SUICIDE AMONG ANIMALS.

How Some of the Dumb Creatures Kill Themselves.

"Many animals," says an observing writer, "will commit suicide to relieve themselves from great pain. Snakes will lacerate themselves when suffering from intense heat. I have observed spiders do the same, biting at their legs and available parts with suicidal intent. Place a ring of fire around a scorpion, and it will invariably destroy itself rather than suffer the torture of heat, and I have often seen ants tear their own legs and try to destroy themselves when exposed to deadly heat. Dogs have been noticed from various causes to make desperate attempts to drown themselves, holding their heads under water until the desired release was obtained. A case came under my notice of a dog, that was very much attached to its master, refusing all food after the master's death, and actually starving itself to death, being found weeks afterwards lifeless on its master's grave; and yet we say the lower animals are devoid of intelligence. If the truth were known they have the same affections and feelings, differing only in degree from our own. On questioning an old farmer in the Adirondack country last summer, if he knew of any cases of animal suicide, he referred me to the Bible, citing the case of the swine, that rushed down into the sea and were drowned. He said that the swine preferred death to evil spirits, and so committed suicide. But this interpretation won't be found in the revised edition. He told me that several of his hogs in trying to swim across a large pond, evidently gave out in the middle, and before he could get to them they had killed themselves. Their throats were cut, evidently by their fore feet. His idea was that they began to give out and had cut their throats; but this was evidently only accidental. Their increased struggles had caused the wounds, which were fatal, the cuts being vertical wounds, deep, and five or six inches long. But among the star fishes suicide or attempted self-destruction seems to be a favorite method of avoiding enemies and escaping pain. 'There is one,' holding up a round object about four inches in diameter, 'that I caught on the reef about sixty miles from Havana. I was wading along among the coral dragging my boat, and in lifting up a bunch found this fellow. It was more than two feet in diameter, and the arms, five in number at the base, branched off into thousands of bifurcating points and tendrils that were entangled about the coral like so many snakes. It was the asterophyton, commonly called a basket fish, from its resemblance to one when the myriads of arms are coiled up. It dropped out of the coral, and as I picked the squirming mass up it commenced a fragmental process of suicide that was decidedly astonishing. I had to partly dive to it, and as I raised it up a perfect shower of limbs fell off, twisting and coiling down on my feet, and by the time I had it at the surface its beauty was shorn, as it had thrown off every arm and appeared, as you see, a simple oval.' Professor Forbes of London had an equally curious experience with a star suicide. He says: 'The first time I took one of these creatures I succeeded in placing it entire in my boat. Not having seen one before, and being ignorant of its suicidal powers, I spread it out on a rowing bench, the better to admire its form and colors. On attempting to remove it for preservation, to my horror and disappointment I found only an assemblage of detached members. The next time I went to the same spot to dredge I determined not to be cheated out of my specimen a second time. I carried with me a bucket of fresh water, for which the star fishes evince a great antipathy. As I hoped, a Luidia soon came up in the dredge—a most gorgeous specimen. As the animal does not generally break up until it is raised to the surface of the sea, I carefully and anxiously plunged my bucket to a level with the dredge's mouth, and softly introduced the Luidia into the fresh water. Whether the water was too cold for it or the sight of the bucket too terrific I do not know, but in a moment it began to dissolve its corporation, and I saw its limbs escaping through every mesh in the net. In my despair I seized the largest piece and brought up the extremity of an arm with its terminal eye, the spinous yelid of which opened and closed with something exceedingly like a wink of derision.'

"In fact, so determined are these fellows in their self-destruction that hardly a cabinet contains a good specimen of this or the other. The only way to obtain them is to kill them under water by electricity before they have a chance to break up. Many crabs when touched throw off their claws and legs, preferring that to being captured. A snail called the Helacurion, found in the island of Luzon, has the faculty of throwing off its tail when caught by it. And so quickly does it jump away from the retained portion that collectors have difficulty in capturing it. In some cases the snails died after the loss. The so called glass snake might be mentioned as a suicide, as they break up at very slight provocation.

"'Here is a case of accidental suicide, holding up a spear of dry hay. 'On it' pierced through and through, was a large green grasshopper. It had jumped into the air with a reckless spring, coming down head first on the jaws like spear of grass, that had entered its body where it joins the head, and held it aloft as a grim warning to the rest.'"

The Wheel-Horse.

There is a wheel-horse in every family; some one who takes the lead on all occasions. It may be the oldest daughter, possibly the father, but generally it is the mother. Extra company, sickness, etc., give her a heavy increase of the burden she is already carrying.

Even summer vacations bring less rest and recreation to her than to others of the family. The city house must be put in order to leave; the clothing for himself and the children which a country sojourn demands seems never to be finished; and the excursions and picnics which delight the hearts of the young people are not wholly a delight to the "provider."

Woman's work is never done. She would never have it done. Ministering to father and mother, cherishing her husband, nourishing and training her children—no true woman wants to see her work done. But because it is never done she needs resting times.

