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AUGUSTA, GA.

VOL. LXVIII.

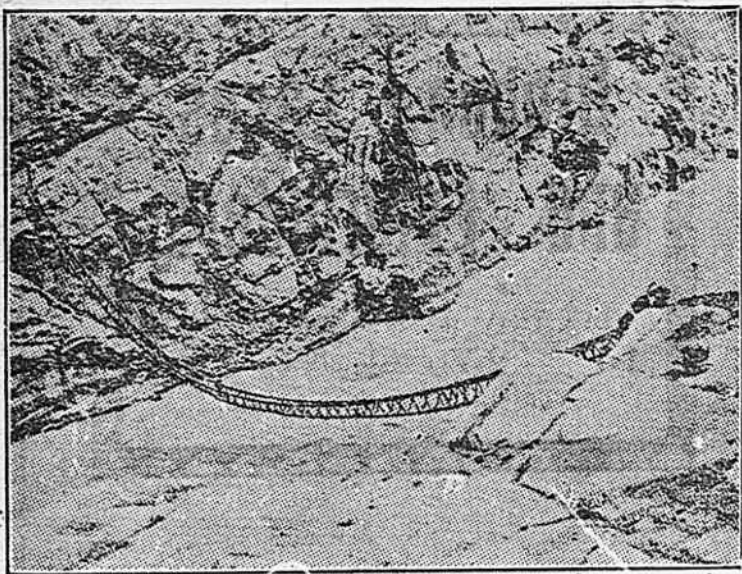
EDGEFIELD, S. C. WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 1903.

NO 19.

USE OF SPIDER'S WEB IN OPTICS

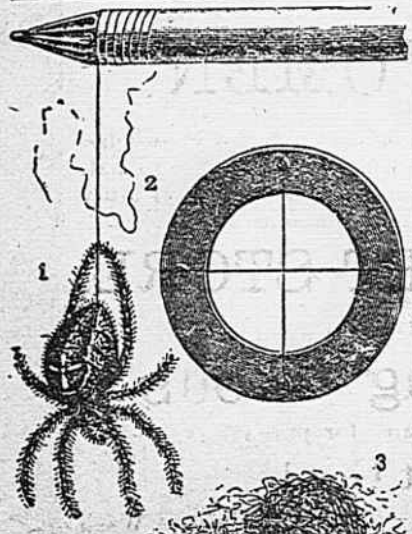
A. L. Clement, in Nature, Paris—Translated and Condensed For Public Opinion.

It is the extreme fineness of the spider's web which makes it very valuable for the reticules of astronomical instruments. In autumn the spider lays a great number of eggs which it sur-



"THE WORST BRIDGE IN THE HIMALAYAS" - INTREPID MOUNTAINEERS HAVE BEEN KNOWN TO TURN SICK WITH TERROR IN THE MIDDLE. - From a Photo.

rounds with a cocoon made of a thick and closely woven wadding of golden silk. Placed in boiling water containing gum and soap, this cocoon easily divides and gives a thread so fine that 18,000 would make a strand no larger than ordinary sewing silk. If the silk of the cocoon is not to be lost, one may employ the threads of the cocoon which the spider places on the trees, or one may distribute the spider, catch the thread which it unravels as it falls and by turning it on a pencil preserve it perfectly.



1.-METHOD OF PRESERVING WEB. 2.-DIAPHRAGM WITH RETICULE. 3.-SPIDER COCOON.

When the thread has been procured a piece is detached and each end is placed in a small ball of wax, in the middle of which there has been previously placed a shot. Then the diaphragm which is to have the reticule is taken from the telescope. This diaphragm is given to a system of threads crossed at right angles which serve for the purpose of determining the optical axis, the name in practice including the diaphragm itself with its threads, the crossing of which should occur at its very centre. The diaphragm also has very fine lines which have been carefully engraved upon it and after cleaning them carefully the thread held by the balls of wax is placed on the diaphragm, where it is held with the aid of a magnifying glass until it is firmly fixed in the proper lines. Ordinary reticules are formed of two threads, but for observations of great precision reticules with many threads are employed.

