

HOOPS.

How Shaved Hoops Are Made in England.

As soon as the cutters have cleared a sufficient space, the hoop-shed, which is to be the center of several months' work, is begun. This edifice is not built under the influence of any capricious inspirations; its lines have been handed down for centuries, from hoop-shaver to hoop-shaver, and its general form may be as surely predicted as that of the cell of the wild bee. Its framework is neatly put together with fork-ends, ash-poles, and the few requisite fastenings are made with bent wies.

"Cats will never thrive without grass to eat. It is a panacea for all their ills; keeps the stomach in order, cools the blood, prevents humors and aids digestion. It is supposed to aid in getting rid of the hairs swallowed during the process of shaving. During the winter it can be procured by keeping a piece of turf in the cellar or hot-house, or it may be cultivated in a flower-pot. Cats are fond of asparagus, which many persons raise especially for them, and their natural preference for catnip will suggest a like course."

"Any cat that is worth keeping should be housed, for to turn her out nights is sure to make her gaunt, ugly, unhealthy, dirty and a vagrant. If properly treated she will not show a disposition to go out. A cozy bed may be made in a corner for her and proper training will supplement her natural dainty cleanliness. "An cat should be washed regularly with warm water and mild soap, dried with towels, and kept in a warm place to prevent cold. For stale sores, if the fur be lightly sponged with sweet cream pussy will polish her coat up to its pristine beauty.

"Cats are subjected to nearly as many diseases as the human race. "Huff's" doctor's cat is just getting over typhoid fever, and he manages to get diphtheria, malaria, catarrh and everything else that is epidemic. Cats have symptoms of disease and show them as plainly as children. Almost the first is a neglect of toilet; another is the rough condition of the fur, which loses its gloss and the hairs stand out. A hot nose is a sign of fever or inflammation, and when the cat shows a desire for green heat there is a chill. Cats are so much admired at the present day that physicians are constantly being called upon to prescribe, and no one need feel any loss of dignity in doing so humane an act. When medicine is not given in the food it is well to put on thick gloves in administering, in order to avoid bites and scratches. Then wrap the cat in a strong cloth, carefully covering the feet, and let an assistant hold it between his knees and open the mouth. Fluid doses such as glysterine and castor-oil should be given. From a spoon in very small doses; if pills are prescribed put the bolus well back against the roof of the mouth; powders or small pellets will dissolve on the tongue. Gentleness will be necessary in the operation, and the mouth and fur should be carefully washed in order to remove the taste of medicine. Generally food should be withheld for two hours, unless otherwise directed. Cats are frequently delirious during teething, when the gums should be lanaced, and a light diet of warm milk, with plenty of clean water and grass given. In the adult the symptoms are wild staring eyes, bristling hair, restlessness and a tendency to climb up the wall or break through a window. The squeal is pitiable and the cry frightful; she will hide in the darkest corner and die there unless attended to. In treating, put on a pair of gloves, grasp the cat by the nape of the neck, wrap a shawl round the body, and with a pair of scissors slit one of the ears lightly in the thin part. Wet the ear with a sponge dipped in warm water to make the blood flow; a few drops will give relief. Give a dose of belladonna or hyoscyamus in half a glass of water and put to sleep in a cool, quiet place. It should not be disturbed for a day, as the operation leaves it in a nervous state in which a slight sound will alarm it and cause a return of the delirium. Convulsions or fits are confined to young cats and are caused by too much meat. They are of such short duration that little immediate relief can be given. A whiff of chloroform or ammonia may do, and to prevent her from running into the fire or doing herself injury throw a cloth over her and hold her quiet. If fat, reduce the diet; if poor and serawny, give warm milk regularly and a little raw meat twice a day. If worms are the cause I should prescribe half a teaspoonful of cool-liver oil three times a day. If during the fit the cat becomes rigid give nuxvomica, and a dose of belladonna will cure blood-hot eyes. For inflamed eyes apply a wash of weak borax and water. After catching cold cats will sneeze and show all signs of influenza. They may have sore throats with diphtheritic symptoms which they catch from children. Wrap the throat in flannel wet with cod-liver oil, and give a few drops of sulphate of soda in water."—N. E. M. Hale, in Chicago Tribune.

ABOUT CATS.

