

The National music of Ireland has, up to the present time, been much neglected, but a movement is now on foot, the New York Post announces, to put it on a more satisfactory basis. It is to take the form of a National musical festival (on similar lines to the Welsh "Eisteddfod"), which it is intended to hold in Dublin.

The German Chancellor does not accept "conscience money" as complacently as the British Government. Somebody in Frankfurt recently sent \$750 marked in that way, and the Treasury has issued a public notice calling upon the offender to disclose himself, failing which he is warned that he will have to pay over again if he is discovered, besides rendering himself liable to prosecution for defrauding the revenue.

The decoration of the Congressional Library at Washington, which is to be when completed the finest and most costly building of its kind in the world, will be begun next summer. Those in charge of the building have commissioned a number of artists to submit designs. Blasfield, of New York, has been commissioned to paint a picture in the crown of the dome and another on the crown of the lantern. La Farge has been commissioned to make two mural paintings. Vedder will do the work on the walls in the main entrance hall. Carl Gutherz will make seven pictures in the ceiling of one of the reading rooms. Other artists who have received commissions are Edwin Simmons, George W. Maynard, William L. Dodge and Kenyon Cox. Each artist is to select his own designs.

The private carrying of pistols in England appears to have reached the proportions of a menace and a nuisance, and Lord Carmarthen recently introduced a bill in Parliament to regulate the conditions under which that dangerous instrument may be sold, and define those under which it may be carried. The object of the bill was to keep it out of the hands of roughs and minors, and in a general way to discourage the practice, except where it was manifestly necessary. It provides that the vender must take out a license, and that the pistols must be consecutively numbered, so that they can be at any time identified. The buyer's name must be registered, and he must not be a convict or a ticket-of-leave man, or under eighteen years of age. It contains other rather stringent interdictions, showing that the abuse which it sought to rectify had grown into considerable proportions.

W. T. Harris, United States Commissioner of Education, says in Harper's Magazine that in all the schools of the United States, public and private, elementary, secondary, and higher, there were enrolled in the year 1894 about fifteen and one-half millions of pupils. This number includes all who attended at any time in the year for any period, however short. But the actual average attendance for each pupil did not exceed ninety days, although the average length of the school session was 137. Sixty-nine pupils were enrolled out of each 100 of the population between the ages of five and eighteen years. At this rate of attendance the entire population is receiving on an average a little less than four and one-half years' schooling of 200 days each. In some States this average falls as low as two years, and in others it rises to nearly seven years (as in Massachusetts). Out of this entire number deduct the private and parochial schools of all kinds, elementary, secondary, higher, and schools for art, industry, and business, for defective classes and Indians, and there remain over thirteen and one-half millions for the public school enrolment, or nearly eighty-eight per cent. of the whole. In the twenty-four years since 1870 the attendance on the public schools has increased from less than seven millions to thirteen and one-half millions. The expenditures have increased somewhat more, namely, from sixty-three millions to one hundred and sixty-three millions of dollars per annum, an increase from \$1.64 per capita to \$2.47.

FARM AND HOUSEHOLD.

ILL-FED COWS.

When cows eat the litter from horse stables or drink the drainage from manure heaps it is an indication of indigestion resulting in what is commonly called a depraved appetite. The same cause impels cows to eat rotten wood or any other coarse stuff. The treatment for this disease, which it really is, is to give some raw linseed oil, a pint is sufficient for one dose, but it may be repeated if necessary in three days. Then feed some bran mash or cut food wetted with hot water, with the mash added, or any similar easily digested food, adding to each feed one dram each of sulphate of iron, ground ginger, and gentian root. The want of salt is a very common cause of indigestion, and provocative of this unpleasant habit.—New York Times.

MILLET AND HUNGARIAN GRASS.