Old Man-of-War Discovered.
In the battle of Dungeness between Admiral Torrington's fleet and the French, in 1690, the British seventy-gun ship of the line Anne was run on the sands and scuttled. She sank in practice quicksands, where she has been buried until a few days ago, when she hulk appeared at low tide. It was found that many of her brass guns were still on board.

How to Interest People.
To interest a man talk about himself; to interest a woman talk about somebody she wishes were talking to her instead of you. -New York Press.

Germany's exports grew from \$69,600,000 in 1901 to \$114,495,000 in 1902.

A Remarkable Bridge.

The large knit-tone on this page shows a remarkable bridge over the River Indus at Roudi, in Northern Kashmir. This frail-looking structure which crosses a rocky gorge, through which the river runs at a tremendous rate—consists of three ropes, one foot rope and two side ropes, joined together by short lengths of rope at in-

AN INGENIOUS FOLDING GLASS

It Occupies No More Room Than a Pocketbook.

M. L. Pettit has just invented a very ingenious glass, one that closes like an ordinary pocketbook with a clasp and



occupies no more room in the pocket. The apparatus is composed of a flat and light frame which has the eye-

NEW ELECTRIC LIGHT CONVENIENCES

Lamp Stands Which Will Prove Valuable For a Variety of Purposes.

The copyist at the typewriter finds that the best thing designed for the purpose of holding the notes of manu-



script being copied is a stand which fits a desk-life surface designed to hold the matter before the operator at a slight angle, and just below the level

A LAND OF LITTLE RAIN.

DEATH VALLEY THE LONELIEST REGION IN THE WORLD.

The Painful Sense of Mystery in the Desert Air Breeds Fables Chiefly of Lost Treasure—Hills That Have the Lotus Charm.

Prophyl equipped, it is possible to go safely across that ghastly sink (Death Valley—the Armoagos desert in eastern California), yet every year it takes its toll of death, and yet men find there sun-dried mummies, of whom no trace of recollection is preserved. To underestimate one's thirst to pass a given landmark to the right or left, to find a dry string where one looked for running water—there is no help for any of these things.

Along springs and sunken water-courses one is surprised to find such water-loving plants as grow widely in moist ground, but the true desert habit is the yucca. The angle of the slope, the fringing of a hill, the structure of the soil determines the plant. South-looking hills are nearly bare, and the tree-line higher here by a thousand feet. Canyons running east and west will have one well watered and one dry. Around dry lakes and marshes the herbage preserves a set and orderly arrangement. Most species have well defined areas of growth, the best index the voiceless land can give the traveler of his whereabouts.

Nothing the desert produces expresses its better than the unhappy growth of the yucca. Tormented, thin forests of it stalk drearily in the high mesa, particularly in that triangular silt that fans out eastward from the meeting of the Sierras and coastwise hills where the first swings across the southern end of the San Joaquin valley. The yucca, bushes with bayonet-pointed leaves, dull green, growing shaggy with age, topped with panicles of reddish bloom. After death, which is slow, the ghostly, hollow network of its woody skeleton, with hardly power to rot, makes the moonlight fearful. Before the yucca has come to fall flower the Indians roast its buds for their own delectation. Other yuccas, cacti, low herbs, a thousand sorts, one finds journeying east from the coastwise hills. There is neither poverty of soil nor species to account for the sparseness of desert growth, but simply that each plant requires more room. So much earth must be pre-empted to extract so much moisture. The real struggle for existence, the real brain of the plant, is underground; above there is room for a rounded, perfect growth. In Death Valley, reputed the very core of desolation, are nearly two hundred identified species. Above the tree-line, which is also the snow line, mapped out, abruptly by the sun, one finds spreading growth of pines, juniper branched nearly to the ground, lilac, sage, and white pine.

There is no special preponderance of self-fertilized or wind fertilized plants, but everywhere the demand for and evidence of insect life. Now where there are seeds and insects there will be birds and small mammals, and where there are, will come the slinking sharp-toothed-kind that prey on them. Go as far as you dare in the heart of a lonely land, you can not go so far that life and death are not before you. Painted lizards slip in and out of rock crevices, and pant on the white, hot sands. Birds, humming-birds, even, nest in the cactus scrub, woodpeckers, befriending the yucca, peck out of the stark, treeless waste rings the music of the night-singing mocking-bird. If it be summer and the sun well down, there will be a burrowing owl to call. Strange, furry, tricky things dart across the open places, or sit motionless in the conning towers of the creosote.