Every night the heavy truck is turned up; the wheel horse is put up in the stable, and labor and care are dismissed till the morrow. The thills of the household van cannot be turned up at night, and the tired house-mother cannot go into a quiet stall for repose. She goes to sleep to-night feeling the pressure of to-morrow. She must have "an eye" over all until every one is in bed, and must keep an eye ready to open at any moment to answer the need of children, and open both eyes bright and early to see the machine well started for the new day.

There is never any time that seems convenient for the mother of little children to leave home, even for a day; but with a little kindly help from her husband, and a little resolution to herself, she may go and be so much better for it that the benefit will overflow from her into the whole household. She will bring home some new idea and will work with enthusiasm that comes from a fresh start.

One word for the older sister who makes the salad for lunch and the dessert for dinner, who takes the position of the wheel-horse quite cheerfully while her younger sisters make themselves beautiful and entertaining, and one after another find "one true heart" apiece to love them, and leave the maiden to grow into an old maid. However willing her sacrifice, it was one; and nothing but the devoted love and gratitude of the household whose fires she has helped to kindle will reward her for what she has given.—*Christian Union.*

RELIGIOUS READING.

Mormonism and the Churches.

Bishop Tuttle, of Utah, and several prominent clergymen and mission workers of the Protestant Episcopal, Catholic, Presbyterian, Methodist and Congregational churches in Salt Lake City, have addressed to the ministers of the different churches in the United States an appeal which sets forth in a striking light many facts concerning the evils of Mormonism. The chief points to which attention is called are given herewith: "1. Out of a total population of 143,000 in Utah, about 110,000 are adherents of Mormonism. Of the anti-Mormon minority, only a small per cent. render us active aid in our endeavors to establish Christian homes in the place of the foul system of polygamy which prevails in Utah. Hence, we greatly feel the need of your sympathy, prayers and efforts. 2. Mormonism is no longer confined to Utah, but already holds the balance of power in Idaho, and has gained a strong foothold in Wyoming, Arizona and Southern Colorado. 3. Although there has been a strict law against polygamy upon the United States statute-book for more than eighteen years, only two persons have been convicted under it, and it is practically a dead letter because of its defects. 4. In this matter we believe you can give us valuable help. The Anti-Polygamy law of Congress, in order to accomplish its intended results, needs to be amended in the following respects: (1) So that the living together of the parties—or cohabitation, to use a legal term—shall be the proof of bigamy or polygamy, instead of the ceremony of marriage, because the latter is performed in secret within the walls of the Endowment House, in the presence of faithful Mormons only, and no one of these will bear testimony to the fact. (2) So that polygamy shall be a continuous crime instead of being allowed, as now, to expire within three years by a statute of limitation. (3) So that the women shall be equally punishable with the men for this offense. (4) So that the accessaries to the polygamous marriage shall be equally punishable with the principals. (5) So that the jury list may be increased to 400. (6) So that adultery and kindred offenses may be punishable, as in the States and other Territories of the Union." In conclusion the request is made that these facts be brought by clergymen to the attention of the Congressmen in their districts, in order that the evils complained of may be remedied at the present session of Congress.

Religious News and Notes.

The Mormons are obliged to pay to the church one tenth of all they raise, or make, or earn.

It is estimated that the thirty-three missionary societies at work in Africa have secured upward of 30,000 converts.

The receipts of the past year for Episcopal domestic missions were $220,593, against $165,273 in the previous year.

The Methodist Episcopal Board of Education received last year $9,256, and added about one hundred students who are preparing for the ministry.

There are ninety-four Episcopal churches in Minnesota, with eighty-three clergymen, 5,064 communicants, and church property valued at $262,497.

The Rev. Walter Ching Young and Miss Ah Tim, of Hong Kong, were married in San Francisco, by Bishop Kip, recently. Mr. Young is an Episcopal minister; Miss Ah Tim, the bride, was from childhood trained in the Episcopal church.

The Russian church has ordered its priests not to administer the rites of religion to those who kill themselves with excessive use of stimulants. To this date the Russian clergy have classed such persons with suicides, and left them unblessed.

The Rev. G. W. Shinn says the ideal "parish house" is a building of one story, with a reading-room in front, a large room occupying the middle portion, and two smaller rooms in the rear, all of which can be thrown together when occasion requires.

The Congregationalists are doing some energetic home missionary work in New Mexico, Dakota and other Territories. At Santa Fe they have just opened an educational institute, which is to be the academical department of the University of New Mexico.

The gospel is winning its way in the New Hebrides. Ten years ago there was but one island in the group that could be called Christian, and now they are all open to the gospel. One great drawback to the work is the fact that twenty different languages, or dialects, are spoken by the natives, requiring as many different translations of the Bible. In one place, it is said, the people contributed $8,500, in arrow-root, to pay for the printing and circulation of the Scriptures.

The Deceitful Kangaroo.

Lamb like as is the face of the kangaroo, tender and soft as are his eyes, he is by no means as gentle as he looks. Like the heathen Chinee, his countenance belies him, and there are few more exciting and withal dangerous sports than kangaroo shooting.