The hay from most varieties of millet and Hungarian grass is so strong a food that it should be fed with great caution, especially to horses. It is safer and more palatable if cut before the seed begins to ripen, but even then it should be alternated with other fodder. When grown on a good soil, through a long season, the large-headed German millet is the best variety, according to A. A. Crozier, of the Michigan Agricultural College. The pointed-headed common millet is adapted to poor soils or late sowings. On fertile soils the small, slender-headed Hungarian grass will yield a large amount of good hay in moist seasons. Millet can be sown as a catch crop for hay when it is too late to plant corn, or when insects or a hard winter have destroyed the clover, or whenever a seeding of permanent grasses fails. For hay, plant half a bushel per acre; if for seed, sow one peck. It is especially adapted to new lands and good, sandy soil. The thick stems cause it to cure better if bunched to the field when partly dried, like clover.—American Agriculturist.

A BARREL CHURN.

The illustration from an exchange shows a favorite form of churn where the work is all done at home by hand. Nobody who is anybody now uses the old-fashioned dasher churn. It is too back breaking. It explains itself. It



THE BARREL CHURN.

swings and oscillates and brings the butter. Whether one is a believer or disbeliever in washing butter, he will stop churning when the butter is in the granular state, the size of grains of wheat. Then the buttermilk is drawn carefully off. Some good butter makers dash water cooled to sixty-two degrees upon the grains of butter and then turn the barrel churn over a dozen times more. Although the churns usually do not provide for it, it is well to have a strainer of some kind coarse wire beneath the buttermilk vent to catch the lumps of butter that would otherwise go out with the milk.

FARM AND GARDEN NOTES.

A well-broken horse always brings more money.

Everything points to greater stability in horse breeding.

The Arkansas station recommends the growing of peanuts in that State as a profitable crop for market or as a food for hogs.

Look at the harness now. It is not very profitable during plowing time to have to spend two or three hours mending a broken trace.

From nine to fifteen pounds of timothy seed are sown to the acre when used alone. Twelve pounds is a good average if the seed is good.

Trees should be made to send their roots deep into the soil, in order to fortify themselves against drought. This is done by draining the soil and by plowing the orchard rather deep.

A ton of grain or cottonseed meal can only produce a certain amount of manure, no matter to which kind of animal it may be fed, and while some animals produce manure of less value than others, yet they produce more of it, and the loss in one direction is a gain in another.

Hay or grass, with roots, ensilage and a variety of wheat, corn, oats and barley ground together, furnishes the best elements of growth in the young horse, and maintains the matured animal in the best condition. Oats and corn only are not the best to build up bone, flesh and muscle.

Alfalfa prefers a deep, loose bed reaching down to water, but decidedly objects to surface water, but there seems to be exceptions, not that it changes, but man is sometimes mistaken in the kind and condition of his soil; so it is well for many to experiment a little on a small scale.

When feeding wheat to the cows about one-half the bulk should be ground out into flour for family use, and the rest mixed with an equal amount of bran; certainly should the bran be added if the wheat is used entire. Wheat is apt to founder if fed in quantities called for, but should never do.

Charcoal is quite necessary for fowls. Wood charcoal is not relished by fowls; it has no taste of food, it is not attractive to them, and is seldom eaten. The best charcoal is made by putting ears of corn in the fire and roasting until the grains are charred. This will be found very beneficial, will tend to put fowls in a healthy condition, and give a decided improvement to their looks. Their pale combs will become bright red, and the yield of eggs be much increased.

HOUSEHOLD HINTS.

Rugs to be thoroughly cleansed from dirt should be beaten with that useful little article known as a whipper, which forces from them all particles of dust.

To keep cake and sandwiches fresh several days, wrap them up in a wet cloth and keep them from the air. This method will also hold good for buns and coffee cake.

To make a closet door novel and attractive hang on it a good motto in brass or carved wood. A silk or satin banner screen will do if the words embroidered thereon are appropriate.

Lamps are no longer always placed upon the reading table. If wrought iron they can be placed on brackets to the wall. By the aid of a large hook they supply light for a corner over a cozy resting place.