The poet may have "named all the birds without a gun," but not the fairy footed, ground-inhabiting, furtive, small folk of the rainless regions. They are too many and too swift; how many you would not believe without seeing the footprint tracings in the sand. They are nearly all night workers, finding the days too hot and white. In mid-desert, where there are no wells, there are no oases, but if you go in that direction the chances are that you will find yourself shadowed by their tilted wings. Nothing so large as a man can move unspied upon that country, and they know well how the land deals with strangers. There are hints to be had here of the way in which a land forces new habits on its dwellers.

If one is inclined to wonder at first how so many dwellers came to be in the loneliest land that ever came out of God's hands, what they do there, and why stay, one does not wonder so much after having lived there. None the less, this lonely area has many other than a hold on the affections. The rainbow hills, the tender, bluish mists, the luminous radiance of the spring, have the lotus charm. They trick the sense of time, so that once inhabiting there you always mean to go away without quite realizing that you have not done it. Men who have lived there, miners and cattlemen, will tell you this, not so fluently, but emphatically, cursing the land and going back to it. For one thing there is the divinest, cleanest air to be breathed anywhere in God's world. Some day the world will understand that, and the little oases on the windy tops of hills will harbor for healing its ailing, house-weary broods. There is promise there of great wealth in ores and cars, which is no wealth by reason of being so far removed from water and workable conditions, but men are bewitched by it and tempted to try the impossible.

The palpable sense of mystery in the desert air breeds fables, chiefly of lost treasure. Somewhere within its stark borders, if one believes report, is a hill strewn with nuggets; one sealed with virgin silver; an old clayey water-bed where Indians scooped up earth to make cooking pots and clapped them reeking with grains of pure gold. Old miners drifting about the desert edges, weathered into the semblance of the tawny hills, will tell you tales like these convincingly. After a little sojourn in that land you will believe them on their own account. It is a question whether it is not better to be bitten by the little horned snake of

ENGLISH AUTO HEADGEAR.



Above are shown some beauties—not the Sultan of Turkey's own, but English beauties ready for the road. Both veils and hoods are in waterproof silk, in biscuit, fawn, blue or black, which excludes wind, dust and rain.

pieces fixed to its upper portion. These eye-pieces slide by means of a setting screw. On the lower portion of the frame are fixed the object glasses mounted on a pivot, which follows the line passing through their centres, thus allowing them to swing around their axes so that they may be brought to occupy a position that is perpendicular to the plane of the frame, or, on the contrary, to place them in the plane of the frame, according as the glass is open or closed. The cut gives a clear idea of the construction.

Gold in the Snow.
It is said that there are some places on the Copper River where the snow, when melted and strained through a cloth, leaves a small trace of gold deposit. No perfectly satisfactory explanation of this has been given, but some scientists say that the gold may have been brought from the far North by the heavy winter gales that sweep over that part of the country. It is possible that if all the snow in that region could be melted it would leave on the ground millions of dollars in gold-dust, and yet no artificial way has been found of making it yield in paying quantity.

An Impossible Task.
The worst thing about making love in poetry to "win a woman is the living up to it in prose after you have won her. -New York Press.

The points of lightning conductors, the pointed leaves and spines of trees, are always radioactive, and it has been largely shown that freshly fallen rain is so, too, and retains this property for about an hour.

Running lessens the blood supply in the legs.



