

SHORT-MEMORIED ENGLISHMEN.

Forgetfulness Said To Be Due to Stress of Modern Life.

ABSENT-MINDED MEN.

Can you remember the events of yesterday? Do you forget social engagements and appointments?

According to an experienced mental specialist, the average man's memory is getting shorter and shorter. "Very few men can remember exactly what happened twenty-four hours past," he told *The Daily Mirror* yesterday.

"The man who can detail exactly what he did the previous day is something of a phenomenon. He must either be living a very quiet, retired life, or have a more developed brain than his fellows.

BUSINESS WORRIES.

"Within the past thirty years the stress and competition of business life have been gradually increasing, and this is the chief cause of our memories getting shorter.

"Many men get into a kind of unconscious way of living. What they do or where they go makes very little impression upon them, and events are forgotten an hour after they have happened. Only vital matters of business or of family interest are remembered.

"It is only natural in these busy times that memories are shorter than they were in the peaceful times of our forefathers, but where will it end? What will the average memory be like fifty years hence?

"Here is a test for the man who believes he has a good memory. Could he prove, supposing he was arrested on a murder charge, what he was doing at 8.30 p.m. last Wednesday evening?

"Very few men who lead a busy life and travel about town could remember. It would be difficult to recall what they had for lunch the previous day."

MEN'S MINDS BLANK.

A well-known member of a West End ladies' club was also seen. "Women have much better memories than men," she said.

"One is constantly reading of men who forget their wedding day. Never have I heard of a woman who has forgotten that important occasion. Cases of absent-minded men going on holidays without their luggage or forgetting their hats are very common.

"I certainly think that the memories of many men of my acquaintance are getting worse and worse. They forget social engagements, dinners, and balls. Their mind is a blank to everything except their own personal pleasures."

GREAT POET'S FUNERAL.

No Formal Request Yet Received for Mr. Swinburne's Burial in Poets' Corner.

A general desire has been expressed that the body of Mr. Swinburne should be laid to rest in the Poets' Corner at Westminster Abbey.

On inquiring at the Abbey yesterday *The Daily Mirror* was informed that the Dean had not received any formal communication on the subject, and that if any request were made it would, of course, be through him.

It is stated that the poet will be buried in the Bonchurch burying-ground, Isle of Wight, on Thursday next. Mr. Swinburne's father and mother, his sisters Edith, Alice, and Charlotte, and his brother Edward were interred at Bonchurch.

NINE-YEAR-OLD BOY'S "RECORD."

Woman's Purse Stolen While She Was Watching a Wedding Party.

While waiting outside St. Mark's Church, Tooting Park, watching a wedding party, Mrs. Charlotte Cook, the wife of a Holloway fishmonger, missed her purse containing 19s.

From what she was told by another boy, she went to the home of a lad named Matthew John Bailey, aged nine, and asked him if he had her purse. He produced some money and another purse which was not hers, and was arrested.

At the North London Police Court yesterday it was stated that the boy had had six strokes of the birch for stealing money, and had been charged with other boys with office-breaking, but let off on account of his age.

The magistrate granted a remand to the remand home.

WIRELESS TELEPHONE SUCCESS.

Voices Heard with Perfect Clearness Over Distance of Twenty-Eight Miles.

PARIS, Monday.—The newspapers state that excellent results were obtained yesterday in the official trials between Paris and Melun, a distance of about twenty-eight miles, of the new wireless telephone apparatus invented by two naval lieutenants.

The experiments were carried out at the instance of M. Picard, Minister of Marine. The voices of the operators were heard with perfect clearness.—Reuter.

2,055 LOST DOGS.

Dogs received at the Temporary Home for Lest Dogs, Battersea, during March numbered 2,055.

APRIL SUN'S EFFECT ON CROPS.

Summer-Like Weather of Early Spring Compensates for March Frosts—Fruit and Flower Prospects Good.

In spite of the brilliant sunshine of the past few days, all crops, whether fruit, flowers, cereals, or hops, are in a very backward state.

Reports received yesterday from *Daily Mirror* correspondents in different parts of the country all show that March's severe weather has exercised a retarding influence on all vegetation, while even now growers are not altogether free from anxiety occasioned by late frosts during the night-time. In many places, too, drought has had to be reckoned with.

