

## A BOY'S LEISURE HOURS.

What a boy does with his leisure is most important; what he gets in school is mainly drill or exercise; it is a gymnasium to him; he must eat elsewhere. What he does with his spare hours determines his destiny. Suppose he reads history every day, or scientific books; in the course of a few years he becomes learned. It matters very little what he undertakes, Latin, Greek, Hebrew, Sanscrit, all disappear if he uses his spare time on them.

A boy was employed in a lawyer's office, and had the daily paper to amuse himself with. He commenced to study French and at that little desk became a fluent reader and writer of the French language. He accomplished this by laying aside the newspaper and taking up something not so amusing but far more profitable.

A coachman was often obliged to wait long hours while his mistress made calls. He determined to improve the time; he found a small volume containing the Eclogues of Virgil, but could not read it, and so purchased a Latin grammar. Day by day, he studied this, and, finally, mastered all its intricacies. His mistress came behind him one day as he stood by the horses waiting for her, and asked him what he was so intently reading. "Only a bit of Virgil, my lady!" "What do you read Latin?" "A little my lady." She mentioned this to her husband, who insisted that David should have a teacher to instruct him. In a few years he became a learned man, and was a useful and loved minister of Scotland.

A boy was hired to open and shut the gates to let the teams out of an iron mine. He sat on a log all day by the side of the gate. Sometimes an hour would pass before the teams came, and this he employed so well that there was scarcely any fact in history that escaped his attention. He began with a little book on English history that he found in the road; having learned that thoroughly, he borrowed of a minister (Goldsmith's) History of Greece. This good man became greatly interested in him and loaned him books, and was often seen sitting by him on the log conversing with him about the people of ancient times.

## A LITTLE GIRL AND THE BIRDS.

A pretty little story comes to us from Hainsburg, N.Y., of a little child five years old, who seems to have the power to charm birds at will. We believe the secret is, uniform kindness and gentleness. Birds, as well as animals, soon learn not to fear those who would not harm them. *The Forest Review* says:

Her mother first noticed the strange fascination about a year ago. The little girl was playing in the doorway among a bevy of snowbirds, and when she spoke to them they would come and light upon her, twittering with glee. On taking them in her hands and stroking them, the birds, instead of trying to get away from their fair captor, seemed to be highly pleased, and when let loose would fly away a short distance, and immediately return to the child again. She took several of them into the house to show her mother, who, in thinking she might hurt them put them out of doors, but no sooner was the door opened than the birds flew into the room again, and lit upon the girl's head and began to chirp.

The birds remained about the premises all winter, flying to the little girl whenever the door was opened. The parents of the little child became alarmed, believing that this strange power was an ill omen, and that the much dreaded visitor, death, was about to visit their house. But death did not come, and during last summer the child has had numerous pets from the birds.

The child handles the birds so gently that a

humming bird once in her hand does not fall to return. This winter a bevy of birds have kept her company, and she plays with them for hours at a time. Every morning the birds fly to her window, and leave only when the sun sinks in the west. The parents of this girl are poor, superstitious people, and have been reticent about the matter until lately, fearing that some great calamity was about to befall them.

## CHAFF.

ONE WAY OF PUTTING IT.—Grandmamma: Now, Nellie spell ice.—Nellie: I-c-e.—Grandmamma: Do you know what ice is?—Nellie: Yes, grandmamma, its water fast asleep.

TOURIST: Well, my man, what way do I go to Inverness?—Tonald (without opening his eyes): Straight on.—Tourist: If you can show me a lazier trick than that I'll give you half a crown.—Tonald (without opening his eyes): Jist drap it i' ma pooch.

A GENTLEMAN was disturbed from his rest in the middle of the night by some one knocking on the street door. "Who's there," he asked. "A friend," was the answer. "What do you want?" "I want to stay here all night." "Queer taste; stay there by all means," was the benevolent reply.

"In my early days," remarked the old man, as he shoveled coal into the schoolhouse cellar, "they didn't use coal to keep us school young'uns warm, I kin tell you." "What did they use?" asked a boy near by. A sad far-away look seemed to pass over the old man's face as he quietly responded, "Birch, my boy, birch!"