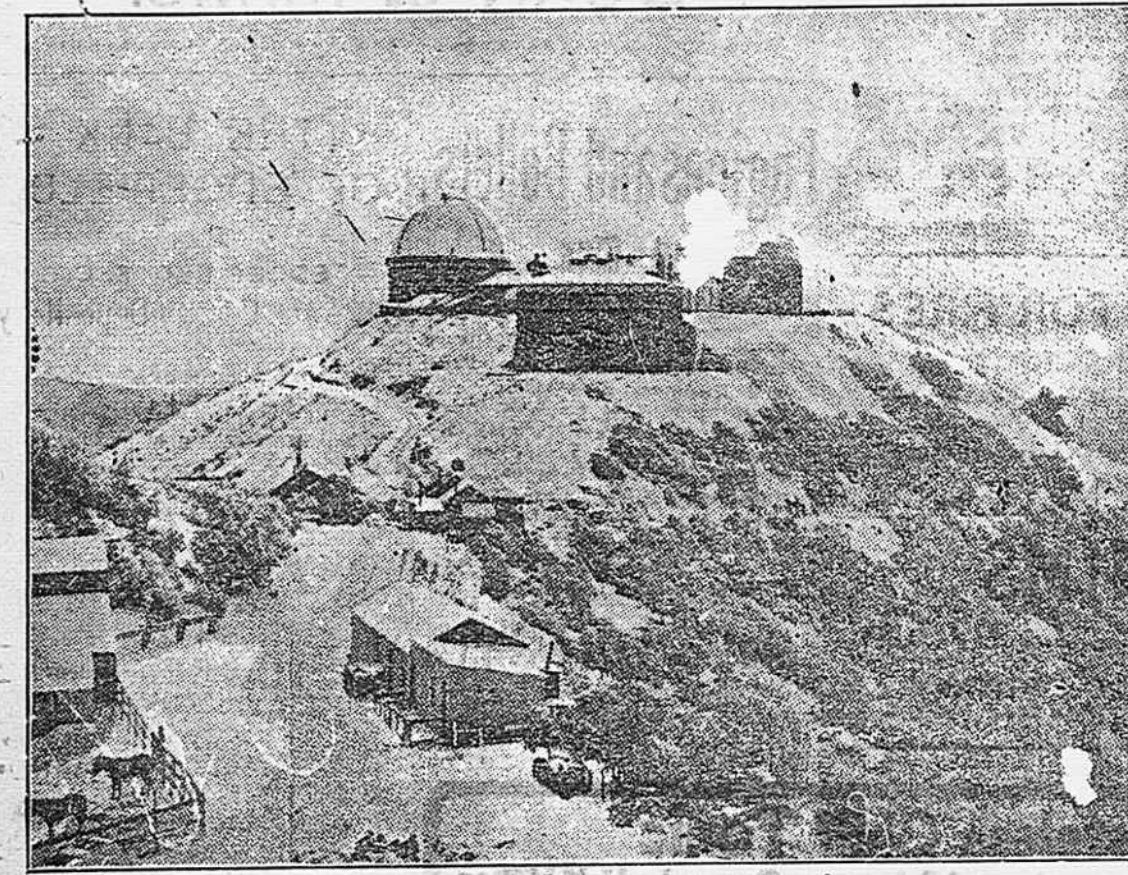
PORTABLE ELECTRIC LAMP STAND.

In height, weighs five pounds and throws a light on the keyboard of the machine, as well as the copy being transcribed. The height of the lamp is three feet when not extended but when raised the lamp is five feet from the floor.

Wax Waxed Paper Bags.
"I should like to get my hands on the man who began to line the ordinary paper bag of commerce with waxed paper," said an up-town grocer. "Women will not have their orders sent home in anything else now. The coarse brown paper bags that our mothers used to get are almost out of business. If a woman wants to keep a thing dry she asks to have it sent in a waxed paper bag. If she wants to keep it moist she also wants a waxed paper bag. Tea and coffee go into waxed paper to keep it dry and fresh. A nice head of lettuce calls for waxed paper to keep it moist. Cakes, candies and confectionery of all sorts must be put in wax paper bags. Sugar and flour are about the only things for which we can use the old-fashioned paper bags. It was once only a fad in the trade, calculated to please somewhat fastidious customers who wanted to carry a small parcel home without soiling their gloves. Now it is a demand in the business, even for delivery orders." -New York Times.

A Wonderful Case.
"Tropical growth is an endless wonder," said Senator Depew to a bevy of his colleagues at the Metropolitan Club, Washington. "On one of my visits to the lower latitudes I saw a cane two miles long." The company looked incredulous. "Perfectly true, I assure you, gentlemen," said our Chauncey, after a pause for effect; "it was a juriscane." -New York Press.

A View of the Lick Observatory.



This illustration shows the summit of Mount Hamilton, near San Jose, Cal., upon which is located the famous Lick Observatory. The photograph was taken in the winter, when the higher altitudes of the mountain are covered with snow, although in the valleys below oranges are ripening and flowers blooming.

