

RESIDENCE ON RIVERSIDE PARK, NEW YORK.

We show in the accompanying engraving the residence recently erected for Mr. S. G. Bayne, at one of the most picturesque points of the Riverside drive. This building was erected from plans of the architect, Mr. Frank Freeman.

Its dimensions are: Front, 45 ft.; side, 60 ft. exclusive of piazza. Height of ceilings: Cellar, 7 ft.; basement, 8 ft. 6 in.; first story, 11 ft.; second, 10 ft.; third, 9 ft. Underpinning and first story of New Jersey stone, called gray rock, trimmed with Lake Superior red stone. Second story is built of brick, made of special color, by the Perth Amboy Terra Cotta Co., who also made the terra cotta which enriches the window openings, cornice, etc. Front entrance is flanked on either side with clustered columns, and is fitted up with broad, massive doors of quartered oak. Roof is covered with Spanish tiles. One of the striking features of the exterior is the "Romeo and Juliet" balcony at second story, front. The interior arrangements, while rivaling in magnificence the elaborate workmanship and composition of the exterior, is carried out in a style quite independent of conventional ideas. The most striking feature of the inside

is the staircase and hall opening into a suite of apartments, a vista of which is obtained immediately upon entering. The first floor is handsomely trimmed with cherry, elaborately carved. The staircase is a grand one, with carved newels, and is lighted by a massive stained glass window. The first landing has seats and fireplace. Hall has a paneled wainscoting, finished with a carved cap. The ceilings in hall and library are heavily beamed and ribbed, forming deep panels, the centers of which are covered with canvas and painted in tapestry effect. A nook with seats, separated by columns and spindle work, and a large open fireplace with tiled hearth and carved mantels, are the features of parlor, while the dining room is finished in colonial style and wainscoted in panels. Buffet and mantel have colonial columns running from floor to ceiling, with carved capitals and numerous little cabinets with beaded glass doors, that add to the antique effect of this room. Butler's pantry and rear

hall trimmed and wainscoted with antique oak, and are fitted up with drawers, cupboards, bowl, and dumbwaiter to kitchen, also a trunk elevator from cellar to third floor. Second floor is trimmed with sycamore, finished in cherry. Bath rooms are paved and wainscoted with Italian marble, and are finished in a most expensive manner. Third floor trimmed with antique oak; contains four bed rooms and bath. Billiard room is located in tower (fourth floor), and is fitted up in log cabin style, the walls and ceiling being covered with quartered oak. Basement, trimmed and wainscoted with antique oak, is provided with breakfast room, kitchen, laundry, pantries, servants' bed room, and bath, all furnished replete in all their various appointments. Cellar contains furnace and other apartments.

Our engraving was made direct from photographs of the building, taken specially for the Architects' and Builders' Edition of the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN, to which we are indebted for the use of the cut and description. This was published in the June issue, which also contains a colored lithograph of the same building and full plans.

ONE of the items of revenue of the Brooklyn bridge is a yearly rental of \$13,000 from telegraph and telephone companies, for allowing their cables to lie on the iron stringers.

The Science of Old Age.

The whole journey of life is best divided into three stages—the period of ascent or youth (1–25); that of level ground or maturity (25–50); and that of descent or decline (50–75). Old age may set in anywhere along the last stage. It must not, however, be supposed that the last stage necessarily ends at 75; for, of late years especially, in many cases the period of old age has not begun until 80 years are past, life being prolonged over the century; while, on the other hand, all the signs of old age have been seen before 20 years have been reached. Out of every 1,000 people, nearly 100 reach 75, 38 reach 85, and 2 reach 95. The number of persons in proportion to the whole population that reach 70 in Norway is one-third, in England nearly one-fifth, in France one-eighth, and in Ireland one eleventh. As far as can be calculated, the average length of life, which is computed in the seventeenth century to average only 13 years, is in the eighteenth increased to 20 and in the nineteenth to 36. Men used to be considered old when they passed 50.