Some Interesting Facts Concerning These Household Pets—Diseases to Which They Are Subject and How They Should Be Treated.

"I have always had a great fondness for cats, and since my childhood have made a pet of at least one. I have given them a great deal of attention, studied their habits and peculiarities, and have come to the conclusion that in order to preserve the health, smoothness and gloss of the fur, and the tem-

per one must regard their food, drink, housing, and general management. No error is more common than that of starving a cat to make it a good mouser. The practice has arisen from the mistaken notion that a cat kills rats and mice for food, whereas it is quite as much for sport. If one wants his pets to develop into a thief and prowler, with an abundant stock of vermin, let him neglect to feed her regularly. The cat should have at least two meals a day at regular hours. After each meal remove the dish, and never use it a second time without washing it. The quantity required can be determined by experience. Oatmeal porridge and milk or bread and milk, sweetened, will make a good breakfast. Use the same food dinner with an allowance of meat or fish. Horse-meat is used in France, but liver or boiled lights are better. Use fish during sickness; oysters are useful and very healthy, and no cat will turn up her nose at raw beef. An excessive amount of meat is bad. Boiled eggs should be used occasionally and any vegetables that the animal prefers. My cat lives on beans, peas, and celery. Though the food should be ample, it is not necessary to overfeed the animal. Fresh milk should be given in abundance, and this with oatmeal will be sufficient generally, as the more she will consume to get will be an adequate supplement. A cat's disposition is spoiled by feeding her with delicacies from the table. This habit should be discouraged, and a little training will induce her to patiently await her time, even if she sits by the table during meals.

"In Rhode Island seersucker cloth is imitated in cotton. There is no doubt that it could be manufactured here in large quantities out of the fiber of the American nettle. The gambrir of China and India grows all through the Southern States and portions of California. The material is known in England as China grass.

"At this moment there are ten or twelve manufacturers in Germany where the fabrics prepared to be made into clothing, handkerchiefs, stockings, shirts, towels, lace curtains, and many hundred species of textile articles. It competes with wool on account of its greater strength and cheapness."

"An Hungarian named Neumann has at Nicholas, near Antwerp, a manufactory of this material. The daily product on averages about 80,000 pounds. Neumann started another manufactory near Dusseldorf, in Rhenish Prussia, but had to fly the country on account of some trouble he got into with a Government official. He was convicted of slander and sentenced to one year's imprisonment. But for this trouble he would be doing well, as the Government had, up to this time, helped him by every means in their power, supplying him gratuitously with large quantities of nettles from East Prussia."

"The National Gazette says that nine-tenths of all d'ssaters at sea occur in the second mate's watch, and it concludes that a very large proportion of officers of that grade are incompetent or unreliable. It suggests that second mates should be examined and licensed just as their superior officers are.

CLOTH FROM NETTLES.

A Raw Material Cheaper and Tougher Than Any Known—A Yankee Substitue for Chinese Seersucker—Suits Made of Wool.

Mr. Felix Fremery, a well-known Prussian savant and inventor, is stopping at Zeiss' Hotel in this city. He has a mission. It is to revolutionize the textile industry in the United States.

"I am a native of Aix-la-Chapelle," said Mr. Fremery yesterday, "and have devoted my life principally to the study of botany. I am not unknown in this country, since I took a prize at the Centennial Exposition for an oil to lubricate vegetable wools in the course of preparation for the spinning process.

"You know the seersucker cloth so popular for summer wear in your country. How light and strong it is, and what a pretty material too. You know, I suppose, that it is made from the fibers of the Chinese nettle. The process is a very peculiar one. The Chinese until 1851 alone possessed the secret of freeing the fibers of the plant from the resinous gum holding them together. These fibers are then, not spun, but cut into long, narrow strips, and glued together at the ends with a species of glue unknown to us. It is in all probability an animal glue, mixed with a certain per cent. of hard white wax. This process preserves the peculiar gloss of the fiber, which causes some people to mistake it for silk. If the cloth were spun it would lose its luster."

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"These nettles grow in prodigious quantity all through the Jersey swamps. The yield on my place near Newark was twenty to twenty-five per cent. of pure fiber from this dried stock. The nettles must be cut about the end of September, when the sap begins to ripen in accordance with the laws of our climate here. Of course, as one goes further south the nettles will ripen earlier. The plants attain a height of five or six feet. Ten days ago I received a stalk from California eleven feet in height and three-eighths of an inch in thickness. It was sent me by a Mr. Drury, a druggist living in Lower California, who takes great interest in botany."

