

PUTTING ON LADIES' SHOES.

A Dealer Discusses the Question of Male and Female Clerks. (From the New York Tribune.) The introduction of women as clerks in shoe stores began as an experiment a few years ago, and considerable interest in the success of the scheme has been manifested by the shoe trade. The experiment may now be regarded as a success within certain limits, but it appears to be equally sure that the female clerks will never entirely drive out the men, even from the departments for women's and children's shoes.

An experienced clerk in a well known uptown establishment said recently to a Tribune reporter that the tendency among large dealers now is to employ both men and women, and then let the customer choose for herself between the two. "It is purely a matter of taste," said the clerk, "and I should say even that it depended on the customer's mere whim. Some women profess to be shocked at the immodesty of having a man put on their shoes for them; but on the other hand many of the most refined ladies in the city always insist on having a man serve them, as there will always be the same demand."

And that is the cause of this preference? asked the reporter. "Simply that a man can fit a shoe to the foot better than a woman can. The majority of women wear tight shoes, even those who have no claim to a place in the world of fashion, and it takes a strong hand and arm to get a tight shoe on a customer's foot easily. Most women are too weak in the wrist for this sort of work, and they will toil and struggle so over the task that many customers become completely disgusted, and learn to avoid a store where there are no male clerks to wait on them. A man by superior strength and dexterity will force a shoe two sizes too small on a woman's foot with comparative ease, and she will leave the store conscious of having secured a small shoe that is a perfect fit."

And now about the question of modesty? "Well, a shoe store is a good place to study the vagaries of prudish. Unduly sensitive women do find it an ordeal to have men wait on them, and for such cases the female clerk is a business necessity. Most women, however, are not so sensitive, and as for the male clerks themselves, they would always rather wait on a man than on a woman any time. A very young clerk sometimes feels that he is pretty near heaven when he is directed to assist a handsome young woman in getting satisfactory foot gear, but the novice's soon wears off. Women are so much more particular than men, especially in matters of shoes, that it is by no means a coveted privilege to wait on them. One annoyance to which ladies are not now subjected in the larger establishments is the imminent staring of dandies and other callow youth who used always to spend half an hour trying on shoes themselves, whenever they went to a shoe store, just to get a glimpse of a pretty ankle now and then. Now separate rooms are provided for the ladies, but the male clerks will never be entirely banished from these sacred precincts."

Progress in South Carolina. Beaufort—Fertilizer Works.—The Baldwin Fertilizer Co. will enlarge their works next summer. Black's Tramway.—The Magnetic Iron & Steel Mining Co. will, it is said, build another tramway, to be 1 1/2 miles long. Charleston—Match, Tooth-pick and Shoe-peg Factory.—A. F. C. Kramer, reported last week as contemplating starting a match factory, will start a factory for manufacturing matches, tooth-picks and shoe-pegs, if after making investigations he thinks such a factory will pay.

Charleston—Phosphate Works.—The company lately mentioned as formed and to erect a large saw mill at Pineoak, 35 miles from Charleston, on the Northeastern Railroad, and build a railroad, and what, have purchased the phosphate works of Laurens N. Chisolm. Charleston—Canal.—There is talk of forming a company to build a canal to connect the Ashley and the Edisto rivers. Charleston—Underwear Factory.—Machinery has been received for the underwear factory reported last week as started. Cheraw—Buildings.—It is reported that J. W. McKay will erect 12 brick buildings. Clifton—Cotton Mill.—The Clifton Manufacturing Co. are making some improvements to their No. 1 mill, which will increase their capacity.

