Only a Woman.

BY HESTER A. BENEDICT.

Only a woman, shriveled and
The play of the winds and the prey of the cold?
Cheeks that are shrunken,
Eyes that are sunken
Lips that were never o'er bold.
Only a woman forsaken and poor,
Asking an alms at the bronze church door.

Hark to the organ! roll upon roll
The waves of its music go over her soul!
Silks rustle past her
Thicker and faster;
The great bell ceases its toll.
Fain would she enter, but not for the poor
Swingeth wide open the bronze church door.

Only a woman—waiting alone,
Icily cold, on an ice cold throne.
What do they care for her?
Mumbling a prayer for her,
Giving not bread but a stone.
Under old laces their haughty hearts beat,
Mocking the woes of their kin in the street.

Only a woman! In the old days
Hope carolled to her her happiest lays;
Somebody missed her,
Somebody kissed her,
Somebody crowned her with praise;
Somebody faced up the battles of life
Strong for her sake who was mother, or wife.

Somebody lies with a tress of her hair
Light on his heart where the death-shadows are;
Somebody waits for her,
Opening the gates for her,
Giving delight for despair,
Only a woman—nevermore poor—
Dead in the snow at the bronze church door!

—*Home Journal.*

FARM, GARDEN AND HOUSEHOLD.

Feeding Hogs.

I once weighed a hog after giving him all he would eat and drink; he weighed about 250 pounds. I weighed a bushel of new corn and fed it to him, with water only for drink. He ate the corn in four days, and gained twelve pounds. I then changed his feed, and fed him four days on shorts and shipstuff; on this feed he did not gain one pound. This was in October. At the same time I weighed 3 bushels of shorts and one of corn, which he ate in six days, and gained twelve pounds; water only for drink. The corn was in ears, eighty pounds for a bushel. I think there is no doubt that any good breed of hogs, will gain twelve pounds for every bushel of corn, properly fed, in the month of October. To make hogs fatten quickly my theory is to feed them often, six or eight times a day. Don't wait for them to eat up the shattered grains and frost-bitten ears. Every time fresh feed is thrown in, if it is twenty times a day, they will get up and eat. By feeding in this way, hogs will get fat at least one month sooner, and be out of the way when cold weather comes. I have tried both ways, and know how it is. The shattered corn, etc., should be shoveled up and fed to shorts. Try it once, brother farmers, and you will never feed any other way. —*Cor. Prairie Farmer.*

Poultry for Profit.

An Ohio poultry dealer recently took ten pullets of each of the breeds mentioned below, about six months old, gave them a yard forty feet square, with a comfortable house, and kept exact account of eggs and feed as follows: The Dark Brahmas ate 369¼ quarts of corn, oats, and wheat screenings, laid 605 eggs and weighed 70 pounds. The Buff Cochins ate 406 quarts, laid 591 eggs, and weighed 73 pounds. The Gray Dorkings ate 309¼ quarts, laid 524 eggs; and weighed 59¼ pounds. The Houdans ate 514¼ quarts, laid 763 eggs, and weighed 45¼ pounds. The Leghorns ate 321 1-5 quarts, laid 807 eggs, and weighed 36¼ pounds. To make this calculation more complete let us suppose that those dressed and sold at the end of six months, or when the fowls are one year old, brought 12½c per lb; that the eggs sold at 20c per doz., and the feed was estimated at 1½c pet quart, or 38c per bus., at which price corn is a profitable crop. The figures would be as follows:

	Cost of Fowl.	Cost of Eggs.	Cost of Meat.	Total Value.	Profit.
Brahmas	$5.54	$10.10	$8.75	$18.85	$13.31
Cochins	6.09	10.00	9.12½	19.12	13.03
Dorkings	4.64	8.60	7.40	16.00	11.36
Houdans	7.71	12.40	5.75	18.15	10.33
Leghorns	4.82	13.40	4.56	17.96	13.14

Practical Suggestions.

The London Omnibus Company have lately made a report which discloses some interesting information not only to farmers, but to every owner of a horse. They have in use no less than 6,000 horses; of this number, 3,000 had for their feed bruised oats, 16 pounds; cut hay, 7½ pounds; straw, 2½ pounds; and the others, unbruised oats, 19 pounds; uncut hay, 12 pounds. The horses which were fed on the former, and consumed 23 pounds per day, could do the same work as well and were kept in as good condition as those receiving 32 pounds, thereby causing a saving of 6 pounds on each horse, amounting to £60 per day, or £22,300 per annum on the company's 6,000 horses.

Oil meal is generally fed in connection with other ground feed, moistened and mixed with cut hay, or it may be fed either dry or scalded. The question to be considered is as to the relative cost of the oil cake and other meal. Indian corn contains 77.7 per cent. as against 70.8 per cent for American linseed cake. The chief value of oil meal or oil cake is in feeding with other food, say about a pint each feed or even each day, per head of cattle or horses.