To the hunter seeking for some new sensation, a visit to the wilds of Australia in search of kangaroos can be recommended. It requires a fleet horse to run an "old man" down if he gets a fair chance to show tail; and strong, well-trained dogs to tackle him when brought in bay.

Inside his soft, dewy lips are strong, formidable teeth, which can bite severely. His forepaws, weak as they seem, can lift a dog high in the air and crush him to death; while, when lying down, his favorite fighting attitude, he can kick with his powerful hind legs in a manner that rapidly clears a circle round him; and woe betide the man or dog that comes within reach of those huge claws, which can make a flesh wound deep enough to maim the one or kill the other.

Of course, we here speak of the great kangaroo, the boomer, or old man, of the colonists. As a matter of fact, there are some thirty different kinds of kangaroos inhabiting various parts of Australia, and one species peculiar to New Guinea. They vary in size from the tiny hare kangaroo of South Australia, the most agile of its kind, which is but little larger than a rabbit, to the several giant species, whether black, red, brown or gray, some of which stand nearly six feet high.—*London Globe.*

Curious Hunting Accidents.

Justice Stevenson, of Taney county, Ill., went hunting with his son. The son fell and his gun was discharged, killing the father.

As Milton Heyer, of Naomi Station, Pa., was rising from the ground after a rest while hunting he seized his gun by the muzzle. It went off and killed him.

John Scarboro, of Mangenir, Ga., had one of his arms blown to pieces through the hammer of his gun catching in the straps of his boot as he lifted the gun.

As George Howard, of Rockdale, Pa., was about to go out hunting his gun was accidentally discharged, shattering an arm. Lockjaw ensued, resulting in his death.

As Frank Macomber, of Luding on, Minn., while hunting stopped at a spring to drink, his companion's coat caught the trigger of Macomber's gun, discharging it and blowing off one of Macomber's hands.

Two physicians of Upper Creek, N. J., went hunting for the first time. A rabbit crossed their path on a run, and in their excitement one fired and shot his comrade, while the rabbit escaped. The wound was luckily not very serious.

As Abraham De Bow, of Charleston Springs, N. J., was conversing with two hunters near his house, a rabbit, pursued by two dogs, came along, and one of the hunters handed De Bow his gun to shoot it. He shot the rabbit, and while the hunters were securing the game they heard the discharge of the other barrel of the gun and saw De Bow fall dead with his skull shattered.

Characteristics of the Cowboy.

A Los Angeles (Texas) correspondent of the Philadelphia *Bulletin* writes: The cowboy is a peculiar product of the frontier; as a rule, it is base flattery to suppose that he ever drives cows, unless he steals them. He is generally clad in a wide-rimmed, soft hat, a pair of spurs, a belt full of cartridges and a revolver. He probably wears other articles of comfort and adornment, but those I have mentioned have a faculty of monopolizing the attention of the observer. With him the revolver is a substitute for all things; he argues with it most logically, he buys with it at his own price, and he amuses himself with it habitually. Two of them went into a church down at Charleston, Arizona, a few weeks ago. The services wearied them. They "covered" the minister with their favorite weapon and made him come down from the pulpit and dance a jig in the corner. They are getting scarce about Deming; the place is not lively enough for them now. A merchant from Los Angeles came down here about the time the connection was made between the two roads. The "cowboys" were numerous. The merchant incautiously sported a high hat. He had scarcely alighted from the train when whiz went a bullet through the crown! On the other side of the track stood a grinning "cowboy" with the smoking pistol in his hand. It was not a hospitable reception, and the merchant was so nearly scared to death that he failed to get any enjoyment out of his visit to the "front." Wonderful stories are told of their skill in handling the pistol; to put a bullet through the hat as above and scare the bowl from the stem of the pipe that he holds in his teeth, are two feats which they delight in performing. They take delight in compelling a "tender foot" (a stranger to the frontier) to drink with them against his will, and occasionally cap the climax by making him pay for the drinks. The "cowboy" may have his good traits, however. They tell a pretty good story of how one of them made himself useful here in Deming. A fastidious "drummer" had come down from "above" (Frisco) upon business. At a restaurant kept by a "lone widder," he expressed dissatisfaction with the bill of fare. "The meat was too rare and the potatoes too soggy, while the beans weren't fit for a hog to eat." "Stranger," remarks a smiling cowboy over in the corner, while he raised his revolver and drew a fine sight upon the drummer, "them beans is good enough for you, and the sooner you get outside of 'em the healthier you'll find yourself. Do it pretty quick now, while this lady's a looking, or I'll bore a hole in you and put 'em in." The beans were eaten without further criticism. The cowboys frequently come to grief, and get their just deserts, without the law being brought to bear upon them. Two or three days after we left Deming one of them, in a half inebriated condition that is chronic with his class, attempted to "run" that town. He rode through the depot on horseback, brandishing his pistol and scattering the bystanders promiscously; one of them, not getting out of his way promptly, was knocked down by a blow from the outlaw's pistol. A deputy sheriff, armed with a shotgun appeared on the scene and ordered the cowboy to surrender. He failed to comply, when the deputy shot him dead. Three were killed at Tombstone the other day in a conflict with a deputy marshal and his aids, who had arrested one of their number a short time previously. A frontier jury doesn't hesitate very long over a verdict of "justifiable homicide" when a cowboy is killed.