It is interesting to compare the age of man with that of other parts of the organic kingdom. In the vege-

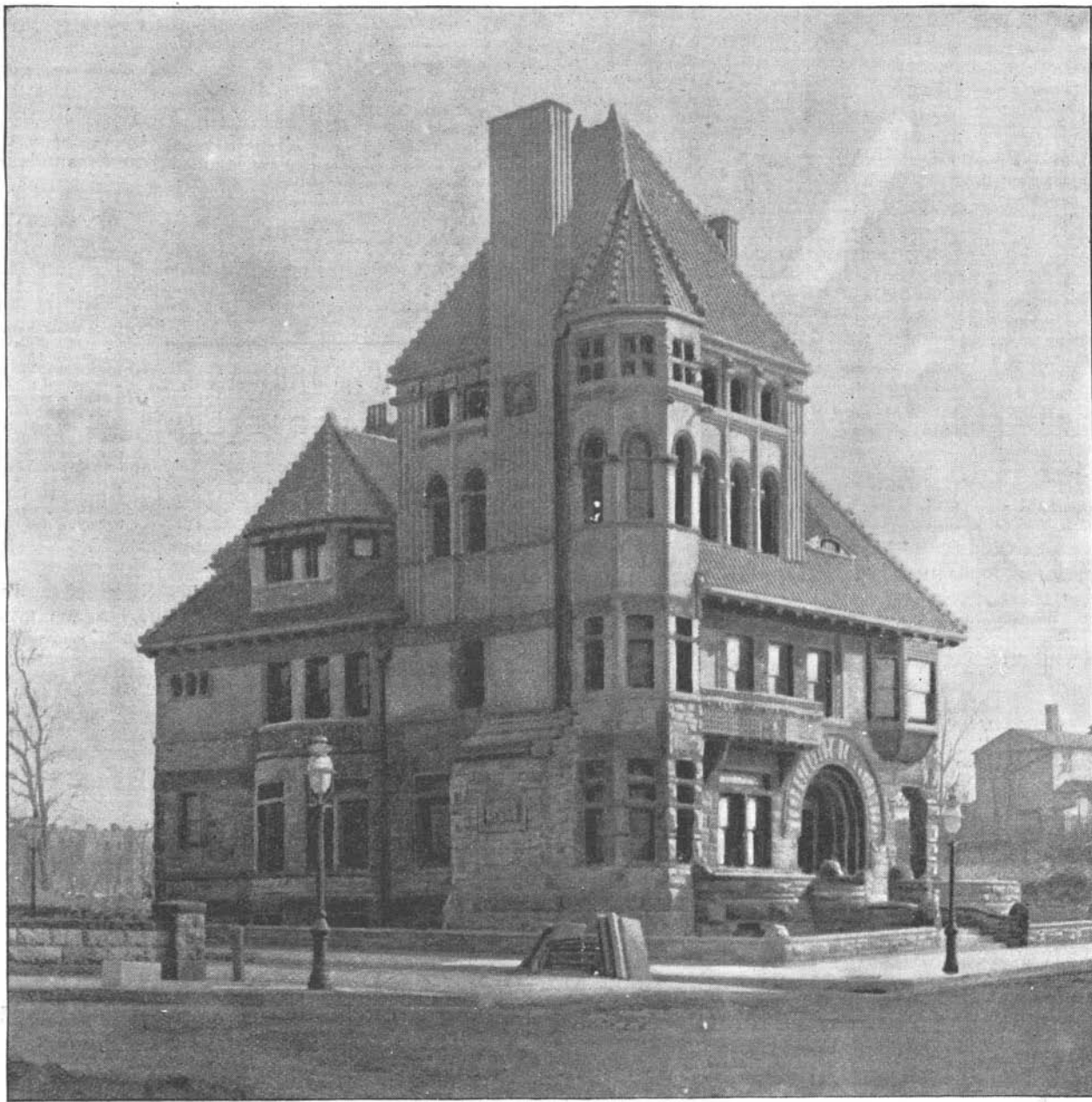
like Norway gives a very high general average of age, the climate of Western Italy seems most favorable to very advanced life. As early as A.D. 76 we find that in this district, in the emperor's census, 54 were returned at 100, 57 at 110, 2 at 125, 4 at 130, and 3 at 140. In Ireland, though the general average is low, we get many instances of centenarians. A country life is conducive to old age, while it is extremely rare to find persons of 90 years and upward who have led sedentary town lives. Longevity cannot be said, however, to be dependent on any condition or vocation, but is found in the most opposed circumstances. St. Anthony, who died at 105, ate a few ounces of bread soaked in water, never washed or changed his garments, and lived always alone in a desert. M. Chevreul, the great French chemist, at nearly the same age, ate for breakfast two eggs, some chicken pasty, and had a pint of *café-au-lait* daily; for dinner, tapioca soup with grated cheese, a cutlet, a bunch of grapes, cheese, and three glasses of water. No fish and no wine. He was scrupulously clean, and lived in or near Paris. Some people survive in spite of their habits. One old man of 97 all his life drank quantities of neat gin and smoked the