The apple season is at least three weeks behind-hand, but the complaint of the hop-growers is even worse. In Worcestershire it is reported that the crops were never before so backward at this stage of April.

Strawberry plants are beginning to look quite green and attractive, and it is hoped that London and the provincial markets will be well supplied with the most delicious fruit before Whitsuntide. Providing the young shoots are not damaged, there is every reason to anticipate a crop well above last year's, which was a remarkably heavy one.

Farming prospects have also brightened considerably, and it has been possible to sow barley under exceptionally favourable conditions in Yorkshire. Flockmasters in the north, however, complain of the backwardness of the grass growth, and regard the position of affairs with some anxiety, because the new-born lambs do not derive sufficient sustenance from their dams necessary to maintain them in vigorous health.

Roots are becoming scarce, but hay is plentiful and cheap.

The bloom season for flowers in the Lincolnshire Fen districts is about a week late, but the prospects as to fruit are described as exceptionally good.

CROPS LATE EVERYWHERE.

Cornwall has been favoured with magnificent weather, from the farmers' and growers' point of view, of late, and this has had a splendid effect on the growth of broccoli and bulbous flowers, for which the district is famous.

Special trains containing nothing but vegetables and flowers were daily travelling out of Cornwall last week, and Cornish grown broccoli has invaded the London, Scotch, Welsh, and Midland markets.

Flowers have bloomed magnificently, and the Scilly season just ending has been an especially fine one, about 770 tons, representing about 133 million single blooms, having been shipped to the mainland. At first it seemed that the flowers would bloom too soon, but the cold March which did so much damage elsewhere proved a blessing to the islands, keeping them back.

From the strawberry fields of the Swanwick and South Hants district comes the news, welcome to the strawberry-lover, that a crop well above last year's—itsself a heavy one—is expected.

GOOD STRAWBERRY PROSPECTS.

Already the fields look green and attractive, and with the advent of warmer weather it is expected that the early varieties will be on the market before Whitsuntide, and that Bank-holiday week will see the London market well supplied.

There is keen rivalry between the South Hants and Channel Island growers, but this year the former are confident that, given freedom from frost, they will win the race and get their fruit first on the market.

From Exeter comes the news that all is well with the apple crop, despite the fact that the season is at least three weeks late. The buds have developed wonderfully in the recent sunshine, and there is every prospect of a good crop.

Still later is the season in the orchards of Herefordshire, for there nightly frosts have undone the good work of the day's sunshine, and the blossom is not yet visible.

However, this is perhaps fortunate, for had the blossom come out and been touched by the frost it would have meant ruin; but at present the worst anticipated is a backward crop.

Rain is wanted to assure a good fruit crop, and to mean a successful cider and perry season. The success of the apple crop means a great deal in the

district, for the cider industry has spread much of late years.

Never in the memory of Worcestershire hop-growers have the hops been so backward at this time of the year, and they are cutting so dry as to promise only an extremely light crop.

A similar state of affairs prevails in the Kentish hop-fields, where the late winter has prevented any material growth in the plantations. The area under hops, as in recent years, shows a material decrease.

But both in Worcestershire and Kent fruit prospects are good, though the season will, as everywhere else, be a late one. The apple blossom promises well. The pear and plum trees have not yet blossomed in Worcestershire, and there is thus every prospect that the blossom when it comes will avoid any touch of frost. Both fruits are likely to be abundant.

Cottagers and allotment-holders have been busy in their gardens in East Kent, the conditions of late having been ideal for them. With warm showers in a few days they count on a good start with their small seeds.

LINCOLNSHIRE NARCISSUS.

Farmers are not so happy, for their spring sowing, generally begun in March, has been delayed until April. The land, however, is reported to be in excellent condition, and now that a start has been made good progress should result.

The peach trees and the flowering almond trees have a lovely show of blossom, and the pears, plums, and cherries will soon follow.

Lincolnshire has reaped great benefit from the warm weather experienced of late, and especially has this been the case with the extensive narcissus crop. The sun has brought the bloom on splendidly, although it is about a week late.

High prices have already been obtained for the forced crop, but the gathering of the outdoor bloom is only now commencing.

