

FRIEND OF THE POOR.

Philanthropist Spends His Last Days Donating \$10,000,000.

CLOSELY INVESTIGATES CASES.

Abraham Slimmer of Iowa Acquired His Fortune For the Sole Purpose of Aiding the Needy and Sick. How He "Drives Bargains" to Make Institutions Self Supporting.

In Abraham Slimmer, Waverly, Ia., has a philanthropist who has mastered the science of successful charity, says the New York Evening World. In many ways he resembles John M. Burke of New York, and he works a great deal along the lines of Mr. Burke's ideas, save that he seeks to help the very poor. He has accumulated \$10,000,000, and he is going to give it all away. Already he has arranged for the disposition of a part of it. He gives with as much care as he has exercised all his life in his business. In his own language, he "drives a hard bargain," but the recipients of his charity come to see the common sense of his arrangements.

Mr. Slimmer is a bachelor. He says he has made money all his life, and the only pleasure he finds now is in giving it away. He expects to die without a cent.

In an interview in which he outlined his plans Mr. Slimmer told of some things he has done and discoursed upon the foolishness of the general run of charity. He has a safe full of iron-clad contracts he has made with the recipients of his bounty and prides himself on the fact that they cannot be broken. Said he, showing one of these documents:

"Here is a contract with a hospital. I gave them \$50,000, and they at first raised the same amount, when a few weeks before they told me they could not raise \$2,000 to keep the little hospital they had from being abandoned. Later they raised another \$50,000, and it is now a rich institution. My conditions were hard, and they fought me for months over them, but they feel differently now. I provided that the building should cost \$25,000 and the remaining \$75,000 should be placed in a permanent fund, which I named after the widow of an ex-governor of the state solely because she was a good woman. She had not a dollar to give. Then I provided that every patient who had no money should be paid at the rate of \$7 per week out of this permanent fund. If there were no poor patients, they got none of the fund.

"Begging letters?" he repeated in answer to the question. "Yes, I get thousands of letters of all kinds—letters asking me how I work my charities, letters telling me that I ought to have a helper, and winding up with some good woman offering to marry me. But it is not through letters that I find out what to do. I go into a town, attracted perhaps by a little item in a paper. I say nothing, but find out things. One time I went into a town and found there was an old woman's home where the inmates were placed two in a small room that had to be chalked across to keep the occupants from quarreling. They asked me to buy a quilt, as they were having to make and sell things or close the institution. I refused to buy the quilt because I could not see any good that money would do, but I hunted up the richest man in the town and told him that if he and his neighbors would raise \$70,000 I would give the same. He laughed at me and said the thing was utterly impossible; that they had been trying to raise \$1,500 for two years and had only half of it. I talked to him for half an hour, and he gave \$10,000 himself and got the other \$10,000 in twenty-four hours."

Mr. Slimmer is now, as he says, seventy-three years of age. He is a small man, perhaps 5 feet 7 inches, and weighs 130 pounds. He is inseparable from his hat and never changes the style. He cares little for dress and wears a twelve-dollar suit, with old style boots. Besides his "work," his hobby is old people and old friends. Among the latter he numbers Turk, as usually an old horse, grown fat and sleek on the best the land affords, as one will meet in a day's journey. He had a little crop-eared dog, mention of whose death a year ago is still the signal for a solemn face on the part of the master.

Mr. Slimmer has many plans for the future. He has just begun to give money away, he says. Some of his plans concern Chicago. He will not discuss them except in a general way. But wherever he goes and whatever he does it will be taken for granted that some conditions will be maintained.

"I do not make hard and fast conditions with the sisters," he says, "because they devote their lives to the work, perform the labor of the institutions with their own hands and can make an institution pay where salary drawing people would fail. They are honest and earnest, and if their religion is narrow, according to my way of thinking, they are earnest believe in it."

torles of the institutions I help to start. I do not care for a few, but I will not have them given any part of the management of affairs. They are sympathetic and emotional, but they cannot do anything without getting up factions and quarrels, and they put their personal friends in fat positions if they can. And, last of all, I will not give anything to institutions that can get along without me. I prefer to start something myself—something that would not be started without me. I can find enough to do even with all these conditions, so my business will not suffer for want of patronage."

NEW CATTLE PUNCHER

How an Electric Device Drives Steers to Slaughter.

SAVES BRUISING OF THE BEEF.

Work Is Done in One-half the Time and With Half the Exertion by a Novel Invention of a Kansas City Man—Approved of by an Armour Official.

The employees of a packing company in Kansas City now employ electricity to drive the cattle into the beef beds instead of shouts, clubs, whips and prods, says the New York Herald.

The application of electricity is made by two insulated wires connected with the light wires over the catching pen and the knocking pens. The current passes through a stick and connects with two brass points on the end.