A Rat in a Bottle.

A female rat was recently caught by a youthful hunter of North Second street, who earns many an honest penny by selling his prizes to Mr. Cills, the serpent-charmer. The latter purchased the unlucky rat from her captor, and was about to hand her over to the tender mercies of a huge turtle-headed snake when he perceived that in a few days the rat would be the mother of several little rats, and there would be so many more for his snakes. Procuring a large box, he wired it in such a way that the animal could not escape, and putting Mrs. Rat inside, he carried her new abode downstairs to the cellar and left her to her maternal duties. The next morning five little rodents were huddled at the side of their mother. A couple of weeks passed and the captive family were all in a flourishing condition, but one evening their owner noticed when he went to feed them that the mother had gnawed a small hole in the side of her prison, and on counting the progeny he likewise perceived that one of the infants had escaped. "I nailed a piece of tin over the hole," said Mr. Cills, "and was about leaving the cellar when I heard a squeaking noise in the midst of a lot of empty beer bottles which were standing in a corner of the cellar. I moved one of the bottles and saw that something was jumping up and down inside it, and what should that something be but my young rat. The little fellow had jumped down the neck of the bottle and couldn't climb out again, the sides being too slippery, I suppose. Curious to see what the mother would do, I placed the bottle containing the young run in the cage, in such a way, however, that it could not be knocked over. Later in the evening I went to see how things were getting on, and I found that several pieces of food had been dropped down the neck of the bottle by the mother. After another week had passed the young rat had so increased in size that all chance of its leaving its crystal dungeon was precluded, and so I placed the bottle on one side so that the mother could feed her little one more comfortably. She has evidently taken the best of care of it, for he is so fat that he can no longer turn himself round. I was puzzled for some time as to how he got his drink, but one day I approached cautiously and found the old rat busily engaged in dipping her tail in the saucer of water and then shoving it down the neck of the bottle for the young'un to suck. Of course the other little rats have been long ago swallowed by my snakes, but the mother rat and the little one in the beer bottle I am preserving for a while as a curiosity."—*Philadelphia Times.*

Tattooing.

Dr. Lacassagne, a French physician, has published a book on the habit of tattooing as practiced in the French army. There are professional tattooers in Paris and Lyons, who charge ten cents for each design. Generally the tattooer has cartoons on paper, and reproduces these on the skin by a mechanical process. Large designs cost a good deal; a big representation of an Indian holding up the flag of the United States costs the decorated person $3. China ink is the coloring substance preferred, touched up with vermillion. Dr. Lacassagne has collected 1,333 designs, tattooed on 378 members of the Second African battalion, or on men under arrest in military prisons. Many were tattooed on almost every part of the body. Patriotic and religious designs and inscriptions amounted to ninety-one. There were 344 works of pure fantasy, such as ladies driving in a carriage, the horses plunging, and the servants rushing to their heads. The great efforts of art are reserved for the surfaces of the breast and back. Among patriotic and religious emblems are cited two fiends, nine theological virtues, six crucifixes, two sisters of charity, three heads of Prussians, not flattered, and five portraits of ideal girls of Alsace, with no fewer than thirty-four busts of the republic. Among animals the lion and the serpent are the favorite totems. Among flowers, the pansy is generally preferred. The æsthetic classes will grieve to hear that not a single lily appears, and there was only one daisy. Among mythological subjects the sirens are the greatest favorites; next come Bacchus, with his panda, Venus, Apollo and Cupid.

The deepest insult that can be given in Deadwood is to say: "You ain't worth lynching."

FARM, GARDEN AND HOUSEHOLD.

Alternate Fruit Growers.

A correspondent asks if there is no remedy for the alternation of fruitfulness and barrenness. The use of good fertilizers such as a compost of wood, ashes and muck will give the trees sufficient vitality to bear moderately if not liberally each year. Apply this top dressing in autumn. Pasturing hogs in orchards is also of incalculable benefit. They rid them of insects by devouring the larvæ inside of the windfalls, and keep the land loose and well fertilized by their rooting and excrement.

Egg-Eating Fowls.

A correspondent of the *Poultry Yard* suggests to owners of egg-eating fowls how to get rid of the trouble. In the fall replace all the old hens with pullets; procure some china nest eggs, and fetch in the new-laid eggs every night in cold weather, and oftener, if you wish to save them from freezing and prevent the hens learning to eat them. Give the hens, instead of frozen or other eggs, refuse meat from the slaughter house or meat market boiled tender, with the bones pulverized. If these directions are followed, the writer says the hens will not learn to eat eggs.

Breaking Colts.