Columbia—Wine Factory.—W. A. Clark, W. J. Sloan, Jr., Willie Jones and others will incorporate the Richland Wine Co. to purchase the farm and vineyard of E. W. Stoeber and manufacture wine from Scuppernon grapes. Capital stock will be about \$12,000. Columbia—Street Railroad.—The Columbia Street Railroad Co. are thinking of extending their road, but as yet have not done anything definite. Columbia—Bating Mill.—The Miller Bating Co., previously mentioned as organized, have ordered the machinery for their bating factory shipped. The capacity will be about 2,000 lbs per diem. Florence—Foundry and Machine Shop.—Hodges & Newton will erect new buildings for their planing and grist mill, and will add a foundry and machine shop. Work will be commenced at once. Georgetown—Dredging.—The contract for dredging in Mosquito creek, in Georgetown county, has been awarded to Charles C. Ely, of Savannah, Ga., at \$18,428.

POLITICS IN THE NEXT SENATE.

But for the Result in Delaware Democrats Would Have Gained Control. WASHINGTON, January 12.—The probable composition of the Senate at the beginning of the Fifty-first Congress has been widely discussed, and the talk on the subject has been brought in present view by a striking illustration of the power of the unexpected in politics. The Senate at present consists of thirty-nine Republican and thirty-seven Democratic members. Of these the terms of the following will expire on the 4th of March: Democrats—Messrs. Beck, of Kentucky; Berry, of Arkansas; Butler, of South Carolina; Coke, of Texas; Colquitt, of Georgia; Gibson, of Louisiana; Harris, of Tennessee; Kenny, of West Virginia; McPherson, of New Jersey; Morgan, of Alabama; Ransom, of North Carolina; Salisbury, of Delaware, and Walhall, of Mississippi—13.

Republicans—Messrs. Bowen, of Colorado; Chase, of Rhode Island; Chandler, of New Hampshire; Cullom, of Illinois; Dolph, of Oregon; Frye, of Maine; Hoar, of Massachusetts; Manderson, of Nebraska; Palmer, of Michigan; Plumb, of Kansas; Riddleberger, of Virginia; Sabin, of Minnesota, and Wilson, of Iowa—13.

Messrs. Beck, Butler, Chase, Morgan, Walhall, Wilson, Colquitt and Gibson have been re-elected. Messrs. Palmer and Bowen will be succeeded by Messrs. James F. McMillen and E. O. Wolcott respectively; Messrs. Frye, Cullom, Frye, Dolph, Coke, Hoar, Manderson, and Plumb have been either elected and re-elected, or will have no serious opposition. John S. Barbour, Democrat, has been elected to succeed Riddleberger, from Virginia, and Senator Salisbury's successor from Delaware is expected to be a Republican. In the cases of the remaining Senators the expectation is that whatever may be the result as to them personally their successors will be of the same political faith, so that when the Senate is called to order on March 4 it will be composed of thirty-eight elected Democratic Senators, thirty-eight elected Republican Senators, and one Republican Senator appointed by the Governor of New Hampshire to succeed Mr. Chandler, which appointment will be questioned.

On the question of admitting the New Hampshire Senator the vote will doubtless be on the lines of political division—Republicans, 38; Democrats, 37. This is an exceedingly close vote, and the control of the Senate, would have passed into the hands of the Democrats had the unexpected result of Delaware been different, for then the vote would have stood—Democrats, 38; Republicans, 37. Should the Republicans in Delaware get into trouble over the claims of rival candidates and fail to elect a successor to Senator Salisbury, the Republicans will have control of the Senate only by the casting of Vice President Morton, and that control is liable to be lost by the accident of death. This condition of affairs, however, could last only until June 19, when New Hampshire's Legislature will elect a successor to Senator Chandler and Republican supremacy be restored. This is probably the last time such a contingency can possibly arise, for the New Hampshire Constitutional Convention, now in session, will, it is understood, change the time of convening the Legislature from June to January.