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"In Germany a hectare, about two and a half acres of land, yields about 25,000 pounds of green stalks. The loss when dried will average 20 to 25 per cent. Since these stalks thrive on the tops of the Allegheny Mountains, there is no reason why they should not be cultivated in every State of the Union. I am now negotiating with a prominent firm of manufacturers in this city who intend to use the fiber in the manufacture of stockings."

"The first fibers of the Indian plant I ever saw were those exhibited by John Marshall, of Leeds, who had devoted the best years of his life, from 1810 to 1831, to discovering the secret process of dissolving the resinous gum that holds the fibers together. He finally succeeded, and the beautiful exhibit he made in 1851 excited general interest all over Europe, and first attracted my own attention to the plant. Ramsell in open market in London at the rate of 17 or 18 cents a pound. There is no market for the American nettle fiber but it could be made a profitable article of export."—Philadelphia Press.

FIRE-PROOF INDIANS.

Pictureesque Acts of Legermain Among the Southern Indians.

Mr. John R. Sweet, who has recently been traveling in New Mexico and Arizona, gave an interesting and graphic sketch to a Denver Tribune reporter of the "shashkwa-dance," which he had witnessed at one of the Navajo agencies. It took place in a large corral, or inclosure of an irregularly circular form, about forty paces in diameter. Its fence, about eight feet high, was constructed of fresh juniper and pine boughs. In the center was a conical pile of dry wood, about twelve feet high, which was to make the great central fire. Around this, a few feet from the fence, a dozen smaller fires were burning for the comfort and convenience of the spectators, who numbered about five hundred men, women and children, gathered here from various parts of the Navajo country. The fire dance was the most picturesque and startling of all. Some time before the dancers entered, I heard strange sounds mingled with the blowing of the buffalo horn. The sounds were much like the call of the sandhill crane, and may, perhaps, be properly called "trumping," and they were made by the dancers constantly during the exercises. The noises continued to grow louder and come nearer, until we heard them at the opening in the East, and in a moment after men having no more clothing on than a breechcloth entered. Every man bore a long, thick bundle of dressed-deer-skin in each hand, except the leader who carried four smaller fagots of the same material. Four times they all danced round the fire, waving their bundles of bark toward the flame; then they halted in the east, the leader advanced toward the central fire, lit one of his little fagots, and trumpeted loudly, three times over the fence of the corral in the east. He performed as a mimic at the south, the west and the north, but before the northern brand was lit, he threw the fagot of his comrades. A few minutes disappeared over the fence. Some of the spectators blew into their hands, and made a motion as if to sing some sub-tantance after the departing flame. When the fagots were all lit the whole band began a wild race around the fire. At first they kept close together and spun upon one another some substance of supposed medicinal virtue. Soon they scattered and ran apparently without concern, the rapid racing causing the brands to tower out long, brilliant streams of flame over the naked heads and arms of the dancers. They then proceeded to apply the brands to their own naked bodies, and the bodies of their comrades in front of them—no man ever once turning around. At times the dancer struck the victim vigorously, he seized the flame as if it were a sponge, and, creeping close to the one pursued, rubbed the back of the latter for several moments as if he were bathing in it. In the meantime the sufferer would crouch up with some information of him and, uttering him in flame. At times, when a dancer found no one in front of him, he proceeded to "sponge" his own back, and might keep this up while making two or three circuits around the fire, or until he overtook some one else. At each application of the blaze the loud trumpeting was heard, and it often seemed as if a flock of a hundred cranes were winging their way overhead, southward through the darkness. If a brand became extinguished it was lit again from the central fire; but when it was so far consumed as to be no longer held conveniently in the hand the dancer dropped it and rushed trumpeting out of the corral. Thus one by one they all departed, and the spectators stepped into the arena, picked up the fagots of the fallen fragments of bark, lit them, and put their hands in the flames as a charm against the evil effects of fire.

