several years the citizens of Washington have discussed the improvement of the park system of that city, and much time has been devoted to devising schemes by which a great park and boulevard could be laid out which would include the present detached groups of park land. These groups include the mall, the Smithsonian Institution grounds, the Agricultural grounds, the Washington Monument and the Potomac Park. The most important part of this territory is the region between the Capitol and the Washington Monument. The War Department was authorized by Congress last year to employ a landscape architect to prepare and submit plans for the improvement of this territory, these plans to be examined and, if approved by the War Department, to be laid before the Senate for its consideration. The plans prepared by Samuel Parsons, jr., assisted by George F. Pentecost, have been approved by the Secretary of War, and are now before the Senate Committee on Affairs of the District of Columbia.

Mr. Parsons, in speaking of the project, said: "The salient features of the design under consideration are the comprehensive way in which it isolates the park territory from the city and produces the sensation of being among woods and meadows. The plan solves the problem of the preservation and enhancement of the effect of the vista between the Capitol and the Washington Monument—an object which has always been considered desirable. The roads are screened by embankments, so that the railroad, where it traverses the park, may be protected with trees as much as possible.

"The park scheme embraces an area of about four hundred and fifty acres, of which three hundred acres are already in park. When completed the park will extend from the Monument to the Capitol in one long, unbroken mall, and the only buildings within its limits will be the Postoffice and the group of buildings on the grounds of the Smithsonian Institution."

WORK OF THE PEOPLE'S INSTITUTE.

BY AFFORDING INSTRUCTION TO WAGE EARNERS, IT TRIES TO ADJUST SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

At the present time, when the conditions of city life, and especially of the East Side, are being discussed, it is not amiss to call public attention to the work that the People's Institute is striving to do for the wage earners of this city. It is now three years since the institute began its work of affording regular instruction in history and economics, and a forum for the discussion of questions of the day, so that the different parts of our society might understand each other better. Representative wage earners were invited to confer with men of eminence and wealth in forming the organization, the result being that in March, 1898, the first course of nineteen lectures and discussions was opened. During the second year this number was largely increased, and Sunday evening ethical addresses were added. During the season which ended last May there were 225 evenings devoted to studying and discussing ethical, historical, political and social questions. Three evenings in the week were given to class work on the University Extension plan. The number present at these meetings was estimated at 125,000, almost entirely wage earners. In addition to this work of public instruction and discussion, the institute has endeavored to meet the educational and social needs by founding a club. The People's Institute Club A was founded in February with sixty members, to furnish opportunity for the study of the problems of the day and for social intercourse.

The institute has been supported from the first by generous friends, but it needs greater and more widely extended help than it has hitherto received.

The expenses of this institute last year were over $10,000, the receipts being $6,353 13, and the deficit being met by a balance in hand from the previous year. For the due carrying out of its work for this year a sum of at least $15,000 ought to be raised.

WHAT LEE SAID OF OUR FLAG IN CUBA.

HE MEANT IT WOULD REMAIN UNTIL STABLE GOVERNMENT IS ESTABLISHED.

Chicago, Dec. 22.—A dispatch to "The Record" from St. Louis says that General Fitzhugh Lee made a speech on "Cuba" before the members of the Merchants' Exchange here yesterday which caused much astonishment and is creating a great deal of speculation as to the deep significance which an unguarded remark may have in regard to the future of Cuba.

General Lee and staff and party arrived here yesterday, and he was received on the floor of the Exchange. When he responded to the address of welcome he touched upon Cuba, reviewing the war, the destruction of the Spanish fleet, the conquest and surrender of the island and finally the evacuation of the Spanish troops. Then came the utterance which caused so much astonishment. He said:

"And now the Stars and Stripes float over Matanzas, over El Caney, over Morro, over Havana, and I'll tell you, on the quiet, that the flag is going to stay there."

St. Louis, Dec. 22.—General Fitzhugh Lee, commander of the Department of the Missouri, who is in the city as the guest of the New-England Society, said to-day in regard to a dispatch published in a Chicago paper purporting to quote from his speech made on the St. Louis Merchants' Exchange yesterday, in which he was said to have made the prediction that the American flag will continue to float over the island of Cuba:

"The meaning I intended to convey was that the American flag would float over Cuba until a stable government shall be formed capable of protecting life and property and giving confidence to capital. The United States has promised the Cubans self-government, and will carry out its promise. Upon the Cubans will rest the responsibility of determining whether that government shall be permanent or otherwise."