A Big Bet. A bet was made in the presidential election of 1882, rather an agreement, by which the sum of \$200 was given outright to one of the parties to the bet, the conditions being that he should pay the other man 1 cent for one electoral vote that Jackson should get over Clay, 2 cents for three, 8 cents for four, 16 cents for five, 32 cents for six and so on, according to the majority, if any, that Jackson might get in the electoral college. The man to whom the offer was made unhesitatingly jumped at it and eagerly took the \$200, but soon found that he had obligated himself for more than he and all his friends could ever pay. The simplest arithmetic will show that by a rule of this doubling up, even if the majority had been but twenty, it would have involved \$5,242,832 to say nothing of a majority of ninety-five, which would bankrupt all the Goulds and Vanderbilts. Even a majority of only thirty would produce \$5,868,707.12, while a majority of thirty-six would involve \$343,597,338.68. If the majority only reached forty the man's obligations would already have amounted into billions and reached the astonishing sum of \$5,397,588,138.88.

Exceptions to the Rule. Two negroes that worked for Mr. L. L. Bozzer, of No. 9 Township, last year deserve mention. One of those referred to is Foster Eichelberger. He never lost a day (of course Sundays excepted) from work during the year and asked for only four dollars of his wages until the end of the year. Also, John Boyd only lost two days from work during the year, and asked for only fourteen dollars of his wages until the end of the year. It is the rule that the majority of negroes do not draw and spend wages as fast as they earn them. If the example of these colored men was followed by more of their race, the colored people would be in a much more prosperous condition in a few years.—Prosperity Reporter.

Mrs. Whitney's Scathing Rebuke. Mrs. Whitney's antipathy to the brilliant, scientific Senator from Kansas has long been an open secret. A story is told that on the occasion of the last dinner at the White House which Mr. Inghis attended, Mrs. Whitney remarked to Mr. Inghis that the next time she invited him to dinner she would insist on his sitting beside her. Mr. Inghis bowed. "Because," added Mrs. Whitney, before he could say a word, "then I should feel safe that while you were breaking my bread you couldn't break my character."

For the Paris Exposition. The Special Agent of the Department of Agriculture at Washington has applied to Dr. Loughbridge, Professor of Agricultural Chemistry at the South Carolina University, for the display of cotton bolls that have been prepared by students under the guidance of the professor. It is the desire of the department to place the display of bolls as it now is in the national exhibit at the Paris Exposition. The bolls are to be dried and combined out, with the fibre attached and combined out, are shown. It is probable that Dr. Loughbridge will allow it to be used.—Columbia Record, Jan. 17.

A Chester Farmer's Heavy Loss. CHESTER, Jan. 10.—Mr. J. E. Corwell, one of Chester's progressive young farmers, met with a severe loss last night in the loss by fire of his barn and stables. The fire is supposed to have been of incendiary origin, the flames having been kindled, it is said, at both ends of the building at the same time. Mr. Corwell lost several head of horses, among them being two colts. His fodder was also destroyed, although his corn was not lost, being in another building.—Special to News and Courier.

STATISTICS OF BUSINESS.

The annual circular of R. G. Dunn & Co. presents some interesting figures and comparisons. According to the estimates of this agency, there were last year in the United States 1,046,662 business houses, of which number 10,679 failed during the year—these representing \$123,829,973 of liabilities. In the Eastern States there were 1,194 failures, with \$23,042,262 of liabilities; in the Middle States 2,502 failures, with \$69,980,438 of liabilities; in the South 1,446 failures, with \$21,422,120 of liabilities; with \$35,554,215 of liabilities; and the Pacific States and Territories 1,531 failures, with \$14,191,903 of liabilities. Compared with 1887, the last year showed a considerable increase in the number of failures, but a large falling off in the amount of liabilities. The year 1887 failures of 1887 represent \$107,561,944 liabilities, the 10,679 failures last year represented only \$123,829,973 liabilities, an excess for last year over 1887 of 1,045 failures, but a decrease of nearly \$44,000,000 in liabilities. The circular reports that there were in Georgia last year 13,117 business houses and 213 failures, representing \$7,706,491 liabilities. The report contains a statement of the failures for thirty years past, which is quite interesting. The greatest number of failures during that period occurred in 1885, when there were 10,268 failures, with \$236,343,427 liabilities; but the heaviest liabilities are recorded for the "panic" year 1857, when 4,932 failures represented the enormous sum of \$291,750,000 liabilities. The lowest number of failures occurred in 1863, when only 496 houses went to the wall, with \$7,849,000 of liabilities, and the business of the whole country was then almost paralyzed by the civil war.