Many farmers hang their harness on pegs immediately behind the horses. This a bad plan; the gases of the stable have an injurious effect upon the leather; besides, the harness frequently gets thrown down and trampled in the manure, when the injury is, in a great measure, irreparable. Have a separate room for them, and a separate peg for each set, as well as for each bridle and collar.

Twenty bushels of good sand, mingled with half a bushel of good lime and a half bushel of cement, makes an excellent mortar, which is not liable to be dislodged by storms.

How to Make Hens Lay.

Put two or more quarts of water in a kettle, add one large seed pepper, or two small ones, then put the kettle over the fire. When the water boils stir in coarse-ground Indian meal, until you make a thick mush. Let it cook an hour or more. Feed hot. Horseradish chopped fine and stirred into the mush has been found to produce good results. Four weeks ago we commenced feeding our hens mush as prepared in the above directions, and for results we are getting from five to ten eggs per day; whereas, previous to feeding, we had no eggs for a long time. We hear a great deal of complaint from other people about not getting eggs. To all such we would warmly recommend cooked food, fed hot. Boiled apple skins, seasoned with red peppers, or boiled potatoes seasoned with horseradish, are good for feed; much better than uncooked corn. Corn, when cooked by itself, has a tendency to fatten hens, instead of producing the more profitable egg-laying. A spoonful of sulphur stirred into their feed occasionally will rid them of vermin and tone up their systems. This is especially good for young chickens and turkeys. Out of a flock of ten chickens, hatched the last of November, we have lost but one. They have been fed cooked feed mostly, and are growing finely.—*Cor. Ohio Farmer.*

How to Grow Roses in Open Ground.

Many well-informed persons appear to think that roses are difficult to manage and will not bloom without some special or mysterious treatment not generally understood. Now, nothing could be further from the truth. We believe there is really no flower of proportionate value that can be had so easily and with so little trouble. The rose is a good feeder and will do well in any ordinary fertile soil, but is, of course, improved by thorough cultivation. It is always best to plant in beds and masses, and will not do well singly. The ground should be well spaded and pulverized to the depth of a foot or more, and enriched by digging in any fertilizing material that may be convenient. Make the bed of any size or shape that suits your fancy; only remember that roses appear to best advantage by themselves. Therefore, make the bed only large enough for the roses you intend to plant. If you wish other flowers, make other beds; not put them with the roses. Set the plants about one foot from the edge of the bed and eighteen inches from each other. Make a hole large enough to allow the roots to spread out nicely; cover with fine soil rather deeper than they were grown, and pack down tightly with the hand. It will generally be best, though not always necessary to protect the plants for a few days from the sun and chilling winds, until they become somewhat accustomed to their new position. One of the best ways we know of doing this is suggested by Mrs. Hull, of Courtland, N. Y. She uses paper grocery bags, turning the bag completely over the plant, which should be supported by one or more small sticks heaping on a little earth to keep it in place.

If the ground is dry, water thoroughly, so as to soak the earth to the roots of the plants. Do not water too often, as, like persons, they want water only when thirsty. Let them get thirsty before giving them a drink. After the plants are established they need but little attention, except that the ground should be frequently cultivated with hoe and rake, or other implements, so as to keep it light and friable, as well as clear from weeds and grass. Roses of the ever-blooming class will begin to bloom almost as soon as they commence to grow, and as the plant gains strength and size, the flowers will increase in number and beauty until the whole bed is a mass of bloom. Faded flowers should be removed daily; besides adding to the neat appearance of the beds, this encourages fresh bloom, as the effort to produce seeds weakens the vitality of the plant and hinders its growth. This is particularly applicable to the hybrid perpetual class, some of which are shy autumn bloomers, unless care is taken to keep them growing vigorously during the summer. At the approach of winter it is a good plan to give the bed a covering of coarse manure, forest leaves, partially decomposed sods, road scrapings, or any similar material that is convenient; this serves as a slight protection, besides inducing a strong, early growth the following season. When dressing up beds in the spring, all the dead shoots should be cut off down to the live wood; beside this not much pruning is required, except what may be necessary to keep the plants in reasonable time and limit.

Sweet and Sour Combined in One Apple.

From the Boston Journal of Chemistry.

Doubts are entertained by some pomologists as regards the truth of the statement made that apples have been grown in which two or more varieties were blended into one; that is, apples having one section sweet and the other sour. We have seen such fruit, and therefore know that it has been produced. A tree bearing apples of this nature formerly stood in a gentleman's garden in Georgetown, Mass. It was of large size, and in some years produced several bushels of fruit. The owner sold the apples as curiosities, and frequently individual specimens brought large prices. It was exceedingly interesting to examine the crop, as one apple differed widely from another, and there was difficulty in finding two precisely alike. A few were found in which almost exactly one-half was sweet, and the opposite sour, but a majority were made up differently. Sections, one-quarter or one-sixteenth, more or less, would be sweet or sour, and the remainder would be of the opposite kind. The line of demarcation on the skin was distinctly defined, the sour portion having a reddish color, while the sweet was a pale green. There was no mistaking the flavor; the sour portion was very sour, and the sweet very sweet. On the same tree apples grew which were uniform in kind, some being entirely sweet and others entirely sour. This pomological freak was brought about by a careful process of budding, two buds of different varieties being divided, and one-half of each joined together, so as to adhere and grow in that condition. As none of this fruit has been seen of late years, we conclude that the tree has perished.