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A BIT OF GREEN.

"A bit of green" for the living room in winter has a wonderfully transforming effect. The most simply furnished room looks lovely with the addition of a growing plant. Among virtues that lend themselves easily to this treatment the manetta is perhaps the most desirable. It grows freely and twines about any sort of support, even itself, if nothing else offers. The pairs of little tube shaped blossoms, scarlet and lemon yellow, show in cheery contrast with the masses of dark glossy green leaves. It is a "komanonable," homelike sort of plant, and deserves the epithet of "amiable" given by one grower. "I never have rubber plants," said this home keeper. "They are easy to care for and make a good showing, but they are such stolid, unsympathetic things. I like companionable plants."

The manraudia vine is another dainty plant for house culture, especially for hanging baskets and bracket jars. The leaves are ivy shaped and translucent and the blossom tubelike, some two inches long and flaring in the face. White, pink and purple are the commonest colors. This plant is particularly hardy, resisting even light frosts. The Kenilworth ivy, with its tiny leaves and dainty blossoms, is always in order, making an attractive covering for the large pots of other plants. Two or three seedlings of this placed about the roots of each plant will soon hide all pots and boxes under a wealth of virile growth.

CLEANING SILVER PLATE.
For cleaning silver plate the following mixture is recommended: To two ounces of prepared French chalk add one-quarter ounce of ammonia, four ounces of alcohol and two ounces of water; add to this when the chalk and water are thoroughly incorporated ten grains of cyanide of potassium dissolved in two ounces of water. The resulting mixture should be of a creamy consistency. To give it a pleasant odor add twenty grains of saffron.

The mixture should be placed in a bottle and thoroughly shaken before use. Apply with a jeweller's brush over the whole surface of the article. If this happens to be deeply engraved, use what painters call a stippling stroke, which consists of jabbing the bristles into the recesses and a groove of the chasing. If highly polished do not use a brush, make a pad of cotton flannel filled with cotton wool and apply the mixture. After the article has been restored to its original brightness wash thoroughly with castile soap and water, rinse in scalding water, and wipe with a soft flannel.

TO WASH FLANNELS.
It is possible to wash flannels without shrinking them, but the average laundress does not know the process. Therefore it is worth while to know how to restore shrunken garments to their original size, or something like it. Try laying the article to be restored on the ironing board, and lay on it a piece of cheesecloth which has been wrung out of cold water. Press with a hot iron until the cheesecloth is perfectly dry. The garment will show a marked improvement.

THE CARE OF CARPETS.
A good layer of newspapers underneath a carpet will prevent all danger from moths, which have a strong objection to printers' ink and will not come anywhere near it to lay their eggs. Fresh papers should be used every time the carpet is taken up. Tea leaves, damp salt or newspaper that has been soaked in water and then squeezed dry and torn into small pieces are all very good for taking up the dust when sweeping, but tea leaves should always be rinsed in water before using, especially if the carpet is a light one. Damp salt brightens the colors wonderfully if they are at all faded or soiled. Remember that a carpet should always be swept the way of the nap. To brush the other way is to brush the dust in. Attend to all stains as soon as possible. If left, they gradually sink into the carpet and are much more difficult to remove than if done at once.

Certain French papers have lately been devoted much space in the effort to prove that Gibraltar is no longer the key to the Mediterranean and that modern steam-driven ships have destroyed its usefulness to England as a fortress. On this account they are warning Europe to watch closely the designs of perfide Albion on the opposite Moroccan coast. In reply to this English papers are pointing out that Gibraltar has never been the key to the Mediterranean save in the sense of a point d'appui for the British navy, and particularly the Mediterranean fleet. While it is true that modern guns might carry across the strait the chance of hitting a warship in motion are all but nothing. It is no longer regarded as anything more than a supply station for the navy, but as such it is as important as ever. England could not hope to command the strait, even if she had fortresses on the other side, without the help of her navy. There are thirteen miles of water at the narrowest point and no land guns could prevent a fleet from passing through.

THE RECORD YIELD OF LUMBER.
The record yield of timber from one tree, \$8,000 feet from a redwood 30 feet in diameter, cut last year in California.