Under the escort of W. B. Homer, president, and a committee from the New-England Society, of St. Louis, General Lee and staff, with the women of the party, to-day visited Jefferson Barracks, the Regular Army post south of the city.

THE FRENCH COOKS' EXHIBIT.

Having finished planning their masterpieces for the holiday season, the French chefs of the big restaurants and hotels of the city are now devoting their energies to preparing for the great culinary exhibit which they make every year at Madison Square Garden. This affair is the annual masquerade ball and carnival given by the Société Culinaire Philanthropique, which comprises most of the French cooks of the city. It will be held at Madison Square Garden on the afternoon and evening of February 6.

URIC ACID OR GOUT POISON

Physicians at Hot Springs use and prescribe

BUFFALO LITHIA WATER

in Gout, Rheumatic Gout, Rheumatism, Calculi, etc.

Dr. Algernon S. Garnett, *Surgeon (retired) U. S. Navy, Resident Physician, Hot Springs, Ark.:* "My experience in the use of **BUFFALO LITHIA WATER** is limited to the treatment of **Gout, Rheumatism,** and that hybrid disease, **'Rheumatic Gout'** (so-called), which is in contradistinction to the **Rheumatoid Arthritis of Garrod.**

"I have had *excellent results* from this water in these affections, **both in my own person and in the treatment of patients for whom I have prescribed it.** Of course, the remedial agent is its contained **Alkalies** and their **solvent properties.**

"Hence it is a **prophylactic as well as a remedy in Nephritic Colic** *and forming* **Calculi,** *when due to a redundancy of* **Lithic Acid.**"

The late Dr. Wm. F. Carrington, *Resident Physician, Hot Springs, Ark., Surgeon (retired) U. S. Navy, Surgeon Confederate States Navy:*

"**BUFFALO LITHIA WATER,** Spring **No. 2,** has signally demonstrated its remedial power in **Gout, Rheumatic Gout, Rheumatism, Uric Acid Gravel,** and other maladies dependent upon the **Uric Acid Diathesis.**

"**It not only eliminates from the blood the deleterious agent before it crystallizes, but dissolves it in the form of Calculi, at least to a size that renders its passage along the ureters and urethra comparatively easy.**"

BUFFALO LITHIA WATER, Springs 1 and 2, have both shown adaptation so remarkable in **URIC ACID DIATHESIS** that it would be impossible to determine **their relative value** in these conditions. There are many instances, however, in which a patient, deriving little or no benefit from the water of one Spring, finds relief in the water of the other Spring, and vice versa, which would seem to indicate, unmistakably, **some especial curative virtue in each water.** Dr. James Shelton, thirty years resident physician at the Springs, was decidedly of the opinion that in **Acute Inflammatory Rheumatism, Muscular Rheumatism, Subacute Rheumatism,** etc., **the water of Spring No. 1 possesses, as a general rule, the greater curative power, and gave preference to this water in treating these cases.**

BUFFALO LITHIA WATER is for sale by Grocers and Druggists generally.

Testimonials, which defy all imputation or questions, sent to any address.

PROPRIETOR, BUFFALO LITHIA SPRINGS, VIRGINIA.

PETER COOPER HIGH SCHOOL

TO PROVIDE FOR THREE THOUSAND PUPILS IN THE BOROUGH OF THE BRONX.

The contract has been let for a new, handsome and fully equipped high school to be erected on the north side of East One-hundred-and-sixty-sixth-st. in the block bounded by the old Boston Road on the west and Jackson-ave. on the east. The building is to provide for at least three thousand pupils, of whom more than twenty-five hundred are now enrolled under Dr. Edward J. Goodwin, the principal, in the present quarters and annexes beyond the Harlem.

The site for this new building, which is to be known as the Peter Cooper High School, will give it a prominence in the neighborhood and a frontage of 312 feet in East One-hundred-and-sixty-sixth-st. A basement under half of the building forms an additional story at the eastern end, and on the Jackson-ave. side a sub-basement will be fitted for the boilers and the coal supply. Above the basement will be five stories, which will provide seventy-one classrooms in all for school work, not including those that will be used for stores, toilet, lockers, for teachers and other necessary purposes in modern structures.

There are to be twelve laboratories for chemical, physiological, biological, physiographical and other purposes, including three lecture rooms to be used in connection with them. Independent of the lecture rooms, there are to be four large study halls, one on each floor, and provision for a large library on the second floor, with five other rooms assigned for special purposes. As this is a school for both boys and girls, separate gymnasiums have been provided, each with its running track, shower bath, locker rooms, doctor's examination rooms, etc. The auditorium is formed by a two story structure at the rear, with entrances from the main building and the adjoining streets. It will seat eighteen hundred, and will be used on all public occasions, as well as for the daily opening exercises.