Coal Ashes

are generally considered dear at any price, and have generally been put to no better purpose than packing material for walks and drives.

T. S. Elliott sends a note to Moore's Rural regarding the value, in which he considers sufficient to make it worth while to take some pains to save them. If mingled with chamber lye and with soap suds from the kitchen, they are, he declares, found excellent as absorbents of fertilizing material, and may then be dug in around trees, or spread on grass land, or used as manure for garden vegetables with appreciable advantage.

Cooked Food for Hogs.

A writer in the American Farmer says he has had, since the first of December, an actual experiment going on between raw corn and meal made into good thick mush. Two pigs of about one hundred weight each, have been eating seven pounds each of raw corn per twenty-four hours; and two others of nearly the same size, have had exactly seven pounds of meal *made into good mush* between them. This seven pounds of meal cooked into a state of good stiff mush, weighs twenty-eight to thirty-three pounds. I weighed my pigs accurately at beginning, and weighed again two days since, to mark the progress. The two eating fourteen pounds of corn per day, had increased twenty-four pounds in the same time. Here is a saving of one-half the corn. I shall carry them on till early in January, when I shall kill them.

The Best Depth of Milk for Cream.

Experiments made to ascertain the best depth for setting milk for cream, gave the following results: A lactometer of the usual width, 10½ inches high, gave 12 degrees of cream. A glass vessel 2½ inches wide with 3½ inches depth of milk gave 3½ degrees of cream. Another vessel of glass with 2 inches depth of milk, and 10½ inches wide yielded not quite 2 degrees of cream. The milk was not a mixture, but all from the same cow, and stood 36 hours. This would warrant the opinion that cream is not cast up in greater quantity when not placed in very shallow vessels. The cream was carefully taken off the two latter vessels, and the skimmed milk put into a lactometer; that from the widest vessel gave two degrees of cream, and that from the second in width about half a degree. A thermometer, placed near the vessels, ranged from a little above 47 degrees to nearly 50 degrees the whole time.

Practical Suggestions.

B. Agee, Geary City, Kansas, writes the American Poultry Journal: I will here give what I found to be an infallible remedy for the so-called chicken cholera: Make a mixture of two ounces each of red pepper, alum, rosin, and flowers of sulphur, and put it in their food in proportions of one teaspoonful to three pints of scalded meal. In severe cases, give about one-third of a teaspoonful in a meal pellet once a day to each fowl, putting a small lump of alum in their drinking water. I have tried the above ingredients with marked success; have cured fowls in the last stage of disease. I make it a practice now to give my fowls some of it once or twice a week, and have no symptoms of any disease among them.

A writer in the Journal of the Farm calls attention to the losses many farmers suffer from not attending properly to their implements and tools, and says that a mowing machine, the journals of which are cleaned of their accumulations of grimed grease, and carefully oiled, will run twenty five per cent. longer than one that does not receive this attention. The hardest task with hired men is to make them take care of the tools of the farm.

Buying Butter and Eggs.

The flavor of butter can be recognized even when it is adulterated on a large scale. Pure butter, put on the tongue melts rapidly, without producing any sensation of granulation; when grease has been added it melts more slowly, and causes, at the moment of the fusion of the last parts, a sensation of granulation. The smell of kitchen grease is easily identified, but it is not the same with hog's lard. Good butter is always of a beautiful uniform yellow, while adulterated butter is paler, and shows streaks resulting from the imperfect mixture with the grease. Butter on which one can see layers and streaks may nearly always be considered as adulterated. If a knife is passed rapidly over pure butter a smooth surface is the result, which takes a rough appearance when there is any adulteration.

The shell of an egg is porous, and the oxygen of the air goes through the shell and keeps up a kind of respiration. An egg soon becomes stale in bad air, or in dry air charged with carbonic acid. Eggs may be dried, and made to retain their goodness for a long time; or the shell may be varnished, which excludes the air, and then, if kept in a moderate temperature, they may be kept good for years. French poultry raisers are very successful, and ship millions of eggs to England annually. Fresh eggs are more transparent at the center, old ones at the top. Very old ones are not transparent in either place. In water in which one-tenth of salt has been dissolved, good eggs sink, and indifferent ones swim. Bad eggs float in pure water.

Borax—Some of Its Remedial Properties.