Colts should be broken to harness at three years old, and used in light work for two years, when they will become matured and fit for full work. If they are used for hard service before their joints become settled, or surrounded by a full-grown texture of muscle and sinew to support them, they are liable to become strained, causing spavins or bony enlargements that will destroy their future usefulness. Any imbecile can break down a colt, but it requires good sense to build them up after they have been crippled by ignorant task-masters. It is not worth while to risk the experiment of converting sound colts into invalids, when they will live longer and perform more service if suffered to ripen into the full-matured horse before being put to hard work.—*National Live Stock Journal.*

Overfeeding With Hay.

Now that cows have gone into winter quarters, a hint about feeding hay may not be out of place. We often hear dairymen talk as if the height of skill in taking care of cows in the winter was to get all the hay down that it is possible to cram into them. "I give my cows all the hay I can get them to eat" is the boastful remark often heard from a spirited and aspiring dairyman, though in doing so he is wasting good provender, without promoting the best welfare of his animals. It is a good thing to feed cows well and to be sure that they have food enough to sustain them fully, but it is neither wise nor economical to crowd them with a great bulk of hay of any quality. It is not wise to crowd any animal with a great bulk of coarse food. Cows should have no more hay than they have time to re-masticate, and if this is not enough for their necessities they should have some easy-digesting concentrated food along with it. The quantity of hay given should never exceed what they will eat up clean, and twice a day is often enough to give time for properly ruminating.—*Live Stock Journal.*

Profitable Poultry.

Eggs have been remarkably scarce and very dear during the past fall, and it would seem only reasonable to suppose that raising poultry will become, by and by, more of a business of itself, although perhaps it seldom pays better than as an adjunct to general farming. The Chicago *Times* discourses at length on the subject of profit in poultry. It says that success in keeping poultry largely depends on having a good location. A farmer who lives a long distance from a large town will derive little profit from sending fowls to market, as the cost of packages, expressage and commissions will be large. He will, however, find fowls profitable to raise for the supply of his own table, as there is difficulty in procuring fresh meat on farms during the warm months of the year. Generally, a farmer will do better by using the poultry raised at home and sending more beef and pork to market. Fowls to sell well must present a fine condition when they are exposed for sale. They should not be dressed long before they are offered to customers. By dressing them at home, the feathers may be saved, and they will be quite an object where a large number of fowls are killed on a place. Turkeys and geese are more profitable to raise to supply a distant market than chickens. The former are more in demand during cold weather, when poultry can be shipped to the best advantage and at the least cost. Turkeys are not in good condition to eat in the summer, and geese are most desirable during quite cold weather, as they contain much oil. Chickens are harder to transport than turkeys and geese, and are preferred for eating in warm weather. Most farmers raise geese for their feathers, and do not fatten them until there is danger of death from old age. In European countries, where geese and ducks are more generally eaten than here, they are fed liberally during the summer and fattened before they are old. When managed in this way, their flesh is ranked among the luxuries, and commands a ready sale.

Improved Seed Corn.

It should be, says a sensible writer, the study of every thrifty farmer how to produce the most merchantable corn on an acre of land, and yet how careless many farmers are in sowing seed and improving the manner of culture. Truly one half the farmers save their seed corn when gathering their crop in thin corn fields, a method by no means reliable even if they are certain to get seed that will grow, for the reason that there is no certainty that the same variety of corn will be got on a good ear taken from a field where inferior corn is grown. To insure good seed a field or small piece of land should be selected, not near other corn, and cultivated carefully, and any stock not likely to produce a good ear should be cut out before the pollen or blossom falls to inoculate the seed to be selected; for if the blossom falls on the silk of the stock on which the ear is selected, although the variety may not show in the ear selected it certainly will in the coming crop. This is why corn gets so much mixed that it is a very rare thing to find a crib of corn of anything like even kind or one variety of corn. Even at the fairs we find specimens of corn entered for premiums, in many instances there will be no two ears the same and no appearance of having been cultivated carefully with an eye to the production of a pure variety of one kind of corn. To save seed that will grow is so easy that any farmer not having reliable seed is inexcusable. If corn is picked before any frost and kept from freezing and heating it is certain to grow, but it must not heat or be kept where any grain is that is heating or even going through what is usually called a sweating process, and it must be kept where there is plenty of pure air until it is thoroughly dry, and if kept dry there is no danger of its not growing if properly planted. It should be similar in color, if white, a purer white and if yellow a deep bright yellow, and not mixed colors. Another essential thing is to have it of even sized grains to insure a regular and proper stand in a hill. If carefully selected of even sized grains a corn planter that will not drop about the proper number, say three or four grains in a hill, is not fit for use, but if uneven in size it is very difficult to get a good corn stand. I am using a deep grain early, yellow corn, with twenty rows on a small cob selected carefully and cultivated carefully for seed which I have been improving so long that I get the same variety and fully seventy bushels per acre where forty was considered a fair average crop.

Household Hints.

Black linen thread should be kept wrapped in paper out of the way from the light which rots it.