DELAWARE'S NEW SENATOR.

Some interesting allusions to the recent election of a Senator from Delaware. The Augusta Chronicle gives the following sketch of that gentleman: "The newly elected Republican Senator is Anthony Higgins, of Wilmington. He is a son of the late Anthony M. Higgins, of Red Lion hundred. He was born in Red Lion hundred, New Castle county, October 1, 1840. He graduated from Yale College in 1861 with the degree of A. B., and was admitted to the bar of New Castle county in May, 1864. He at once opened an office in Wilmington, in conjunction with the late Edward J. Bradford, afterwards United States District Judge and founder of the Republican party in Delaware. Higgins was one of the original voters of the Republican ticket. The same year he was admitted to the bar he was appointed Deputy Attorney General of the State under Attorney General Jacob Moore, serving two years. A pronounced and active Republican, he was made chairman of the State Committee of 1868, and in 1869 was appointed by President Grant United States District Attorney for Delaware, which office he held until June, 1876. He was an unsuccessful candidate for Congress in 1884. He took a front rank as a lawyer from the very first. He has been the leader of that faction of the Republicans of Delaware who have been favorable to Blaine. He has traveled extensively and knows personally probably more prominent men in the country than any other Delawarean."

The Philadelphia Times seems to entertain very great respect for Mr. Higgins, expressing itself as follows: "He is an educated gentleman, in the prime of life; an able lawyer, a brilliant speaker, an honest man. He is, moreover, a politician who believes in principles and who, as a Republican in Delaware from a time when Republicans there were scarce, has shown the courage of his convictions. He is not one of the Boaz boys. He recognizes that the ideas and aims of 1863 and his aim will be not only to complete the disentanglement of his State, but to bring his own party everywhere abreast of the progressive spirit of the times. Such men, by whatever party name they may be called or from whatever Commonwealth they come, are doubly to be welcomed in public life at a time when the battle is everywhere to be fought against prejudice and chicanery and the brute power of money, and all patriotic people may join in congratulations to the Republicans of Delaware on the worthy outcome of a contest that at one time seemed to threaten them and all of us with shame and danger."

THE AUGUSTA CHRONICLE tells that when Jay Gould married the daughter of Daniel G. Miller, twenty-five years ago, he was a struggling and ambitious stock operator. His father-in-law was wealthy, and his wife brought him just \$80,000. This amount, the rustic boy had no other means, and he had to draw and spend as fast as they came to him. If the example of these colored men was followed by more of their race, the colored people would be in a much more prosperous condition in a few years.—Prosperity Reporter.

ACCORDING to an Atlanta dispatch to the New York Tribune, Governor Gordon of Georgia purposes to retire from politics and become a "stock farmer." Georgia Central!

AMONG THE ACTS passed at the late session of the Legislature was one abolishing the office of highway supervisor, and devolving its duties upon the County Commissioners.

THE PRESIDENT of the United States receives an annual salary of \$50,000, while the Emperor William draws \$1,000,000 a year out of the German treasury. But then royalty is not only expensive but grand.

HONEST JOHN PATTERSON is in trouble again. Mrs. Mary R. Fleming of Philadelphia charges that he won her affections and declared his purpose to marry her, but Patterson indignantly denies the charge, and says that Mrs. Fleming has sought to blackmail him. He declines to make terms with the widow, but she has taken the case to a Miss Frank of Watkesha, Wis., a lady of great beauty, and of wealth is her own right. Honest John appears to have improved somewhat in character since his declaration, while a Senator of the United States, that there were yet "five years of good stealing in South Carolina."

George Meadows, a negro, was hung by a mob at Pratt Mines, near Birmingham, Ala., on Tuesday. He was accused of an outrage on a white lady, but she would not be quite positive in identifying him. But it was shown that he had previously assaulted a colored girl, and he was hung. The proceeding was very quiet.