It may be interesting to some to know that a weak solution of borax water snuffed up the nostrils, causing it to pass through to the nasal passage to the throat, then ejecting it from the mouth, will greatly relieve catarrh, and in cases not too obstinate or long standing will, if preserved in, effect permanent cure. It is also of great value in case of inflamed or weak eyes. Make a solution (not too strong), and bathe the eye by opening and shutting it two or three times in the water. This can be done by means of an eye cup, or equally well by holding a handful of the water to the eye. Another difficulty, with which many persons are afflicted, is an irritation or inflammation of the membrane lining the cavities of the nose, which becomes aggravated by the slightest cold, often causing great pain. This can be greatly relieved, if not entirely cured, by snuffing borax water up the nostrils two or three times a day. The most difficult cases of sore throat may be cured by using it simply as a gargle. As a wash for the head it not only leaves the scalp very white and clean, but renders the hair soft and glossy. It has also been found by many to be of invaluable service in case of nervous headache. If applied in the same manner as in washing the hair, the result is wonderful. It may be used quite strong, after which rinse the hair carefully with clear water; let the person thus suffering remain in a quiet, well-ventilated room until the hair is nearly or quite dry, and if possible indulge in a short sleep, and there will hardly remain a trace of the headache. If clergymen, teachers, and others, who have an undue amount of brain work for the kind and quality of physical exercise usually taken, would shampoo the head in this manner about once a week, and then undertake no more brain work until the following morning, they would be surprised to find how clear and strong the faculties had become, and there is reason to hope there would be much less premature decay of the mental faculties. As a toilet requisite it is quite indispensable. If used to rinse the mouth each time after cleaning the teeth it will prevent the gums from becoming diseased or uncleanly. In short, in all cases of allaying inflammation there is probably nothing better in materia medica. The average strength of the solution should be a small teaspoonful to a toilet glass of water.

Concerning Carpets.

The stretching and putting down in place of a carpet is not, says the Ohio Farmer, one of the most pleasant jobs of work, yet if the feat be accomplished satisfactorily, the pleasure derived from the knowledge that the work has been well done, will nearly, if not quite, compensate one for the bruised knuckles, torn finger nails, and bleeding cuticle—the usual adjuncts of carpet-stretching.

When fitting a carpet to a room, it should measure one inch shorter in length and one inch less in breadth—if it be of a firm fabric—and more than an inch difference made in the measurement if the texture of the material be greater. Tack each of the four corners of the carpet firmly in place, stretching them to the desired point, of course previous to nailing; then work up the edges as desired. The progress may be slow, but it will prove satisfactory in the end. We long ago discarded carpet stretchers, on account of the wear and tear of the carpet consequent upon their use; preferring the agency of the hands only when putting down a carpet. A carpet that is firmly stretched in place is much easier swept and looks infinitely better than one loosely thrown down, or one with curved lines set off with pleats to accommodate any looseness—result of overstretching at one point and too little at others.

Old newspapers make excellent padding to put between a carpet and the floor it covers. They should be eight or ten thicknesses deep, and more rather than less. We have used them with the best results for the past ten years. The same papers can be used year after year; all they need to make them good as new is an occasional airing and dusting. It is said the ink used in printing will effectually prevent the ravages of moths. I know that very few of these plagues ever infest the borders of our carpeting, but I am inclined to think the thorough use of the broom under all articles of standing furniture has as much to do in ridding carpets of these depredators as any preventive ever used for their destruction. Moths prefer to work in dark places, and these same dark places should be put in quarantine, and receive the strictest attention when sweeping time comes around. All movable articles of furniture should be displaced as often as once a week during the months the miller (mother of the moth) is depositing its eggs. If the eggs are destroyed no moths will hatch; thus the carpet will be preserved. A small brush-broom can be used under articles too heavy for moving, such as pianos, wardrobes, etc.

Choice Recipes.

Doughnuts. One pint milk, one cup shortening, two of sugar, one of yeast, three eggs, two teaspoonfuls cinnamon. When risen fry in hot lard.

Soda Cake.—One-half cup of butter, one and a half cups of sugar, two cups of flour, one-half cup of milk, three eggs, one-half teaspoon soda, one teaspoon cream of tartar.

Ginger Snaps.—Take one tablespoonful of ginger, one of lard, one even of saleratus, half pint of molasses, half teacup water; knead soft, roll thin, and bake in a quick oven.

Silver Cake.—One cup of butter, two cups of sugar, three cups of flour, one cup of milk, the whites of three eggs, one-half teaspoonful of soda, one teaspoonful of cream tartar.

Cookies.—One teacup half lard and half butter; one of thick cream; two of sugar; one coffee-cup of milk; one heaping teaspoonful of saleratus; two cream tartar; knead soft; bake in quick oven.

Cocoanut Cake.—Two cups of sugar; one-half cup of butter; one cup of sweet milk, three and a half cups of flour; two eggs; two teaspoons of cream tartar; one teaspoon of soda, put in the milk. Stir the cream tartar in the flour. Then stir altogether without beating the eggs. For frosting use the whites of two eggs. Make the cake in six thin layers, putting frosting and cocoanut between.