Fruit prospects are exceptionally good, though vegetables are very backward. Spring cabbages and broccoli are late, and vegetables generally are likely to be scarce and dear. A start has been made in putting in the early potatoes, and the small holders have been actively engaged in this direction.

Wheat prospects are good. The crop is coming on nicely under the influence of the genial sunshine, and promises to be a good one.

FARMING IN THE NORTH.

In Yorkshire and the North the outburst of sunshine and a high temperature by day have suddenly changed the outlook of the farmer, and the cultivator of light soil has been enabled to sow barley under exceptionally favourable conditions.

The drilling of spring corn, oats, and barley should have begun the first week in March in the North, but only during the past few days has a start been made with sowing; even now heavy clay land is not ready for the reception of seed.

From April 6 to April 10 rime frosts were experienced—9deg., and in some cases 10deg., of frost being registered on the grass, while ponds were coated with ice. The severity of the night air has injured seeds, pastures, also fruit trees, that were in a forward state, and has hindered the growth of grass, which is fearfully backward.

This condition of affairs tells severely on flockmasters, as the new-born lambs do not derive sufficient sustenance from their dams when the grass crop is backward.

Roots are getting scarce, but hay is plentiful and cheap. A long spell of sunny weather would put the graziers into good heart, and save in exceptional circumstances, an uninterrupted continuance of warmth would be appreciated by both arable and grass land farmers.

The boom in wheat prices has come too late for Northern farmers to take advantage of extending the area under that now profitable cereal.

The autumn-sown wheat in some parts looked weak, this being attributable to frosts unaccompanied by snow. A wonderful change for the better is, however, now noticeable. The sheep trade is deplorably bad.

Lambling throughout the country has been late, luckily late; for those flockmasters whose flocks lambed in March suffered severely, many of the progeny dying through the cold.

MOTHER AND BABY IN RIVER.

Passers-by Rescue Parent, but Find No Trace of Her Child.

The body of an eighteen-months-old baby, identified as the child of Jane Wright, of Roding-road, Homerton, was recovered from the River Lea at Hackney yesterday.

Shortly after ten o'clock the night before a woman was heard shouting "Save my baby!" near Stanard's bathhouse, and passers-by, going to the spot, found Wright struggling in the water.

She was got to the bank and taken to the Hackney Infirmary, but no trace of the baby could then be found. Dragging operations were undertaken yesterday, as a result of which the body was recovered.

TO PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTORS.

Beautifully printed copies of any photograph in *The Daily Mirror* which bears the imprint "Daily Mirror photograph" may be had on application to the Illustrations Bureau, 12, Whitefriars-street, E.C., at the following prices: 6in. by 4in., 1s.; 8in. by 6in., 1s. 6d.; 10in. by 8in., 2s.; 12in. by 10in., 2s. 6d. (mounted or unmounted). Remittances must in all cases accompany the order. Postal orders to be crossed Coutts and Co.

CHASE IN THE DARK.

Artist's Pursuit of Alleged Burglar Ends in Capture on Kingston Hill.

A tale of an exciting chase after a supposed housebreaker was unfolded yesterday at Kingston-on-Thames County Police Court, when Edwin Nollas, labourer, was remanded charged with loitering at Kingston Hill for the supposed purpose of committing a felony.

Mr. John Radford Jarvis, a local artist, said he had just retired to bed on Sunday morning when he heard a noise outside the house, and, going downstairs, saw a man, who he alleged was the prisoner, trying to get in at the front window.

The man bolted, and Mr. Jarvis followed him in the direction of Kingston Hill, where he saw a police-sergeant, who took up the chase in the darkness, but lost sight of the man.

A few minutes afterwards two plain clothes officers, stationed on Kingston Hill, saw the prisoner running towards them, and captured him on some enclosed premises.

The Prime Minister and Mrs. Asquith left Esher yesterday, where they have been staying with Sir Edgar and Lady Helen Vincent. They are going to Wiltshire on a visit to Sir John Dickson-Poynder, M.P.

SUFFRAGETTE JIU-JITSU.

"Daily Mirror's" Expert Garrotter Foiled by Lady Exponent of Art.

