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**ABSORBS INFORMATION.**

President Roosevelt is a "Photographic" Reader.

Commenting upon President Roosevelt's avidity for reading books, a writer in the Century Magazine has the following to say: In the thick of the campaign of 1904 I happen to know that he read all of Macaulay's "History of England," all of Rhodes' "History of the United States" and Dickens' "Martin Chuzzlewit."

The other afternoon he was handed a new book—a not very long dissertation on a matter of current interest. That evening he entertained a number of guests at dinner, and later there was a musical party at the White House, at which he was present. At the luncheon, the next day, the giver said to him: "Mr. President, of course you have not had time to look at that book." Oh, yes," said the President, "I have read it." Whereupon he proved that he had done so by his criticism of the work. One day, lately, a book of short stories was sent to him; almost by return mail came a letter thanking the sender and saying he had already enjoyed the stories greatly in serial publication.

"How does he manage to do it?" All I know about this is that, in the first place, he has by nature or practice the faculty of extremely rapid reading. There are some men of letters and "general readers" who never have been able to acquire this art. Others can take in paragraphs or pages well-nigh at a glance. The President must be one of these photographic readers, who take almost instantly the impression of a whole paragraph or nearly a whole page, the eye running along the line with lightning-like rapidity, and leaping to the more important phrases as by instinct. I have known the following to occur. A congressman makes a statement to him and hands him a typewritten paper. Almost immediately the President hands it back to him; whereupon the congressman says deprecatingly: "Mr. Roosevelt, may I not leave this paper with you? I am anxious to have you read it." "But," says the President, "I have read it; you can examine me in it if you wish."

**Probable Origin of "Yankee Doodle."**

The following is a translation of an article from the Frankfurter Zeitung:

In the publication of Hessenland (No. 2, 1905), Johann Lewalter gives expression to his opinion that "Yankee Doodle" was originally a country dance of a district of the former province of Kur-Hesse, called the "Schwalm."

It is well known that the tune of "Yankee Doodle" was derived from a military march played by the Hessian troops during the Revolution in America. In studying the dances of the Schwalm, Lewalter was struck by the similarity in form and rhythm of "Yankee Doodle" to the music of these dances. Last year, at the "kirmess" of the village of Wasenberg, when "Yankee Doodle" was played, the young men and girls swung into a true "Schwalm" dance, as though the music had been composed for it. During the war of 1776 the chief recruiting office for the enlistment of the Hessian hired soldiers was Ziegenbain, in Kur-Hesse. It therefore seems probable that the Hessian recruits from the "Schwalm," who served in the pay of Great Britain in America during the Revolutionary war, and whose military band instruments consisted of bugles, drums and fifes only, carried over with them the tune, known to them from childhood, and played it as a march.—Walter Schumann, Consul, Mainz, Germany.

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**Tallest Man.**

A Russian giant has made his appearance in London who is said to be the tallest man in the world. The giant was measured by a tailor for a dress suit. It was found that he is 9 feet 8 1/2 inches in height, 463 pounds in weight and a four-shilling piece can be passed through the ring that he wears on the small finger of his left hand. The circumference of his head is three-quarters of a yard and he wears a collar of twenty-three inches. The monster wears the largest boots in the world. His feet are two feet and one-half inches in size, and, in consequence, his boots measure two feet three inches. Among the giants whose records may be regarded as authentic, the Russian's claim to be the tallest, seems to be justified. Some of the famous big men of the past were John Middleton, 9 feet 3 inches, born in Laca-shire in 1575; Patric O'Brien, 8 ft. 7 inches, born in Kinsale, Ireland, in 1761; and John Frederick, Duke of Brunswick, 8 feet 6 inches.

**Only Moaned "My Child."**

When the night attendants at Bellevue Hospital went to work the other night they saw, standing in front of the morgue, a fat young man who held a yellow-haired doll clasped tightly to his breast and whose left trouser leg was rolled up to the knee, exposing a generous calf and six inches of a striped sock. The young man rocked backward and forward as he stood, crooning to the doll, bursting out every now and then with "My child, my child!" Dr. Armstrong thought the man crazy. Not a word could they get out of him. Armstrong attempted to roll down his trouser and the young man kicked at him and mouthed unintelligibly. Armstrong called Dr. Bandler from the hospital, and several assistants came with Bandler. They were about to overpower the man and take him to the psychopathic ward when half a dozen young fellows rushed across the street and said: "Here, let that boy alone. He's not daffy. He is simply going through his initiation into Nu Sigma Nu." Then they doused the young fellow with a bucket of cold water and led him away, howling like Indians.

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