Horse-radish Sauce.—Four tablespoonfuls of grated horse-radish, one teaspoonful of sugar, one teaspoonful of salt, one-half teaspoonful of pepper, two teaspoonfuls of made mustard vinegar, three or four tablespoonfuls of cream, a little vinegar. Mix the horse-radish well with the sugar, salt, pepper and mustard. Then moisten with sufficient vinegar to give it the consistency of cream. Mix thoroughly. Add the cream. Serve this cold with cold meat, and heat (not boil) it for hot roast beef.

Household Hints.

Dr. Hagar, of Berlin, believes that analine colors are, as a rule, poisonous in their action upon the human skin. He recommends, therefore, that woolen garments colored with analine dyes should not be worn next the skin, and suggests as a test that part of the wool be heated to the boiling point in a test tube, with 90 per cent. of alcohol, and if the latter acquire a red, violet, or violet-blue tint, the coloring matter is suspicious.

Lemon Rice Pudding.—Boil four tablespoonfuls of rice till softened; one quart of milk sweetened to taste; a small piece of butter. When nearly cool add the beaten yolks of four eggs, and one teaspoonful of lemon extract; put in the oven; when nearly done beat the whites to a froth; add four spoonsful of white sugar; pour over the top and brown it; to be eaten cold. Very nice.

The Berlin Industrie Blatter states that eggs may be preserved in a condition equal to fresh by dipping them in a solution of water glass or silicate of soda. There is a chemical compound formed upon the shell which is impervious to air, and which closes the pores of the shell. The solution of water glass must be concentrated until it is of a sirupy consistence. The fresh eggs (newly laid) and cleansed and put into a shallow pan with the solution, and turned so that every part of the shell is exposed to the water glass. After half an hour the eggs are taken out, dried, and packed in chaff in a dry cool place.

Always fill lamps in the morning, when there is daylight to work by, and lamps and oil are cold. Do not pour oil from a can that has recently been agitated. Do not allow a lamp to stand very long near a stove, or in any other warm place. Always keep the tube of the lamp clean, and trim the wick every morning. Do not extinguish a lamp by blowing down the chimney; blow up from the bottom, or else turn the wick down. Buy none but the best of oil. If your grocer does not or will not keep it, make a club with your neighbors, and send to a city for a barrel. Avoid all lamps that hold over a pint of oil, as the danger is greater as the size of the lamp increases.

To Cleanse Glass.—As a rule, warm water and a soft cloth are all that is required to keep glass in good condition; but water bottles and wine decanters, in order to keep them bright, must be rinsed out with a little muriatic acid, which is the best substance for removing the "fur" which collects in them. The acid is far better than ashes, sand or shot; for the ashes and sand scratch the glass, and if any shot is left in it by accident, the lead is poisonous. Richly cut glass must be cleansed and polished with a soft brush, upon which a very little fine chalk or whiting is put; by this means the luster and brilliancy are preserved.

Proctor and other astronomers discovered the snow and ice at the two poles of the planet Mars, and of course if that is visible from the earth, from Mars they can easily see if there is an open sea within our Arctic Circle. Obviously the most sensible Polar expedition, if real information is wanted, would be by way of the planet Mars.—*Graphic.*

THE OCEAN BOTTOM.

The Challenger Expedition and Deep Sea Soundings.

The last and most important contribution to marine hydrography are the deep-sea soundings of the Challenger expedition, which has recently returned to England after an absence of three years spent in circumnavigating the globe. Marine hydrography may be said to be a comparatively new science, the first deep-sea soundings on a large scale having been instituted by the government of the United States, when it sent Professor Agassiz and his party in the Hassler to sail around this continent during the spring and summer of 1873. The valuable physical, geographical, and zoological results of the journey are well known and appreciated. Shortly after the Hassler expedition had left New York, the English Challenger expedition, perhaps the most thoroughly equipped and most comprehensive of any ever organized, started on its tour round the world. The geological results accomplished by it have been summed up in an interesting lecture recently delivered before the Royal Institution, London, by Professor Huxley. Alluding to that portion of the work of the expedition which relates to the distribution of life in and at the bottom of the sea, and of the work which is being carried on by living organism in building up the solid crust of the globe, the Professor showed that there was extending around the poles a wide area of siliceous or flint deposit, formed from enormous accumulations of the dead skeletons and shells of diatomaceous plants—invisible organisms, which lived on the top of the sea, and existed in such numbers as to cover it and the ice for miles with a scum. The Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, too, showed that the whole of that sea-bottom was covered for many thousand square miles with a deposit of unknown thickness, also built up in the same way. It is stupendous, he says, to think of thousands of feet of rock being formed from the accumulation of the shells and skeletons of invisible animalcules, but when one thinks of the wide area mentioned, covered to an unknown depth with what might be called the ashes of these organisms, the idea becomes almost overwhelming in its vastness. Having established the fact that certain things were, they could be made the basis of deductive reasoning, without knowing the how and why. Supposing, then, a globe everywhere covered with water, and no dry land at all to be affected by the motion of the waves, and from which sedimentary rocks could be formed. The sea surrounding the two poles would be covered with a thick layer of these invisible animalculæ, constantly raining down their skeletons, on the sponge spicules on the bottom and forming a siliceous deposit, while in the intermediate zone a calacareous or limestone deposis, would be forming in the same way. Thus, it seems by the merest operation of the lowest forms of life, in a globe altogether covered by sea, there might be five or six different kinds of rock formed on the sea-bottom. Summing up the bearing of these discoveries on geologic problems, Professor Huxley contends that in all ages there is no indication of any other agency at work than natural causes; no evidence in that brief period of time registered by the succession of stratified rocks of natural forces having a greater intensity than now.