CHEWING GUM.

SOMETHING ABOUT THE HABIT THAT HAS GROWN ON US. Some of the Girls Are Asked Why They Chew—Evolution in Gum Making—Opinions of Physicians on the Effects—Tons Are Manufactured. In spite of the manifold warnings of physicians; in spite of the fact that the shape of Cupid's bow is changed; and in spite of all the contemptuous and sarcastic remarks which are constantly appearing in the papers, gum chewing in this country is rapidly on the increase. Two-thirds of the girls, be they pretty or otherwise, that one meets on the high-ways of this city are either working their jaws for all they are worth or have a small lump tucked away in some obscure corner of the mouth and give it a gentle squeeze between the teeth when they are sure of being unobserved. Gum chewing is less disgusting than tobacco chewing. And if it becomes a natural habit, as it seems likely to do, we may comfort ourselves that the gum chewing American is far preferable to the snuff dipping Mexican. And gum chewing is not as exclusively confined to the female sex as smoking is to the male, for many men use gum to help still the craving for tobacco, thus jumping from the frying pan into the fire, perhaps.

Tric, a few young women are lately becoming somewhat addicted to the use of the weed, claiming that it "men" have the right to put their feet on the mantel and make a room blue with smoke why should they be denied the privilege, since it has such a soothing effect on the temper. And if women can find any fault that has a salutary effect upon their tempers what folly to deprive them of it!

UNSATISFACTORY REASONS. Why do women chew gum? You do not know, and even the chewsers themselves do not seem to. "O, I chew because I can, I guess," said one pert young miss upon being questioned. "And I because my mother tells me not," said another, with a mischievous laugh. "I chew because I like the taste and because everybody else chews," said a third indifferently, and likewise answered the why; the truth is, they really did not know why they chewed and had never thought to ask themselves the question.

The history of chewing gum is like the growth of all animal and vegetable life—one of evolution. Children began to chew the exudation of certain trees, from the peach, pine, spruce and sweet gum, thus putting it into somebody's mind to make an artificial gum. It was first made of beeswax, gutta-percha, and other rubbery and sticky substances, which were perfectly pure and harmless, and costly in preparation. But three years ago some inventive genius discovered that by boiling some of the best of the gum of petroleum and mixing in a small amount of beeswax a gum similar to the more expensive could be produced which was quite susceptible to flavors and trifling in cost.

By the use of scents and large quantities of sugar, which is the principal article used in the composition of any gum, the disagreeable taste and odor of petroleum was entirely obliterated and a salable article was produced. About the same time a gum called "Balam Tola" was produced, which also found a ready sale, particularly among children, and "Paraffin" in all of its flavors and mixtures had its day.

One variety of white gum was for some time quite extensively manufactured in China. That country has a tree peculiar to itself which possesses an attraction for an insect with a queer Chinese name which one will neither attempt to pronounce, nor remember, but which collect upon the tree, and when they have departed to pastures new branches are found to be literally covered with a waxy deposit. By boiling the branches the wax is separated from them, and when the water and twigs are drawn off the white deposit remains.

THIS IS purified, sweetened, flavored, cooled in cakes, and a little fancy picture pasted on top, and we have the old white gum which so many of us have chewed since our childhood. The sale of this variety was enormous, but it has now been supplanted by newer kinds, as has the old rubber wax.

Physicians differ considerably in their views on the subject. An eminent physician from Ohio declares that gum chewing seriously affects the eyesight, and that he never fails to detect the use of it by an examination of the eye. Another says that the muscles of the jaw and face are weakened, and the lips are made stiff, and the curve of the lips is destroyed. And, on the other hand, doctors without number advise its use to cleanse the teeth and aid digestion.

It is quite the fad at the present time to chew spruce gum. It, at least, is pure from all the adulterations which are now so common. Deeds of gum say that until within a few years its use was almost exclusively confined to children, but at the present time it is found among adults is continually increasing.

