

SOMETHING FOR EVERYBODY.

CAST IRON CUTLERY.—This title may appear anomalous, but cast iron cutlery of certain forms is far more common than its purchasers generally imagine. And it is not necessarily of a poor quality, although made of nothing but cast iron. In the writer's family is a pair of scissors of cast iron that has been used for three years, and has been several times sharpened. The writer has shaved with a cast iron razor, which did excellent work for months. There are in Connecticut two quite extensive establishments which reckon cast iron cutlery as among the important products of their work. This allusion to cast iron shears and scissors does not refer to the combined cast iron and steel articles which are usually considered superior to the forged ones. These have a steel inner plate cemented on each blade by the fused iron when it is poured into the mould; but the cast iron shears and scissors are wholly and entirely of cast iron, and they are finished for the market precisely as they come from the mould. The quality of the iron used is the same or similar to that used in casting for malleable iron, and for cutlery it is cast in chills. When broken, the crystallization is very similar to that of hardened cast steel, and, except for lack of elasticity, it serves the same general purposes. But although this cast iron is not adapted to tools which work by blows, it is sometimes made into ice picks and axes, hatchets and steak choppers. The manufacturers of cast iron shears and scissors make no secret of the material, and sell their goods for just what they are. Of course they are sold cheaper than forged work of steel can be sold. Retailers, also, know that this cheap cutlery is not steel, and usually—unless dishonest—they will answer truthfully questions on the subject. But, really, a pair of cast iron shears or scissors for ordinary household work is just as good as one of forged cast steel. There is only one difficulty in the way of superseding cast steel forgings by cast iron castings in these implements, which is that the chill that makes the iron hard does not always extend to a depth that will allow of repeated grindings and resharpenings, the material crumbling before it can be brought to an edge. But when first ground and edged, the shears are as keen as those of tempered cast steel, and the blades retain their edges longer.—*Scientific American*.

HE HAD HIM.—"I keep my eyes and ears open all the while when I am travelling, I do," remarked a garrulous passenger, by way of explanation of the great fund of information which he had occupied a solid hour in giving up to his not over-patient companions.

"And your mouth, too," observed a tired listener, *sotto voce*.

"Nothing escapes me," continued the talkative man, not hearing the other's remark; "I don't take much stock in education nohow. I believe in a man keeping his eyes open, learning for himself by observation. Now, there's a horse—I know all about a horse, from tooth to tail, an' I never studied none o' yer geographies nor natural histories, either."

"So you know all about a horse, do you?" inquired another listener, with a demure air, which gave promise of a "catch."

"Yes, indeed; I know all about 'em. There ain't no question about a horse I can't answer. I've handled 'em and studied 'em for twenty years, and that's wuth mor'n all the books in creation. I—"

"Am glad to meet you, sir," interrupted the demure one. "There's a point I am in doubt about, and perhaps you can settle it. Why is it when a horse goes away from home he goes along tending to his own business,

annoying no one and attracting no attention, while just as soon as a jackass gets away from home he goes to wagging his ears, braying, and giving himself away?"

The know-it-all man suddenly remembered that his wife was waiting for him in the next car.

TRAINING ELEPHANTS.—To the uninitiated it seems wonderful that these huge creatures can be trained at all. But the process is not so difficult. They are first tied between two trees, and are rubbed down by a number of men with long bamboos to an accompaniment of the most extravagant eulogies of the animal, sung and shouted at it at the top of their voices. The animal lashes out furiously at first, but in a few days it ceases to act on the offensive, and stands with its trunk curled up, shrinking from the men. Ropes are now tied round its body, and it is mounted at its picket for several days. It is then taken out for exercise, secured between two tame elephants. The ropes still remain round its body, to enable the mahout to hold on should the elephant try to shake him off. A man precedes it with a spear, to teach it to halt when ordered to do so, while, as the tame elephants wheel to the right or left, the mahout presses its neck with his knees, and taps it on the head with a small stick, to train it to turn in the required direction. To teach an elephant to kneel, it is taken into water five feet deep when the sun is hot, and, upon being pricked on the back with a pointed stick, it soon lies down, partly to avoid the pain, partly from inclination for a bath. By taking it into shallow water daily it is soon taught to kneel even on land.

KEEP OUT THE COLD.—Cracks in floors, around the mould board, or other parts of a room, may be neatly and permanently filled by thoroughly soaking newspapers in paste made of one pound of flour, three quarts of water and a tablespoonful of alum, thoroughly boiled and mixed. The mixture will be about as thick as putty, and may be forced into the cracks with a case knife. It will harden like papier-mache.

HEISCH'S test for sewage contamination in water is simple and effective. Fill a clean pint bottle three-fourths full of the water to be tested, and dissolve in the water a teaspoonful of loaf or granulated sugar. Cork the bottle and place it in a warm place for two days. If in twenty-four or forty-eight hours the water becomes cloudy or muddy it is unfit for domestic use. If it remains clear it is safe to use.

TRACING PAPER is very expensive in the market, and every one who would like to make his own may do it in the following manner: Mix well together 75 parts of olive oil and 25 parts of benzine. With a brush put it on best tissue paper and hang it up for about thirty-six hours. This is a very transparent tracing paper; until the benzine has evaporated it is also extremely inflammable.

WHEN vessels or timber sink to great depths in the ocean the pressure is so great that water is forced into the pores, and the wood becomes too heavy to rise again. Even when a ship is broken up the detached portions sink like lead. It is this pressure that makes it impossible for divers to descend to any great depths.

LUMINOUS keyhole trimmings and door knobs are said to be in great favor with the bibulously inclined person, and convenient for others. They are made of glass, and the back is covered with luminous paint, giving forth a light which may be seen a considerable distance on the darkest nights.