Whatever may be thought of the conclusions at which Professor Huxley arrives from the Challenger's examination of the sea-bottom, there can be no doubt as to the scientific value of deep soundings. A few decades of it have sufficed to sweep away a host of absurd traditions and unwarranted assumptions. The mountains and valleys which fancy had duplicated at the bottom of the ocean have disappeared. Our views about the animal life, even at the greatest depths, have undergone a complete revolution. The specific weight of the water is no longer believed to be so enormous that a cannon ball could not sink below a certain depth—a view once deemed capable of mathematical demonstration. One of the earlier deep-sea sounders—Edward Forbes—still assumed all animal life to cease at a depth of from 1,800 to 2,000 feet. It was submarine telegraphy that gave the first practical direction to the investigations and studies which are now comprised under marine hydrography. It became necessary to examine the bottom where cables were to be laid, and thus specimens were obtained from the bottom at greater depths than before. In 1861, when the French cable between Africa and Sardinia was raised from a depth of 8,000 feet, it was found covered with living snails, muscles, etc., among which are many new species. From that date deep-sea soundings have been turned to excellent and various uses by science. They were first systematically conducted in 1868, when the English steamer Lightning was sent, with the naturalists Carpenter and Wyville Thompson, to the seas west of the Orkney and Faroe groups, where soundings of the submarine Arctic current discovered, at a depth of 650 fathoms, two different sea temperatures and two distinct fauns. Since then discovery has rapidly followed discovery; and with the invention of dragnets our knowledge in the physical, geographical, and zoological domains of science has been immensely enlarged.

A Bird's Charity.

Philadelphia Star.

Last summer a pair of robin redbreasts built their nests in the vicinity of a fashionable country boarding-house. In due time the heads of four young robins were observed by some of the boarders peering above the sides of the nest, when some thoughtless boys passing that way shot both the parent birds and left the young ones to perish.

The ladies and gentlemen moved to pity by the helpless condition of the poor birds, were devising plans for their relief, when a little brown wren flew to the nest, surveyed the unfortunate state of things for a moment, then disappeared. In a few minutes it returned, bearing food of some kind to the starving robins.

Much surprised at this, the human sympathizers resolved to await further developments before proceeding to put their plans of relief in operation, and were delighted to find the wren had in real good earnest assumed the care of that orphan family. With untiring energy it hunted worms and food of such kinds as suited to the wants and tastes of its protege, and continued its kindly offices until the robins were full-fledged and able to take care of themselves.

Strange as this story may appear, we have it from the most undoubted authority, and submit the question whether reason or instinct was the governing power with that kind-hearted motherly little wren?

We must respectively decline the pathetic poem entitled, "I Cannot tell a lie." It is too late—and it would have been too late if it had come earlier.

The English Arctic Expedition.

The London Times of the 18th inst. says: "The Arctic ships, the Alert and Discovery, are expected to be undocked in a few days. In the meantime their complement of boats, which are constructing by Mr. John White of Cowes, are rapidly proceeded with. Their construction is somewhat peculiar. The boats are 18 in number, and include two yawls 25 feet long, and two cutters of the length of 20 feet. They are built of one diagonal thickness of mahogany planking, which is paved over with a coating of marine glue and a second coating of strong linen cloth. The whole is then ironed over till the glue comes through the linen, and the boats are then said to become impervious to water. The boats are then planked over longitudinally with the best wych elm and Christian a pine. A large semi-circular cork belting is placed under the waste strake, and over this strong canvass is stretched, thereby forming a capital fender for the little craft. Six of the boats, each having a length of twenty-five feet, are modelled like whalers, having bows at both ends, and are constructed in other respects like the four already mentioned, with the exception that they have no cork fenders, but rails with hand-holes all around. There are also six ice-boats, three being built as gigs, and then having a sheathing of cork over the diagonal planking, which is again covered with a layer of pine and elm. The latter are built on dead wood, with keelson above, so that should their stems, keels or even sternposts be destroyed by grating on the ice, the boats would not be seriously injured, but would retain their buoyancy. The whole of the small craft have been inspected by the dockyard authorities. The chief article of food is penmikin, a kind of edible which is said to have been first compounded by the Hottentots. The best parts of the finest Scotch beef are selected, all the fat is carefully removed, and the meat is then thoroughly dried. It is afterwards pounded to powder, salt and sugar are added, and then it is mixed with an equal quantity of clarified suet in a liquid state. Being poured into tins made to contain 56 pounds each, it will be sufficiently portable, and it is understood that one of these tins will be ample for the support of a boat's crew of eight men for a week while traveling over the ice. Pemmikin biscuits are also being made, in which the pemmikin is mixed with flour; and all the provisions are of the best quality. None of the salt junk with which sailors afloat are so well acquainted will be taken in this expedition, but the best rounds of beef and bellies of pork, only slightly salted, as meat may be expected to keep for a lengthened time in an Arctic climate. Rum, which is the chief stimulant and luxury on board ship, usually costs the royal navy 1s. 6d. per gallon free of duty, but that provided for this expedition is pure Jamaica, at a prime cost of 2s. 3d. per gallon."