It has been computed by a statistician that the people of the United States spend more than \$1,500,000 every year for chewing gum. There is a manufactory in Louisville, Ky., that alone turns out 20,000 boxes of six dozen cakes each yearly, which is distributed all over the world. And when we think of all the other manufacturers of gums of different varieties which are in full blast, selling more than the one mentioned above, we are astounded at what man's jaws can do.—Chicago Tribune.

BRIC-A-BRAC.

Activity is not always energy. Southbridge has the largest spectacle factory in the world. If the cover is removed from soap dishes the soap will not get soft. A Chicago hotel has introduced a smoke consumer. Cannot one be introduced into the cigarette field? Fate is the friend of the good, the guide of the wise, and the tyrant of the foolish, the enemy of the bad. Fashionable insanity is exhibited now to a marked degree in what is called "home decoration."

By the fruit you shall know them, and therefore the almanac makers are known by their dates. The choir girls of New York are grieving because they are being supplanted by boys. The rage now is for boy choirs. Whether marriage is a failure or not is a question a good many old maids would be perfectly willing to investigate. The mariner is always glad to see a lighthouse, but this cannot be said of the actor. Seal-pull garments are said to retain their original appearance much longer than the genuine sealskin. Alphonse Daudet is credited with the creation of a happy synonym for doggie. He characterizes it "anecdoteage."

"Are you ill?" asked the physician; "let me see your tongue, please." "It's no use, doctor; no tongue can tell how badly I feel." The number of streets in London is now upward of twenty-eight thousand, and new ones added at the rate of three hundred a year. Up in Finland they have a telephone line connecting four towns, of which the outside ones are one hundred and thirteen miles apart. An exchange says: "The new English powder for small arms is white and almost smokeless." Seems as if long sleeves would be better for small arms.

A citizen bought himself a book the other day, and wrote this on the fly-leaf: "Presented to John Jones by himself as a mark of esteem." They have new names for old things. A big thief is sometimes called a rehypothecator, and gross plagiarism unconscious absorption. Some of the alleged black monkey fur looks as if it grew on a dog's back; in fact looks much more canine than any of the dogskin gloves. The ancient mariner says the modern sailor makes too much of the storms of the Atlantic for his own glorification in the newspapers. American wagons have the market in South America, and the American wheelbarrow is to be met with in every portion of China and Japan.

Among the various new red shades are Mephisto, bull's-eye and hell fire. Amorous frog is a warm green tint, and spanked baby a delicate pink. "What's in a name?" Says a cynical old bachelor: Never marry a woman unless she is so rich that you would marry her if she were homely and so beautiful that you would marry her if she were poor. It must be a curious event, the proposal of a stuttering lover. He would have some difficulty in telling his fair one that she was the pig-pup of his life, and the dud-dud-darling of his heart.

The hang question will crop out again now and then. The Milwaukee Journal says that this kissing on the forehead is a hollow mockery, and the sex did well to make it impossible by inventing the bang. A new role for women in London city is that of serving wigs. A pretty young woman there is said to find doors open to her which to nearly every other sheriff's officer are shut fast. Mahogany and cherry furniture often gets dull for the want of a good cleaning with a moist cloth. Polish with the hand, rubbing well, and the result will be surprising. Windows can be cleaned in winter and the frost entirely removed by using a gill of alcohol to a pint of hot water. Clean quickly and rub dry with a warm cambric skin.

A sixteen-year-old boy in Kansas City attempted to steal and carry away a saw mill one day last week. He first stole a horse and wagon and was busy engaged in taking the mill to pieces preparatory to loading it upon the wagon, when the mill owner appeared on the scene and gathered him in. The new American navy, when completed, will consist of twenty-two vessels, ranging from the armored cruiser Maine, carrying 444 men, down to a first-class torpedo boat, carrying four officers and eighteen men. There will be 3,758 men on board the twenty-two vessels—500 officers and 3,258 sailors and marines.