"I believe they are not hurt in the least," was the answer. "I believe they were protected by a coating of earth or clay paint. That, however, did not make the effect any less strange. I have heard many persons on the stage, many acts of fire eating and fire holding by civilized jugglers, and many fire dances by other Indian tribes, but nothing comparable to this. The dances accessories were unique. Dancers singing loud songs with the eternal fire could scarcely be pictured to look more awful."

FOREIGN GOSSIP.

The penalty for stealing a dog in China is death by decapitation.

There are 400 newspapers published in London. Of these 16 are morning, 9 are evening, and 375 are weekly.

Over twenty thousand Germans are employed in London, monopolizing almost entirely the barber, tailor and water trades.

The tree in Japan from which the varnish for the famous lacquerwork is made is disappearing, and the country is threatened with the loss of one of its greatest industries.

It is proposed to supply London with milk from Holland. Four steamers will carry the milk from Amsterdam to Harwich, and from the latter point refrigerator cars will convey it to the city.

"Do nothing; say nothing; time will put everything to rights," was Emperor William's invariable answer when one member of his family comes to complain of another.

One of the principal graces of Sarah, Duchess of Marlborough, was a prodigious abundance of fine hair. One day she set out to anger her hero lord, she cut off her commanding tresses and flung them in his face.

Virgil's birthplace, the little village of Pesto, in the Lombardy plain, about five miles from Mantua, has just begun to build a monument to the poet. Close to the village rises a small hill, the Monticelli di Virgilio, and here, according to local tradition, stood the house in which Virgil was born.

The room in the Tower of London in which Sir Walter Raleigh was so long imprisoned is 8x14 feet in size, and so low that it was impossible for Raleigh to stand erect in it. The walls of the room are eighteen feet in thickness, and there is only one window—an opening 19x20 inches—from which the only thing that can be seen is the blank wall of an adjoining building. Here Raleigh lived for fourteen years, never being once out of the room until the day on which he was taken to Great Tower Hill to be beheaded.

The majority of houses in Abyssinia have a second story, or at least an attic, terminating in a thatched roof. The walls are invariably of mud. Within live the occupants, with their cattle, fowls, dogs, cats and a Noah's ark of insects, which the natives foster with the greatest care by not touching soap and by using very little water. There is plenty of water, however, and the crop grows on trees, but an Ethiopian will tell you without a blush that he is necessarily washed at birth, washes himself on his marriage morn, and hopes to be washed after death. When he feels hard and uncomfortable he will amount himself with mutton fat till his head and body glisten in the sun.

GOSSIPING.

Some of the Evils Which Result From a Miscellaneous Social Practice.

There are social evils which appear to be impregnable to assaults of what-ever kind, and gossiping is one of them. One of the beauties of the isolation of the parent couple in Eden was that there was no gossip between them. Adam having no club nor street corner familiar and Eve not belonging to any sewing society and having no callers, we may reasonably infer there was a period in the history of the human family when there was no neighborhood gossiping. The period was brief, however, and we find men and women telling tales on each other, and from that age down to the present we may read histories and hear denunciations of the reprehensible practice. But gossiping has maintained life and lustiness. It appears to have, like obstinacy, thrived under abuse. If the evil is ever suppressed it must be by some other tactics than assault. It might be successfully banished if the human family would seriously contemplate the difference between the tattler and the person whose tongue speaks no ill. There are some of the latter class—both women and men. There are those who not only do not speak ill, but who fain would not hear evil spoken of any, who will even seek to dole out kind words. For one of those who can withhold admiration? What a world of good is accomplished by these in avoiding difficulties.

It is easy for irreparable injustice to be done a good character by idle talk, even when such is not intended. Dame Gossip is an arrogant gad-about, carrying a paint pot and brush by which a fresh coating is put on any story with her every repetition of it. From "some-one black" she has a few calls to make to produce "three black crows." But for the conservative, scandal-baiting element of society, the old dame would have and keep the majority of mankind in perpetual burnout. A petted, only daughter of a wealthy widow, wedded a young lawyer, and the two settled down to house-keeping where the bride's mother resided. After two months of wedded life the young wife risked in agitation on her mother's house, one day, to repeat a silly scandal upon her husband which she had just received from the lips of a servant. She had only begun repeating the story when the mother rose, standing, and pointing to the door, said, "Leave my house, and never put foot in it north of my nose you are my daughter again and I will have sufficient self-respect not to listen to the gabble of servants, and to never utter a word of gossip to any one concerning your husband." Five years later the wife told her husband, for the first time, of the incident, and declared that her uninterrupted happiness during those five years was largely due to the rebuke given from her mother.