READ the following description of the Bergh Hog Palace Car: "When the swine wish to slumber they blow a whistle made from the tail of a brother who has gone before, the conductors enter and conduct them to a hot Russian bath in the rear end of the car, after which they are rubbed down with rough towels, a lunch of old boots and ice cream furnished. Not a squeal is ever heard on these cars, nothing but grunts of satisfaction, and a skilled musician puts in from 18 to 24 hours a day playing on a cottage organ, and singing such ballads as the 'Ham Fat Man,' 'The Watch on the Rhine,' 'When the Pigs Come Home,' etc., etc. In fact, life is a holiday on the hog trains until they arrive within a few miles of Jersey City, when the train is stopped, a steam fire engine throws a stream of chloroform into each car, and the inmates sink into a slumber from which they do not awaken in this world of trichins, butcher knives, smoked ham, head cheese and death."

THE PHENOMENA OF ANIMAL PHOSPHORESCENCE.—Ray Lankester calls attention to the following suggestive treatment of the phenomenon of phosphorescence in animals by H. N. Moseley: "The light emitted by phosphorescent animals is quite possibly, in some instances, to be regarded only as an accidental product, and of no use to the animal producing it, although, of course, in some cases, it has been turned to account for sexual purposes, and may have other uses occasionally. There is no reason why a constant emission of heat, such as takes place in the case of our own bodies, and it is quite conceivable that animals might exist to which obscure heat rays might be visible and to which men and mammals generally might be visible."

A NEW THEORY OF THE NATURE OF WATER. M. Maiche, in *Les Mondes*, propounds the theory reached after numerous experiments that water is simply hydrogen plus electricity, or oxygen minus electricity; or in other words, that normal electrified hydrogen constitutes water, and that normal diselectrified oxygen produces the same; or that hydrogen, oxygen and water are precisely the same, differing only in degree of electrification.—*Scientific American*.

THE Russian bridge over the Volga, now in progress, is to be over four miles long and will cost \$3,500,000.

## WORTH REMEMBERING.

1. Child two years old has an attack of croup at night. Doctor at a distance. What is to be done?

The child should be immediately undressed and put in a warm bath. Then give an emetic composed of one part of antimony wine to two of ipecac. The dose is a teaspoonful. If the antimony is not handy, give warm water, mustard and water, or any other simple emetic; dry the child and wrap it carefully in a warm blanket.

2. Some one's nose bleeds and cannot be stopped.

Take a plug of lint, moisten, dip in equal parts of powdered alum and gum arabic and insert in the nose. Bathe the forehead in cold water.

3. Child eats a piece of bread on which arsenic has been spread for killing rats.

Give plenty of warm water, new milk in large quantities, gruel and linseed tea; foment the bowels. Scrape iron rust off anything, mix with warm water and give in large draughts frequently. Never give large drafts of fluids until those given before have been vomited, because the stomach will not contract properly if filled, and the object is to get rid of the poison as quickly as possible.

4. A young lady sits in a draft and comes home with a bad sore throat.

Wrap flannel around the throat, keeping out of draft and sudden changes of atmosphere, and every half hour take a pinch of chloride of potash, place it on the tongue and allow it to dissolve in the mouth.

5. Child falls backwards in a tub of water and is much scalded.

Carefully undress the child, lay it on a bed, on its breast if the back is scalded; be sure all drafts are excluded; then dust over the parts scalded with bi-carbonate of soda; lay muslin over it; then make a tent by placing two boxes with a board over them in the bed, to prevent the covering from pressing on the scald; cover up warmly.

Mower cuts driver's legs as he is thrown from seat. Put a tight bandage around the limb above the cut, slip a cork under it in the direction of a line drawn from the inner part of the knee to a little outside of the groin. Draw the edges of the cut together with sticking plaster.

6. Child has a bad earache. Dip a plug of cotton wool in olive oil, warm it and place it in the ear. Wrap up the head and keep it out of drafts.

TREATMENT FOR DISTEMPER.—It will be interesting to lovers of the canine species to hear of a simple remedy for distemper. At the quarterly meeting of the Scottish Metropolitan Veterinary Medical Society Mr. Baird mentioned the case of a colly dog in the last stage of the disease, and which its owner had determined to destroy. Shortly after being treated with doses of strong coffee and a little sweet milk, the animal, however, so far recovered as to be able to stand and walk. The chairman of the meeting said the case seemed almost unique.—*London Lancet*.

MR. ROBERT RAWLINSON, in a paper on "Sanitary Science," says: "As the strength of a nation is in the health of the people, it must be the duty of governments to see that means of health are secured to every child born into the world. There is no value apart from human life, and as the poor cannot provide their own dwelling-places, and as experience from the first dawn of history proves that defective tenements produce disease in excess, it must be a prime duty of a government so to legislate, order and regulate that health shall be possible within the cottage."

A TEXAS chap shot five men and no attention was paid to it, but one day he stole a mule, and in less than an hour the infuriated citizens hanged him.