Toilet Articles as Viewed by a Chemist.

Professor William P. Tonry delivered, on Wednesday night, the second lecture of his present course, and the Chemical Hall at the Maryland Institute was crowded to its utmost capacity. The subject of the lecture was "Toilet Articles as Viewed by the Chemist," and the lecturer first reminded his audience that the manufacturer would view such articles through their profits, the public through the persuasive representations of dealers, but the chemist, through a test tube and crucible. A lady of fashion, of the present day, considers her toilet table incomplete without hair tonics, hair washers, and restoratives, depilatories, enamels, salves, and powders, and continuing, Professor Tonry subjected to examination a specimen of each class. By means of a peculiar arrangement of the ordinary microscope, the root of the hair and a section of the human skin, showing the roots of the human hair, sweatglands, ducts, &c., was thrown upon a screen, and construction and functions explained. A number of the so-called "hair tonics," "washes," and "restorers," were taken and their composition shown to the audience by chemical tests, several bottles of metallic lead being taken from one so called "hair restorers," and "Ayer's Hair Vigor" was found to contain nearly three grains of lead to the fluid ounce; "Phalon's Vitalia," over four-and-one-half grains; "Hall's Vegitable Sicilian Hair Renewer," over six grains; and a "hair restorer" fifteen grains to the ounce. "Magnolia Balm," "Bloom of Youth," and "Enamel" and "Oriental Cream" were found to contain from 110 to 190 grains of lead or zinc to the ounce. The methods of bleaching the hair, and of changing dark hair to the fashionable golden yellow were mentioned as well as the poisonous nature of the chemicals used. Depilatories, bright eyes, and embonpoint were commented upon by the lecturer. Professor Torney spoke for about one and a-half hours, and his remarks were heard with marked attention, the ladies especially being eager listeners.—*Baltimore Gazette.*

A Chinese Idyl.

Fashionable circles of Shanghai have recently found abundant food for gossip in an "exciting incident" of which a Chinese General is the hero. This warrior, after having reaped his laurels by defending the Mahommedans in Yunan, happened to be struck with one of the Celestial beauties whom he saw while passing through Shanghai on his way to Peking. Unfortunately this young lady was the daughter of a distinguished personage, and was affianced to a wealthy Chinese. This only inflamed the passion of the aged warrior, who, by a liberal distribution of presents, gained the confidence of several persons belonging to the young lady's household, and, what still better, of her mother. It only remained for him, in order to ensure the success of the elopement, to secure the passive cooperation of the police, and this he was enabled to do by judicious arrangements with a tapao, once a member of the municipal police, who undertook to "make it right" with his former colleagues. So, at the appointed time, the General was enabled to carry the young lady off from her house, and "the happy couple" embarked in a richly decorated sampan which was lying in the river, got of safely to Soochow. The marriage does not appear however, to have been a happy one, for the General has written to the fanced, offering to return him his wife and pay a good round sum to get rid of her. The Generals influence will be sufficiently strong to protect him from punishment, but the tapao who "made it right" with the police will probably suffer for his share in the offence of separating two affianced persons—which is visited with severe penalties in China and most Eastern countries.—*Pall Mall Gazette.*

The cavaliers, during the protectorate, were accustomed to their libations to put a crumb of bread into a glass of wine, and before they drank it, say: God send Cromwell down.

Odds and Ends.

The man who kan think kan never get lonesum.

Stillwater has voted to build a bridge across Lake St. Croix.

Although the law is a fine thing it can always be had at cost.

H. J. Byron has written a new comedy entitled "Our Boys."

And now they say Baltimore is to be the Liverpool of America. Mercy on us!

Truth, crushed to the earth, shall rise again. Sojourners as well.—*Detroit Tribune.*

Correctly don't seem like a hard word; yet they all go down because they can't spell correctly.