"Punchers" is the name given the sticks. There are two punchers, each six feet long, in the catch pen and five four feet long in the knocking pens. The insulated wires are about twenty feet long, thus covering a distance in the pens of about thirty feet each.

One hundred and twenty-five volts of electricity are turned on. It is enough to make a sharp, stinging sensation without leaving a mark or a bruise on the beef. It is said fifty volts would be as effective.

The work is done in one-half the time and with half the exertion. The effect on the steer of the magic touch is amusing to see. A steer touched on the left hip immediately throws his hind quarters as far as he can to the right. He cocks one ear straight ahead and one straight back, switches his tail and starts straight ahead, not caring for a second shock.

There is a look of surprise in his eyes, and he seems to know that all the trouble lies in the end of that stick. He doesn't stop to get mad or howl. He has urgent business at the other end of the pen. That is exactly where the drivers and knockers want him.

It completely does away with all back rushes and dragging in with chains, for just as long as the puncher is behind the steer is just as far as he can get in front. The saving of time and of bruised meat is also an item to be considered.

This novel instrument is the invention of L. E. Unroe, the machinist in the beef beds, who has made several other useful improvements in the machinery.

The Schwarzschild & Sulzberger company has been using these punchers about a month. An Armour official has also viewed the puncher in use and speaks highly of the improved method.

Superintendent J. L. Sterrett says: "The cattle puncher is a great money saver as well as an instrument for saving breath, muscle and morals. Many actual dollars are saved because bruised beef is kept at the lowest minimum ever reached."

JOHNSTOWN EXPLOSION.

Calamity Occurred in One of the Country's Largest Mines.

The mine at Johnstown, Pa., in which the recent explosion occurred, whereby many lives were lost, is one of the largest coal mines in the United States, according to the statement of officials, says the New York World. From the entrance in the hill across the river to the one at Mill creek is a distance of three and three-quarter miles.

The Klondike section, in which the explosion occurred, is about two miles from the Mill creek entrance. The mine is divided into a large number of headings, levels and sections. The sections run off to the left and right of the headings and are known as rights and lefts by the miners.

The men who escaped are familiar with the mine. They have spent years working in it; otherwise they could never have reached the surface. Lights were out, and there was no way for them to find their way to the top had they not known the mine perfectly.

Need More Help.

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CRUSADE TO STOP KISSING.

Society Organized by Sixteen Northwestern University Students.

Following the teachings of Professor Algie R. Crook, the man who never was kissed, kissing has been voted "vulgar, demoralizing and unnecessary in respectable courtships" by sixteen Northwestern university students, men and women, who have formed the Antiosculatation society, says a special from Chicago to the New York World. Here is the pledge taken by the members:

Realizing that kissing is very demoralizing and detrimental, but still delicious, and that it is exclusive and contagious, we, the undersigned students of Northwestern university, following the example of our much beloved Professor Algie R. Crook, solemnly swear that we will refrain from all kissing.

Professor Crook, who inspired the idea, has been elected an honorary member of the organization. The words he let fall in his unusual claims to virtue have had a subtle influence on the students at the university and are responsible for the present sudden opposition to kissing. Strange to say, a group of coeds are at the bottom of the conspiracy to discourage the oscu-



PROFESSOR A. R. CROOK.

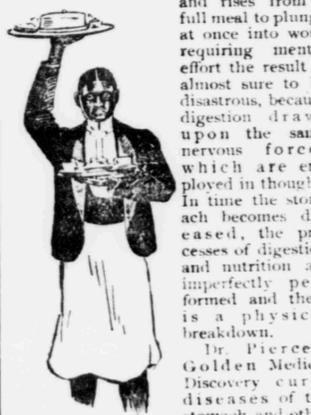
latory endeavors of the young men. The men are less enthusiastic, but from force of circumstances were brought into the movement.

To assist the antiosculatators in keeping their pledges fasting is absolutely prohibited, and a hearty diet is recommended on the theory that love can not flourish except on bread and water. Hugging and "zoogoo eyes" are not tabooed by the society, although members are not permitted to hold conversations over five minutes in length in couples. Boating is allowable provided four persons are in the boat, and to carry out this regulation the society always takes in four new members at a time, maintaining the total membership at some multiple of four.

To be eligible to membership in the Antikissing league a person must be between the ages of sixteen and thirty, good looking, with a past experience in the art of osculation and a student of Northwestern university. The organization was completed the other night at the residence of Miss Charlotte Phillips of Chicago.

GOOD LIVING

Quite often results in bad health, because what is termed "good living" is usually the gratification of the palate without reference to the nutrition of the body. When the good liver is a business man and rises from a full meal to plunge at once into work requiring mental effort the result is almost sure to be disastrous, because digestion draws upon the same nervous forces which are employed in thought. In time the stomach becomes diseased, the processes of digestion and nutrition are imperfectly performed and there is a physical breakdown.



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January 15, 1902.