Wash muslins and calicoes that are liable to fade in warm water. Brown linens should be steeped and rinsed in hay water.

A simple and good thing for cleaning nickel-plated articles is made as follows: Take half a cup of whiting, fill it with water, put it in a bottle and add a teaspoonful or a trifle more of ammonia.

One of greatest helps in the kitchen is washing or saleroda. If a strong solution is kept in a bottle, and a little is used in cleansing tin or iron ware, it will more than reward the housekeeper for her trouble. There is nothing so nice for milk utensils.

There is a very simple method by which dampness—and this produces mold—may be prevented in unoccupied apartments or in houses at the seaside which are closed in winter. Place in an open plate a quantity of lime, which will absorb the moisture. In libraries this simple remedy is said to be very efficacious.

To extract the fragrance of flowers, take thin layers of cotton wool and dip them into sweet oil and sprinkle a small quantity of fine salt on the flowers, the fragrance of which is to be extracted; then place in a jar a layer of cotton and a layer of flowers until the jar is full. Close the jar air-tight and place in the sun for fifteen days.

Recipes.

CRACKER GRIDDLE CAKES.—One pint of cracker dust; the yelks of two eggs; thin with milk, and when it swells add more milk until of the right consistency; salt, and when ready to bake, add the whites of the eggs beaten stiff.

BOILED FROSTING.—One cup of sugar boiled with just enough water to prevent it from burning; let it boil several minutes; have ready the white of one egg, whipped stiff, and pour over it the hot sugar very slowly and beat until cool; add flavoring and spread on your cake.

BREAKFAST ROLL.—Prepare a good dressing, such as you like for turkey or duck; take a round steak, pound it, but not very hard, spread the dressing on it, sprinkle in a little salt, pepper, and a few bits of butter, lap over the ends, roll the steak up tightly and tie closely; spread two great spoonfuls of butter over the steak after rolling it up, then wash with a well-beaten egg, put water in the bake-pan, lay in the steak so as not to touch the water, and bake as you would a duck, basting often. A half-hour in a brisk oven, will bake. Make a brown gravy, and send to the table hot.

BEEF SOUP.—Take nice bones left from a roast or any other bony pieces that are fresh; put in your soup-kettle; cover with cold water and let it come gradually to a boil. Skim carefully and then throw in salt to season. Boil till the meat is very tender; remove the bones and strain out the meat if you prefer—but it can be chopped a little and returned to the kettle; season also with pepper if agreeable. A nice addition to the soup is to throw in a half-cupful of rice an hour and a-half before dinner, and boil in the soup, being careful not to let it stick to the kettle. A nice thing for this use is a little hardwood shovel which some little boy will whittle out with a jack knife. Serve very hot.

How Shoe Pegs are Made.

It was the privilege of the writer to visit the picturesque little town of Arlington, Vt., which at the time boasted a population of 2,500, three churches, five stores, two hotels, an extensive car works, sash and blind and chair factory, also a peg factory, which, by the courtesy of the foreman, Mr. L. E. White, (who had been employed there twenty-nine years) he was shown through, and received valuable information. The timber used is black and yellow birch, which is cut into pieces four feet in length, varying in diameter from eight to fourteen inches. These logs are placed in a building in winter and the frost extracted by steam. They are then run in on a tram railway to the circular saw department, and cut into slices or blanks of the thickness desired for the length of the pegs. These are sorted and the knots cut out, and are then passed on to a long bench which contains six machines composed of fluted rollers. The blanks are then run between these rollers, which creases on both sides. They are then run through again to cross crease, or mark out the exact sizes of the pegs. They then go to the splitting machines, which are set with double knives, and cut the blanks into pegs. As they pass the last machine they are sorted, and all knots and discolored ones removed as they are brushed off into large baskets. The machines are under the care of young women, who appeared much more happy and useful than do many of those who, thumping at the piano, would consider such employment menial. The next process is bleaching, which is accomplished by the fumes of brimstone, which is unhealthy—(those who labor here shorten their lives.) They are then placed in large cylinders, which hold eleven barrels, and have six hundred steam pipes running through them, and revolve one and one-half times to the minute, drying two charges per day to each cylinder. They are then passed into large wooden casks, or cylinders, which, revolving rapidly, polish them by the friction, the refuse falling through wire sieves on screen openings, after which they are again passed into a sifter, which separates all the single pegs and drops them into tubs or boxes, leaving those which have not been separated in the machine. They are then put in barrels ready for market. The factory running on full time turns out one hundred and fifty bushels, or fifty barrels per day. The sizes go from eight up to sixteen to an inch. The lengths go by eights two and one-half to twelve. Twenty-six hands are employed, half of them being women. The products of this mill are mostly shipped to Germany and France, and enter largely into the manufacture of toys and fancy goods as well as into the shoe manufactory. Thus the "genii of mechanism" converts, as by magic, the trees from the Vermont mountains into articles of use, which floating off through the channels of commerce to far away countries, anon return to sparkle the eyes of happy children in toys, in which these toys have become important factors.