One of the smartest Western towns growing is Giddston, Mich. Fourteen months ago it began to be named after the Good Old Man. Today it has two thousand inhabitants, the principal streets are paved with cedar blocks, there is a complete fire apparatus, a four thousand dollar town hall, an electric light plant, five churches, three school buildings, two bank buildings, three hotels, six manufactories, one weekly newspaper, and fifty business houses representing the various branches of trade. For months past crows, to the number of one million to three million, have swarmed in the eastern end of Douglas county, Illinois, feeding on the seeds in the fields and collecting at night. About these birds gather in from the surrounding country in myriads, and the noise they make is deafening. Frequently they alight in such vast numbers on the trees that large limbs are broken under their weight. One day last week a black cloud of these birds was crossing the railroad track, when the smoke from the engine blinded them. They flew against the side of the swiftly moving cars, and those who watched the strange sight counted nearly two hundred dead crows.

A Trip to the Holy Land. An expedition, composed of Roman Catholics of America, is shortly to begin a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. The start will be made from New York on February 22. Rome, Palestine and other points are to be visited, and at Jerusalem, where Holy Week will be spent, a memorial banner is to be placed upon the tomb of the Saviour. On Easter Sunday the pilgrims expect to celebrate the resurrection at the tomb. On April 24 a portion of the company will begin their homeward journey, while others will proceed into Galilee and then go on to Smyrna, Ephesus, Constantinople and Athens. A Case of Infanticide. GREENVILLE, Jan. 10.—Lizzie Goldsmith, a negro woman of unsavory reputation, took her infant, about four months old, and in broad daylight last Monday tossed it into Laurel creek and drowned it. The body was recovered today and an inquest held, the jury finding the mother guilty of deliberate infanticide. When arrested and placed in jail she acknowledged the act and said she did it "so as to have a better chance to get work."

The Jamaica ginger habit, which prevails in some prohibition localities, is said to be one of the most dangerous forms of inebriety known. The deleterious effects of the ginger when constantly taken into the stomach are sufficient to render the habit fatal in a very short time. Silver can be kept bright for months by being placed in an air-tight case with a good-sized piece of camphor. Much pain and suffering may be avoided by child bearing women by the timely use of The Mother's Friend. Sold by all Druggists.

AN AMERICAN GIRL.

Her Report of the French National Conservatory of Music. A reporter for The Chicago Tribune interviewed Miss Laura Moore, the opera singer, with the following result: "How many American girls enter the Conservatory?" "More every year. Many girls prefer a German course, and insist on going to Munich. But the National Conservatory of France has an immense prestige. All the best singers in the country have passed through it. Its prizes are more sought after than the highest operatic positions. Its diplomas give you the entry of all musical bodies. Its president is Ambrose Thomas, composer of 'Mignon' and 'Hamlet.' Its jury comprises the names of Delibes, Massenet and Guiraud, who are all professors in the Conservatory. To have come victoriously from its tuition is almost to insure the success of your musical career."

"Is the opera house to take a girl who wins the first prize?" "No; but the competition at which the prize is won is public. The managers of the Grand opera are among the audience. They get an excellent chance to hear what you can do." "And if they take you?" "You are bound to them at a yearly salary of \$1,000. This is the rate fixed by the government. It is small, but they have had all your schooling for nothing." "How did you win your first prize?" "M. Bartol, my teacher, made me sing the hardest thing he could find." "What was that?" "Ophelia's mad scene in 'Hamlet.' He said: 'If you can sing what is difficult to sing, you will be successful. Do it with songs that are easy.' O, the bitter tears I shed over the mad scene. But I mastered it. The prize was awarded to me unanimously."