Swallowed by a Snake.

Charley Hiett, a student of natural history, last year when on a trip through the mountains witnessed a contest between a water snake and a toad. The snake had caught the toad by his hind leg, evidently intending to make a meal. He seemed to let go occasionally only to get a better hold, and at last got the poor toad fairly in his mouth. After quite a period his toadship disappeared down the throat of the snake and could plainly be seen some inches below the head.

Charley has an antipathy to snakes and sprang from the bank three or four feet high and landed squarely on the scaly monster's back. He struck just behind the swelling in the snake and much to his surprise the toad shot forth from the mouth of the reptile and hopped off as nimbly as though he had not just escaped from death.—Oroville (Cal.) Register.

Hair Raised to Order.

A dexterous French feat is that of growing hair along the foreheads of women with whom nature has been cruel in arranging for the hair to grow, growing hair along the foreheads of the hair springs in an ugly, irregular line. From other parts of the head, short, new, sprouting hairs are delicately extracted and replanted along the top of an uncomely forehead. This system of repotting hair is done according to the rules nature observes in the management of her hair crops, and after about three months of careful, regular attendance daily at the office of a specialist, a woman comes forth brow'd like a Madonna or the glorious Greek Venuses, just as she may have selected.—Washington Star.

LADIES' COLUMN.

BUSINESS WOMEN'S RESTAURANT.

Danish women are the latest to start a business women's restaurant and reading room. In the heart of the business centre of Copenhagen such a place is to be established, which will afford women engaged in office and shop work comfortable quarters for taking their luncheons. Good, nourishing food is to be provided at reasonable prices, and a reading room is planned. It has been suggested that a field for such a restaurant in New York was down town, among the many big buildings, where scores of women are employed. Many women now carry their luncheons, and eat them in the law or business office where they are serving as typewriter or stenographer, because they do not care to go to the restaurants whose chief patronage is among men, and which at the noon hour are apt to be overcrowded.

If one of the women's exchanges would start a luncheon room of that sort at or a little below the City Hall, it is believed by many that it would be of great mutual benefit, alike to its patrons and its management.—New York Times.

CAREER OF A WOMAN LETTER CARRIER.

Mrs. Ann Hawkins, whose death at Cutsyke, near Castleford, is announced, had a remarkable career. She was a native of Pontefract, and from the time of the Queen's coronation, in 1837, till 1869, she fulfilled the office of town letter carrier, and discharged the duties single handed. She was never known to be absent from her duties from sickness during the whole of her period of service. Through the interest of the late Lord Houghton and Mr. Childers, who then represented Pontefract in Parliament, Mrs. Hawkins's services to the country were brought before the notice of the then Postmaster-General, and for about twenty-seven years past she has been in receipt of a well-earned pension. Prior to the introduction of railways into the district, letters were delivered in Pontefract by means of postboys, meeting the mail coaches proceeding north and south at Ferrybridge, and some bags of letters and newspapers, which contained as many as fifty or sixty missives daily, were considered a good average in Mrs. Hawkins's time. Mrs. Hawkins wore a singular waterproof garb in wet weather, and carried the letters in a small covered basket protected by waterproof covering. She had delivered many writs for Parliamentary elections in her capacity as postwoman.—Yorkshire (England) Post.

TOILET ACCESSORIES.

There are many things necessary nowadays for the up-to-date toilet table. One of the requisites, which, fortunately, can be procured without expense or trouble, is a jar of salt—common table salt, and it is a panacea for many ills. A little of it dissolved in warm water is sure to remove the slight inflammation from eyelids reddened by a long drive in the wind. If used for a gargle it will allay any slight irritation of the throat; a little should occasionally be put in the water in which one's teeth are brushed, as it helps to harden the gums.

Tincture of camphor or tincture of myrrh, dropped into water, is an excellent wash for the mouth and throat when the breath is not sweet. When the latter is used the proper proportions are ten drops of myrrh to a glass of water.

