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BOY KING'S PALACE.

Where Alfonso Lives and How They Guard Him in His Sleep.

The Infanta Isabella, aunt of the king, a widow sixty years of age and the most popular person in Spain, formerly had a large suite of apartments on the main floor of the palace, but with her usual delicacy and thoughtfulness she vacated them after the recent coronation in order that they might be ready for the queen mother in case the king should marry.

The young king and his mother have large suites on the front of the palace facing the city. The king has very comfortable quarters, much more homelike than are usually found in royal palaces. He has a series of drawing rooms, a dining room larger than that at the White House at Washington, a library with about 6,000 volumes upon the shelves, mostly modern publications and current literature in all the European languages; a music room, a smoking room, billiard room, gymnasium and study, which is also used as an office.

His sleeping chamber is large and airy and contains two beds, one of which is occupied by his private secretary or one of his tutors, or aids, as they are termed since the coronation—Major Lorja, Major Castleton or Count Andino. He is never allowed to sleep alone, and in an adjoining room sleeps Prudencio, his venerable valet, while two of his bodyguards are always in the anteroom, which must be passed before his chamber is reached.

Some of these rooms are occupied in common with the queen mother, but she has her own suite of five or six rooms adjoining, with access to the flat roof of a long wing which is occupied by the guards and the Intendente or superintendent of the palace. This is arranged so that awnings may be dropped in hot weather and is decorated with palms and other plants and flowers. It also gives the king and the queen an opportunity for exercise, being about 400 feet long and 40 feet wide.

Nine Miles in Forty-two Seconds.

The first question one usually asks in regard to a gun is, How far will it shoot? But with the artillerist range is not the measure of efficiency. The question rather should be, How much steel will the shot penetrate? As a matter of fact, the twelve inch gun will easily shoot a distance of nine miles. Standing behind the gun, it will require but little practice to follow with the eye the projectile in its flight. If the gun be elevated to twenty degrees, the projectile will be seen as a black speck to rise one mile above the earth before it begins to descend, and if the observer has a stop watch he will find that the shell takes just forty-two seconds to travel the nine miles, a velocity sufficient to girdle the globe in less than thirty-three hours. It is more to the point, however, to know that with 385 pounds of smokeless powder the new 40 caliber twelve inch gun will send an 850 pound armor piercing shell hurtling through 19.5 inches of harveized nickel steel armor at a distance of 3,000 yards.—Lieutenant Commander Albert Gleaves in World's Work.

Handling Wild Animals.

Carl Hagenbeck, the animal dealer of Hamburg, Germany, says: "The giraffe is a very awkward animal to handle. A full grown one ran away with me in Suez some years ago. The rope I held him by got entangled round my arm, and I was dragged along the streets and was fearfully banged about. I have had several exciting experiences with frightened animals. A freshly imported troop of elephants that I took into Vienna broke loose and ran away. I was upon one of them myself, the others all hugging close to it. I lost my elephant guiding hook, but I stopped him by biting his ear with my teeth, when all the others stopped with him. On another occasion a big African elephant got frightened and bolted in the streets of Hamburg. I held fast to his ears, however, and brought him to a standstill."

Ions and Electrons.

If we must discard the atom, what are we to accept in its place? Two new conceptions have been found necessary—the "ion" as the unit of matter, the "electron" as the unit of force. The new chemistry holds that matter and force are different manifestations of the same thing. Inertia is the characteristic—indeed, the indispensable—property of both matter and electricity. What would be simpler than to assume that the ultimate particles of each are one and the same? Professor Fleming has declared that "we can no more have anything which can be called electricity apart from corpuscles than we can have momentum apart from matter."

Train Pictures.

A quaint but not unpractical device for enabling passengers who have alighted from a railway carriage to find their compartment again is that which has been tried on a French railway. It is a system of pictures. On the window of the end compartment of each carriage is a different picture—a windmill or a soldier or a horse. This makes recognition easy. It is difficult in England and on the continent to find the right carriage after leaving it. The pictures in France serve much the same purpose as the names on American parlor cars.

Tamut the Future Great.

The Australian federation seems likely to settle upon Tamut as the permanent capital of the commonwealth. But it is a condition that the town must change its name. Ottawa, the capital of Canada, was originally named Birtown, but Tamut is much worse.

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