"Had it any pecuniary value?" "No, only the diploma. But how many girls would give their eyes for that diploma? Besides, the education, which costs many American parents so much, had come to me for nothing. I had merely gone to the Conservatory, had my voice tried, sung one song, and been admitted. Two years later I won my prize." "Would you advise other American girls to try to follow your example?" "Why not? I am a western girl. My parents are dead. I had nobody to pay for my education. I settled down in Paris, knowing that I had to succeed; and when a western girl knows that she has to succeed she generally succeeds."

"Can anybody enter the Conservatory?" "Any girl gifted with a good voice. It is a wonderful institution which opens its doors, not to its own people only, but to all the world. I, an American girl, owe everything to its fostering care. How can I feel otherwise than grateful?" "At the Wrong Door. In Paris, several families often live under one roof, and each occupies its own 'flat' or apartments. The duke and the laborer, saint and vagabond, the good and the bad may live in the same house, and yet neither of them know his neighbor. The author of 'Persian Letters' says that two friends lived a year in the same house without being aware of the fact, until they accidentally met in the street, and inquired each other's address. This author also relates the story of an amusing mistake: A gentleman called upon a lady with whom he was well acquainted. On reaching the house, he ascended the stairs, but not having counted the flights, entered the apartment in the story above that of the lady. He found the table set for a lunch, showing that company was expected. With a liberty which his relations with the family warranted, he helped himself to bonbons and fruit. Hearing a lady's voice calling from her chamber, and apologizing for not coming out immediately, he replied, 'Do not disturb yourself, madam; I will wait.' The lady at once entered the room, and the gentleman found himself in the presence of a stranger, who seemed as amazed as he was.

"Madame," said he, "is not this the apartment of M. —?" "No; that is on the floor below." "Then, madame, I have to throw myself at your feet for this intrusion. Thinking myself in the apartment of Mme. —, I have been eating freely of your refreshments, and can now only offer the humblest of apologies. I am very sorry." "His name was well known in Parisian society, but the lady was but half convinced, and as she followed him to the door, kept one eye on her plate, and the other on him. He afterward met her in the apartment below, and they had a hearty laugh over their mutual surprise. —Youth's Companion.

Far Above Beauty. In my life I have known many women well. Among them is a fair majority of what the truly appreciative would call happy, for which fact I thank God, as it has helped me to take, on the whole, a hopeful view of life as well as of human nature. Now, among these women, blessed with many of the are with devoted husbands, cheerful homes, cultivated society, and leisure for the exercise of any special talent they may possess, beautiful women: With one or two exceptions, no. Indeed, more than a few of them are positively plain, if feature only is considered, while from the rest I can single out but two or three whose faces and figures conform to any of the recognized standards of physical perfection. But they are loved; they are honored, they are deferred to. While not eliciting the admiration of every passer by, they have acquired through the force, sweetness or originality of their character the appreciation of those whose appreciation confers honor and happiness, and consequently, their days pass in an atmosphere of peace and good will.

The first pack of playing cards of which any copy is preserved was in use in Venice in 1125, and contained seventy-eight cards in all, twenty-two of which were picture cards of very quaint character. One picture card represented a man, and another a woman, and the fourth of the suit while the fifth depicted the judgment day. The Venetians called it the game of tarots, and it was no doubt the original parent of the modern card pack, with its kings, queens, knaves, etc. The French developed the game greatly, and it became the standard pastime of all the royal courts of the sixteenth century. Cards became so prominent a feature of the life of France that the word revolution came from the fact that new cards were devised in which kings and queens were done away with, philosophers and popular heroes and heroines taking their places.—Boston Globe.

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Lost His Leg Getting on a Train. FLORENCE, Jan. 17.—Isaac Williams, colored, in attempting to board the south-bound passenger train No. 23 while his foot was caught in the rails, sustained serious injuries. He was brought here, where it was found necessary to amputate his leg. Drs. James Evans and J. W. King performed the operation successfully. Williams is doing well and admits carelessness on his part, attaching no blame to the railroad company.—Special to News and Courier.

Every man owes a debt to mankind. One of the few remaining lineal descendants of Martha Custis Washington, living at the nation's capital, is a practicing physician of some local celebrity.