strongest and rank-est tobacco; while the Rev. W. Davis, who died in 1790 at 105, and who ought to have known better, for the last 35 years of his life never took exercise, and began the day on hot buttered rolls, and ended it with a supper of hot roast meat, with plenty of wine. Spinsters will be pleased to know that single women live as long as do married. Sex influences old age. In 1873, out of 89 dying at or over 100, only 10 were males. This is due partly to less exposures to injuries and partly to greater tenacity of life. Girls die more slowly than boys; and though more boys than girls are born each year, this difference maintains the balance.

We may notice one or two other points of comparison between the sexes, as observed in some hundreds of recorded cases lately collected. The average height of an old man over 80 is 5 feet 6 inches, of an old woman 5 feet 3 inches; the pulse rate in the man is 73, in the woman 78; the breath rate in the man 18, in the woman 22. The average number of teeth in the men is 6, in

the women 3; while a fourth of the men and half the women had none at all. It is believed that there are traces in the animal kingdom of a law that fixes the extreme duration of life at five times that of growth. This latter period in man may be said to average 21 years. Hence the full span of a perfectly healthy man's life should range from 100 to 105 years. As, however, none are born perfectly free from taint, the expectation of life varies greatly. Every human being starts on his life's journey with a certain life-force; or, in other words, like a clock, he is constructed to run a certain time under given conditions. In 500 cases of people over 80, most came from long-lived families, enjoyed good homes, good appetites, and good digestions; were moderate or small eaters, consumed little alcohol or medicine, were good sleepers, and showed at death no trace of gout or rheumatic gout. Nevertheless, in 82 cases the near relatives were consumptive.—*New York Ledger*.

PARIS is laughing over a joke about an American inventor who is said to have patented an electric corset that is to bring about the reign of morality at once. If one of these articles is pressed by a lover's arm it at once emits a shriek like the whistle of a railway engine; and the inventor claims that he has already married three of his daughters, owing to the publicity thus thrust upon a backward lover.



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table world it is enormously exceeded. Among trees, the elm reaches an age of 335 years; the ivy, 450; the chestnut, 600; the olive, 700; the cedar, 800; the oak, 1,500; the yew, 2,800; while Humboldt computed the age of a baobab tree (a species of banyan) to be 5,700 years! Among fish, Dr. Richardson finds no deaths from old age, and does not believe that they have any term to their lives, save as they fall a prey to one another. Carp and other fish that have been isolated and watched are still living at enormous ages. As long as they live they increase in size. Among animals, we have an elephant of the reputed age of 1,007 years. Coming to men, we find many remarkable instances of longevity. The long lists given by the old writers of very aged people (including one of over 300 years of age) have been proved to be most unreliable. Many cases, however, are beyond suspicion, and such an unimpeachable centenarian as Sir Moses Montefiore silences all skeptics who doubt that human life can attain to three figures. Old Parr still remains as one of the most wonderful of these veterans. He was a poor farm servant, and like Henry Jenkins (who was supposed to be 160 years old at death), led a hard and laborious life in a country village on scanty fare. At 120 Parr married a widow for his second wife, and at 130 could thrash corn. He died at 152, but not of old age.

Longevity appears to depend to a certain extent on country and climate. While a cold, bracing climate