Jiu-jitsu displays by suffragettes are to be a novel feature of the forthcoming fair of the Women's Freedom League at Caxton Hall.

Mrs. Garrud, who is a member of the league, has undertaken to give suffragettes instruction in the art of self-defence, and the display at Caxton Hall will give a practical idea of the advantages of a knowledge of jiu-jitsu.

A mock suffragette meeting will be held, and it will be invaded by a gang of supposed hoodlums, who will be given a very lively reception by the ladies.

Mrs. Garrud, who is rather under the average height, yesterday invited a *Daily Mirror* representative to garrot her, in order that she might show how easily a woman who knows the art of jiu-jitsu can protect herself.

"I first approached Mrs. Garrud from behind," writes *The Daily Mirror* garrotter, "and flung my arm round her neck and commenced to garrot with a will; but I had barely started when she gripped me near the shoulder and the wrist, and flung me over her head, somersault fashion, without any apparent exertion.

"After picking myself up I attempted to snatch a girl's handbag. I had just grasped the chain of the bag with my right hand when I felt a sharp wrench at my left wrist. The pain was so acute that I had to release my hold of the chain.

"I swung round and clutched Mrs. Garrud by the throat with both hands, but she was quite equal to this attack. She put her right arm round me and threw me quickly over her hip to the ground.

"Rising in a more or less dazed condition, I seized a knife in my right hand and rushed at her. Again the attack was unsuccessful. She caught my descending wrist on one of her own, and, twining her other arm about mine, brought me to my knees, making me drop my knife to escape a fractured elbow.

"Then I tried another method. I seized her round the waist and pinned her arms to the sides, and just as I thought that I was getting the better of the attack Mrs. Garrud, with a sharp twist, released her arms, and with almost incredible swiftness I was thrown to the ground.

"I rose convinced of the efficacy of jiu-jitsu, and, aching in every limb, crawled painfully away, pitying the constable whose ill-fortune it should be to lay hands on Mrs. Garrud."

CANADA'S VAST COAL BEDS.

North-Western Fields Estimated to Contain at Least 40,000,000,000 Tons.

It was estimated that there were 20,000,000,000 tons of marketable coal in the Canadian north-western coalfields, states a report, just published, of the United States Consul at Fernie, Canada, but later developments show that this estimate may be safely doubled.

The coal beds comprise a total thickness of over 200ft., in layers of from a few inches in thickness to 30ft., and of the total 200ft. at least 100ft., it is estimated, is workable and marketable coal.

TEMPTING THEIR OWN CHILDREN.

Magistrate Cautions Parent as to Provision Under the New Act.

Addressing a woman at the Tower Bridge Police Court yesterday, who charged her son, aged fifteen, with robbing her of her purse containing 30s., the magistrate said that under the new Act he had power to make her pay the fine because she put temptation in the boy's way.

One great object of the Act, he said, was to make parents more careful, and not to put temptation in their children's way. He sent the prisoner to the remand home.

ARRESTED ON MAIL STEAMER.

Englishman Tells Antwerp Police That He Killed White Man in Rhodesia.

ANTWERP, Monday.—The Englishman arrested here yesterday on the arrival of the Congo mail steamer Bruxellesville told the British Consul at Boma that he had killed a white man in Rhodesia before he went to the Congo. As, however, his statements could not be verified, he was allowed to embark on the Bruxellesville as an ordinary seaman.

At Antwerp he was taken to the office of the commissary of police, where he repeated the statement he made at Boma. He was accordingly arrested, and the British Consul was notified.—Reuter.

FIRE IN FLEET-STREET.

Smart Work of Brigade Excites Keen Admiration of Holiday-Makers.

A serious fire broke out yesterday afternoon at 89, Fleet-street, in the upper floors of the building.

Within a few minutes of the discovery of the outbreak fourteen engines and two escapes were on the scene, and a large crowd of holiday-makers—many from the country—were keenly interested in the smart work of the Brigade, which got the fire under in less than half an hour.

EARTHQUAKE IN PERU.

LIMA (Peru), Monday.—A severe shock of earthquake, accompanied by subterranean rumblings, a dense fog, and clouds of dust, was felt here this morning.—Reuter.