Food Adulterations.

The following is from a paper read before the Maryland Academy of Sciences: The use of beer has become much less general because of the suspected use of harmful bitters and grape sugar. A large piece of this so called grape sugar, taken from the hands of a youth in this city, who said his father manufactured it, proved, upon analysis, to contain a quantity of sulphuric acid, enough to destroy some half dozen sets of good teeth! As this sugar is largely used in adulterating cane sugar, candies and numerous other articles of luxury and necessity, further comment is unnecessary. Yeast powders are made and sold here which contain soluble salts of aluminium. The use of tin in sugar, of baryta in numerous articles of food to increase their weight are barely concealed. The agreeable odor of caramel in the neighborhood of the coffee mills tells its own tale, and to explain the wonderful cheapness of the beautiful jellies now in such common use we should have to go further than our matutinal friend "Rags Bones" and pursue through the wonderful transformation worked by modern chemistry the bones from our garbage box, flavored and colored by the waste products from the gas works, back again to our tables as currant jelly for our famous canvas backs and red heads, and perhaps meet in our sugar bowls our old shirts transformed into very palatable sugar. When in Washington recently I asked the Chinese ambassador what was the punishment for food adulteration in China? Replied: "Death."

FOR THE FAIR SEX.

Plain Dresses.

An attempt to wear plain dresses of rich fabrics is again being made, says a New York paper. After the great profusion of trimmings used for several years, ladies cannot get accustomed to simpler styles, and a toilet is not admired unless enriched with a quantity of fringe, galloon, beads and embroidery. Rich materials, as well as plain ones, are embroidered; satins are heavily draped, and plush has elegant passementerie combined with it. It would be far more advisable for ladies past a certain age to adopt plainer fashions; they would appear younger in rich dark silks than in toilets trimmed after the present styles. A number of fashionable weddings have taken place of late in Paris. As black is not used on these occasions, many ladies of middle age wore violet and bronze color. There is a dark, gilded, greenish-bronze color, which is very becoming, and which combines well with old point lace and all kinds of flowers.

Two Wealthy Ladies.

A New York correspondent says: The Fifth avenue contains two ladies of great wealth, each of whom may be said to live alone, with the exception of servants. One of these is Mrs. A. T. Stewart, who occupies a place which cost $1,000,000. The taxes alone on this grand establishment are $12,500. She has a dozen servants and a housekeeper, but otherwise lives alone though often visited by her young and expectant relatives. The other is Miss Harriet Lenox, sister of the philanthropist, who occupies the house built by the latter when the Fifth avenue first became an aristocratic street. She also lives alone, with the exception of the servants, but her purpose in life is to carry out her brother's philanthropic schemes, for which reasons he made her his sole heir. Old Robert Lenox, the founder of the family, had four children, a son and three daughters. Harriet is the last of the line, which in her death will become extinct. She is, like her late brother, a recluse, but devotes her time and her wealth to beneficence, which is administered through approved channels of usefulness.

A Girl Who Can Shoot.

The St. Louis *Chronicle*, in an account of the operations of the band with which Ryan, the railroad train robber, was connected, tells this story about the sweetheart of one of the men:

The robbers used frequently to shoot at targets in company with their sweethearts, in the shooting the girls making sometimes almost as good a score as the men, and the yells that would rend the air as one's favorite lady would split the bullet on the half dollar as it fell toward the ground would have done justice to a border scout. Nor were the young ladies behind them in equestrianism, Miss Ryan, in particular, often boasting that she could drop the nickel as often in the race as any of the boys. It may be proper here to explain the modus operandi of the "nickel race." A nickle or other small coin is placed in the forks of a tree, about the distance from the ground that a man's shoulder would be while on horseback. Each party has one shot at it as he flies by on his horse at full speed. The ladies take their regular turn, and Miss Ryan has been known to drop the nickel three times out of five races, and that she is indeed at home in the saddle is demonstrated by the fact that when alighting from her favorite horse, a powerful black charger, she simply raises in the saddle and leaps to the ground, while her horse walks to the nearest hitching post to await his rider. When she is ready to remount her intelligent horse comes to her call, and taking the saddle by the pommel she bounds into it and is off at a fast gallop, the only gait she ever rides.

Fashion Notes.

Bonnets grow larger and smaller.

Plush trimmings remain fashionable.

Neck lingerie grows more voluminous.

Artificial fur is one of the latest novelties.

Sealskin garments have lost none of their popularity.

Large bonnets are very large, and small ones very small.

Plush and velvet bags are finished with silver clasps and chatelaines.

English and Irish point, point de Venice and point Duchesse are fashionable laces.

The three leading articles of jewelry at the present time are bracelets, lacepins and finger-rings.

A new trimming for a black satin walking skirt is loops of black velvet lined with white satin.

The most effective lace used for fashionable fichus is the Carrickmacross in improved modern designs.

The flexible bracelets with fancy ends have replaced the less graceful broad bands, chain and bangle bracelets.