Powdered alum is another important adjunct; a little should be thrown into the water in which you bathe your hands before putting on gloves for a crowded reception or ball, when there might be a tendency to perspire too freely.

It is said that a few drops of sulphuric acid in the bath water is also a preventive of the too free perspiration of either hands or feet.

An equal mixture of lemon juice and glycerine is another "aid to beauty," necessary to the toilet table—it whitens as well as softens the hands.—Detroit Free Press.

FASHION NOTES.

Bluet, always a cold, unbecoming color, is no longer fashionable.

In the trimming of skirts there continues to be the greatest reserve.

Made brims of straw braid and

fancy crowns were prominent at the first openings.

The fashionable thing at present is to wear white linen collars with the colored shirt waists.

The new crepon challies displayed in the shops are as pretty as silks and wear infinitely better.

The coat-and-skirt style of tailor-made gown is as popular as ever this spring, but in addition there are cloth gowns with closely fitting bodices and elaborately trimmed.

The sale of fine grade but inexpensive silks is so great that one house asserted last week that it had in less than six days sold fifty miles of silks for gowns, skirts and fancy linings.

Hair, bonnets, hats, sleeves and skirts have suddenly widened to an almost grotesque extent, causing the tallest woman to look short, while the short ones are turned into veritable caricatures.

All the new skirts are from nine to ten yards in circumference, while the dressmakers assert confidently that the width will go on increasing, and predict that fifteen yards will be the measurement this summer.

Very pretty are the lawn waists in China blue, old rose, red or black with an all-over pattern in white embroidery. Striped and checked linens make neat waists; they cost quite as much as silk, but are more substantial.

The Sun Bittern and the Kagu.

Very little has been recorded of the habits of the sun bittern, it merely having been stated that it resorts to the undergrowth found along the muddy banks of sluggish streams, where it feeds upon insects and small fishes.

Newton, who has observed it in captivity, at the gardens of the Zoological Society of London, says: "It soon becomes tame, and has several times made its nest and reared its young." It has a plaintive, piping note, and "it ordinarily walks with slow and precise steps, keeping its body in a horizontal position, but at times, when excited, it will go through a series of fantastic performances, spreading its broad wings and tail so as to display their beautiful markings." These sun bitterns were known fully three-quarters of a century or more to science before anything at all akin to them was found; but when the island of New Caledonia became colonized, a bird there discovered, and nowhere else, at last furnished an ally. This was the kagu, now described by ornithologists as *Rhinocetus jubatus*. Externally the kagu bears but little resemblance to a sun bittern, though its internal structure, which has been carefully examined, proves the relationship. Considerably larger than *Eurypyga*, it has its head ornamented by a hanging crest of long and soft feathers. Both its legs, which are rather long, and its beak are of a livid red color. Its ample wings are marked something after the pattern seen in the sun bittern, while its chief body color is a pale slate, shading lighter below. Numerous transverse bars embellish the tail, and these markings, though far less distinct, are seen on the wing coverts also. Ordinarily it is a very passive bird, standing motionless for several minutes at a time, when it will step off briskly for a short distance, only to again assume its attitude of rest. This is by no means, however, the invariable behavior of this extraordinary bird, for when aroused by excitement it will even quite outdo a sun bittern in its extravagant and fantastic "show-off." Holding one of its wings or the extremity of its tail in the most remarkable manner, it will violently spin about in giddy dance, the like of which is never performed by any other known member of the class Aves. Unfortunately, this extremely interesting type, it is now said, is becoming rapidly exterminated.—Popular Science Monthly.

He Fined Mark Twain.

Among the recent deaths at San Francisco, Cal., was that of Alfred Barstow, a pioneer lawyer, who, as a justice of the peace, once had "Mark Twain" before him for "painting the town red." "Mark" was then a newspaper reporter, and Barstow remitted the fine of \$10 on the future humorist's showing that he possessed only a plug of tobacco and a broken jackknife.—New York Tribune.