The fellow who asked for a lock of his girl's hair was informed that "it costs money, hair does."

A Boston pawnbroker recently charged $7.50 as interest of $5, borrowed for seven months on a silk dress worth $50.

"May heaven bless and keep you from your own true love, Benjamin Herrick," was the way the letter ended.

Gold has been discovered in paying quantities at the Notch in the White Mountains, in what is known as the "Frankenstein cliff."

The furniture recently sold at the Astor House, in New York, was rich with historical reminscences and insects.

The uncertainty of the known makes us more anxious concerning the certainty of the unknown.

The infant sovereign of China ascended the throne under the honorary title of Kwang Su, the best translation of which is "Continuation of Glory."

A German geographical square mile contains 9,567 Austrian catastral jochs. Of these jochs 100 equal 142 English acres.

There are many who talk on from ignorance rather than from knowledge, and who find the former an inexhaustible fund of conversation

It is pleasant to reflect that 1876 will be leap-year and that consequently winter will have more time in which to do its chilling work.

Torpedoes are now sent into whales at the end of a newly-invented harpoon in use at Norway. They kill the fish without delay.

A Russian six feet and five inches high has just died at the age of 115, and another, born in the same year, is still hale and hearty.

Prince Napoleon, who was made a general of division by Napoleon III., is to be struck out of the French army list.

Edward King will commence a series of papers on American cities in the April Scribner. The first paper will be on Baltimore, which city he calls the Liverpool of America.

DREAMS OF THE PAST.

I cannot sleep! my fever'd brain
Calls up the vanished Past again,
And throws its misty splendors deep
Into the pallid realms of sleep!

Brother Jim—For mercy's sake, Clara, what are you wearing those earrings for? They weigh half a pound. Clara—Mortification of the flesh, Jim; it's Lent, and besides Jane Gray's are half an inch longer.

A Detroit paper has an article headed, "A Young Girl Made the Victim of a Bogus Marriage." This is shocking. In these days of dissolute young men it is quite bad enough for a young girl to be made the victim of a genuine marriage.—*Courier Journal.*

A Kingston clergyman, the othe Sunday, used in his sermon the expression, "It isn't worth a dime;" and as he hung fire on the d, half of the congregation looked round in a startled sort of a way, imagining he was going to say something else.

Here is a simple rule to detect counterfeit fifty-cent notes: On the counterfeit the lock of hair in the corner of Dexter's forehead touches the hair at each end, while in the genuine it is a "O" shaped lock, and touches only at the lower end.

Visitor: "Well, Miss Polly, won't you give me a kiss?" Polly: "No; mamma says kissing's only for children." Visitor: "And arn't you a child?" Polly: "Perhaps, but I don't call you one (Visitor counts his gray hairs next morning.)

On Ash Wednesday, when no stage plays are allowed to be played in London, Moore and Burgess' Minstrels moved to the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, and played to an immense house. On the same night Sothern migrated to Nottingham and had a packed house at double prices.

When the song's gone out of your life, you can't start another one while it's a-ringing in your ears, but it's best to have a bit of silence, and out o' that maybe a psalm 'll come by and by.

About six weeks ago, a literary couple boarding together at a Chicago hotel, concluded to marry, and, last week, the following scrap of matrimonial talk between them was overheard: She—"You hocuste my soul with your vulgar sneers." He—"You have a superhuman power for evil over my sensitive nature."

Nothing is more common than for great thieves to ride in triumph when small ones are punished. But let wickedness escape as it may, at the last it never fails of doing little self-justice, for every guilty person is his own hangman.—*Seneca.*

Beware of liquor. Julius Cæsar conquered Gaul, and donned the imperial purple, to fall at last by the Roman punch—given him by Brutus.

The greatest feat in eating ever recorded, is told of a man who commenced by bolting a door, after which he threw up the window and swallowed the whole story.

In Boston they never mention the demimonde; Miss Bashleu rolls up her eyes and bewails the existence of the "hemispherical classes."

Pickaxun is a narrow strip ov very produktive land, lieing between the domynyons ov truth and falsehood, owing allegiance to neither.

It is, methinks, an honest and laudable fortitude to dare to be ugly; at least to keep ourselves from being abashed with a consciousness of imperfections we cannot help, and in which there is no guilt.

"Jane, what letter in the alphabet do you like best?" "Well, I don't like to say, Mr. Snobbs." "Pooh! nonsense! tell right out, Jane. Which do you like best?" "Well" (blushing and dropping her eyes), "I like U the best."

A man who was sentenced to be hung was visited by his wife, who said, "My dear, would you like the children to see you executed?" "No," replied he. "That's just like you," said she "you never wanted the children to have any enjoyment."

A man went into the St. Julien yesterday evening, and, calling for a little whisky, bowed to himself in the mirror, and said: "Here's to the next Alderman from the Third ward." And twenty-seven men got right up and said: "Thank you, thank you."—*Burlington Hawkeye.*