In the treatment of this building C. B. J. Snyder, Superintendent of School Buildings, has selected the English Collegiate Gothic as best adapted to modern uses and construction. The exterior finish is to be of gray brick, gray stone and gray terra cotta trimmings. A striking feature in the façade is the large central tower, of rugged Norman aspect, nearly fifty feet square and about one hundred and seventy feet high. It is not merely for appearance, but is to be utilized to carry up the large ventilating shafts which conduct the exhausted air from the classrooms, and one of the corner turrets will contain the boiler chimney, which Mr. Snyder has disposed of artistically by this device without marring the general contour or beauty of the structure. The upper floors of the tower he has also provided for use as laboratories for the special work of the faculty, the need of which, it was urged, is always felt, but has rarely been provided for.

The Peter Cooper High School when completed will be the most complete and modern school structure of The Bronx. The contract price of the building is $469,383, and the contractor is Louis Wechsler. The work, it is expected, will begin within a few weeks, and the building will be completed early in the spring of 1902.

THE NEW PETER COOPER HIGH SCHOOL.

To be erected in East One-hundred-and-sixty-sixth-st., Bronx Borough.

EMPLOYES MADE HAPPY.

The many employes of Cowperthwait & Sons, at Chatham Square and also at One-hundred-and-twenty-first-st. and Third-ave., were generously remembered yesterday, the firm presenting to each employe, as it has done for several years past, a cash Christmas gift.

PREPARATIONS FOR THE FRENCH BALL.

At Madison Square Garden on Tuesday, January 8, will be held the ball which the Cercle Français de l'Harmonie gives every year. This time it will celebrate the birth of a century. The Cercle Français de l'Harmonie has given carte blanche to the decorators and programme makers, and they have taken full advantage of their opportunity. Fanciulli's 71st Regiment Band will be there, two hundred strong, and Max Schwab's orchestra has been rehearsing new music for the occasion.

Books and Publications.

BRENTANO'S.

ALL BOOKS AT SWEEPING REDUCTIONS FROM PUBLISHERS' PRICES.

Open Evenings Until Christmas.

31 UNION SQUARE.

HUSBAND DECEIVED AS TO BABY.

WIFE REPRESENTS CHILD AS HER OWN AND HE FORSAKES HER.

When he appeared in the West Side Court yesterday to explain the charge of abandonment made against him by his wife, Joseph Goodhart, an expressman, of No. 248 West Thirtieth-st., told Magistrate Mayo that on Monday last his wife had tried to foist upon him a stranger's child as her own. He had received a note while at work on Monday stating that his wife had given birth to a child. He had hurried home and had found his wife in bed, the new baby beside her. Taking up the infant he had kissed it a great many times. Mrs. Goodhart had said she did not need the services of a midwife, but Goodhart had insisted. He had borrowed $10 from his employer and engaged a midwife.

Mrs. Goodhart had refused to allow the midwife to wait upon her. Before she went away the latter had a whispered consultation with Mr. Goodhart, in which she had confided to him that in her opinion the baby looked rather old for a new born infant.

At last Goodhart had been convinced that something was wrong, and he had accused his wife of deceiving him. His wife had tearfully confessed that the baby was not hers. She had told him that earlier in the day she had met a strange woman in Eighth-ave. who asked if she wanted a baby. The woman had given her the child and $2. Goodhart then had left home and had said he would never have anything more to do with his wife.

Magistrate Mayo gently reproved Mrs. Goodhart for her conduct in the affair, and told her to take the baby to Superintendent of Outdoor Poor Blair, giving her a card of direction. Before she left the court to do so she declared that she had had nothing to eat, that bills were being presented and she had no money with which to pay them. Goodhart declined to live with her again.

Magistrate Mayo will decide to-morrow how much money Goodhart shall give his wife for her support. They have been married two years. Goodhart says he earns only a small salary as an expressman.

HENKEN DEPORTED TO RUSSIA.

Deputy United States Marshal Bernhard took Solomon Henken, who is charged with forgery in Russia to the amount of 45,000 rubles, to South Brooklyn early yesterday and put him on the steamship Hekla, which sailed from Forty-first-st. at 7 a. m., bound for Copenhagen. Henken was arrested on his arrival in this country.

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