A favorite combination for rings consists of the ruby and sapphire, two popular stones at the present time.

Shrimp-pink bonnets with plumes to match are affected for reception and evening wear by young ladies of high fashion.

Immense scarfs of Spanish lace, either black or white, muffle the throats of our most fashionable ladies in the coldest weather, placed above the fur collar or tippet.

All dresses with the least pretension to elegance are finished around the bottom by one, two or three narrow flutings or ruffles, besides the indispensable balayeuse of plaited white muslin edged with lace.

The gilt dagger with jeweled hilt is the favorite bonnet pin; it is thrust through the large bow on one side of the head, and requires artistic taste to give it the correct angle of incidence or reflection to the base of the bonnet or hat crown.

Entire evening dresses are made of pale-tinted plush, which are most generally cut princesse style, with long panels of the same goods faced with delicate gold color, or with a shade of satin several hues darker than that composing the dress. These panels and other portions of the dress are otherwise trimmed with bolt frills of costly white lace, and large satin bows placed here and there upon the skirt.

A very becoming coiffure for a young girl is made by plaiting [illegible] braids, then winding [illegible] the head, first cross[illegible] nape of the neck, t[illegible] over the crown, whe[illegible] tened. Over this, w[illegible] worn a French net [illegible] tiny gold beads, thre[illegible] With dark hair si[illegible] effective. This coi[illegible] with evening dress.

Among the ne[illegible] some which hav[illegible] in oil to match [illegible] colored satin, [illegible] inlaid in gold, [illegible] worked in [illegible] evening use, [illegible] the applica[illegible] birds in fe[illegible] of grebe f[illegible] is laid up [illegible] dation, a[illegible] disposed [illegible] pretty pa[illegible]

Eric A[illegible] thought [illegible] plete w[illegible] first ex[illegible] intoxica[illegible] track an[illegible]

Two wo[illegible] their husb[illegible] France, o[illegible] The husb[illegible] both wome[illegible]

"I move, [illegible] convention, [illegible] Dr. Ball's [illegible] cannot und[illegible] no doubt [illegible]

Between the Clipper Mills and Stuart's Point, in Sonoma county, California, is an actual road bed in the tree tops. At this point the road crosses a deep ravine, and trees are sawed off on a level and the timber and ties laid on the stumps. In the center of the ravine mentioned two huge redwood trees, standing side by side, form a substantial support, and they are cut off seventy-five feet above ground, and cars loaded with heavy saw-logs pass over them with as much security as if it were framed in the most scientific manner.

It is useless to groan with rheumatism when a bottle of St. Jacobs Oil will cure it, as everybody knows.—Columbus (Ohio) Daily Times.

Before the civil war the exports of pecan nuts from Indianola, Texas, were reported at $100,000; now it is estimated that the amount annually gathered exceeds $2,000,000 in value. No care, however, has been taken in the trees; in fact, in many localities, trees fifty to one hundred years old have been cut down to secure the nuts. With proper care of the trees and systematic gathering of the crop it is believed that $10,000,000 could be annually realized.

The Des Moines (Iowa) Tri-Weekly Tribune says: "A Harrisburg, Pa., journal mentions that Mr. D. Bensinger, No 4 Market Square, that city, was cured by St. Jacobs Oil of a violent attack of rheumatism.

"I'd have you to know, sir, that I moved in the best circles before I came to this country," said a native of Albion. "They kept you moving all the time, didn't they, until you were forced to move out of England?" queried Fenderson.—*Boston Transcript.*

P. T. BARNUM announces that he will employ all curious specimens of the human race, including giants, dwarfs, fat people and freaks of nature, for his great show. Parties interested should write, inclosing photo's, to Barnum, Bailey & Hutchinson, 40 Bond st., N. Y.

Under the head of "Short Stops" a Chicago paper tells how a man stopped in jail for three months. They haven't much idea of time in Chicago.

The Science of Life, or Self-Preservation, a medical work for every man, young, middle-aged or old. 125 invaluable prescriptions.

"VEGETINE," says a Boston physician, "has no equal as a blood purifier. Hearing of its many wonderful cures, after all other remedies had failed, I visited the laboratory and convinced myself of its genuine merit. It is prepared from barks, roots and herbs, each of which is highly effective, compounded in such a manner as to produce astonishing results."

A BEATTY'S PIANOFORTES—Magnificent holiday presents: square grand pianofortes four octave handsome round corners, rosewood cases three unisons, Beatty's magnificent iron frames, stool, book, cover, boxes, $225 to $297.50; cabinet organs, $60 to $1000; satisfaction guaranteed or money refunded, after one year's use: Upright Pianofortes, $125 to $325; cabinet organs $50 to $500; standard pianofortes of the universe as thousands testify; write for mammoth list of testimonials. Beatty's Cabinet ORGANS, cathedral, church, chapel, parlor, $30 upward. Visitors welcome; free carriage meets passengers; illustrated catalogue (holiday edition) free. Address or call upon DANIEL F. BEATTY, WASHINGTON, NEW JERSEY.

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