The most desirable gossipers are those who go back and forth between persons estranged, watching the chances between them. The warmest of friendship by this process is turned into a compromising enemies. He or she who is the core of street or office gossip is nothing less than a maul. He or she who sets the part of penny-wick in such premises has the expressed approval of the Divine Master Himself, he having said "they shall be called the children of God."

A notable consummation of a suit be-

tween two well-to-do planters occurred four years ago in a Superior Court of a Southern State. The estates of the Plaintiffs, each comprising a number of hundred acres, lay adjoining, and even before either owner was in possession one fence had divided them. Both were high strung, dignified men. The weakness of each being that of inherited hot-headedness. Through the preparation of some sister neighbor A was led to make some impulsive criticism upon B, when the listener repeated to the latter. B retaliated in kind, which A hearing, of the friendship of long standing was ruptured. Twin fences were determined on, but they could not agree upon how and where they should be run. A suit at law by A was met with a counter-suit by B. For two years after the filing of the actions continuances were had for one cause or another.

When the cases were at length set, and each party had half a hundred witnesses at court, the Judge of the Court asked if any effort had been made to have the differences between the litigants settled by arbitration. The respective attorneys answered that no agreement could be had upon who should constitute a board of arbitration. The Judge then, addressing the attorneys to be seated, addressed the two principals, asking them to come forward and stand one on either side of the bench. Leaving back in his chair and looking first one and then the other in the face as he proceeded, he reminded them of the boyhood time when they three had played and attended school together; of how their respective fathers had through life lived as neighbors not only peaceably, but cordially; of three graves near together in the country churchyard, in which the three fathers were buried; of the early manhood of himself and the two litigants when they were bosom companions and inseparable. "Gentlemen," he said, "I have always found in you both the same honorable qualities that bound me to you then; may I be permitted to settle this dispute between you without assistance of evidence or jury?" Both answered yes. "I know every foot of the boundary line," he then said, "and so need none of the maps you have had made." While each looked over a shoulder of the Judge, he drew a line on a slip of paper, made a heavy dot for a certain large oak, and directed that north from that tree A should maintain a good fence, while B should keep up the fence running south from it. "Does the decision satisfy you?" he inquired. Each answered in the affirmative. "Mr. Clerk," the Judge addressed that officer, "on a bill of foot up the costs accrued in these cases; and hand the bill to me; I propose to settle it out of my own pocket." A stepped forward and propped that he should settle the costs, "for," said he, "I brought the suit." But to this B vigorously objected, claiming that he having answered with a counter suit was entitled to pay at least half the bill. The Judge directed the costs to be divided according to B's proposition, and then turning to the two he ordered, "Now, you two shake hands." The order was obeyed, and thus harmony was restored to a community which, through the work of evil gossiping, had been for more than two years almost in war.

It does appear that men should learn to discard and mitch of-making gossips. —Indiana State Sentinel.

THE FOX GOT AWAY.

How Mrs. Secretary Chandler Shocked Washington Society and Saved Reynard's Life.

For a week past the society journals have been full of gossip about a fox hunt which was to take place at General Reed's farm, two or three miles outside the city. Cabinet Ministers' wives, the ladies of Senators' families talked about it at their receptions, and the young men about town discussed it at their clubs. Several young ladies, amongst whom were Senator Bayard's daughter, were going to follow the hounds as far as they could, while their escorts, Lieutenant Emory, of the navy, William Estlin and a dozen other gentlemen with aristocratic names, were to do the rough, open-country riding and be in at the death.

The wretched fox which was to furnish the amusement was exhibited in a cage in a Ninth street shop-window, and was nearly frightened to death by the crowds which gathered around Mrs. Secretary Chandler, however, though a friend of the hunters, is a member of the S. P. C. A. She disapproved of the sport, and this morning a card in the newspapers gave notice that arrests would follow if it were attempted.

Society was terribly exercised, but the young gentlemen and ladies stood their ground, and a number of them gathered near the Arlington Hotel at the time announced to-day, ready to ride to the starting point when an agent of the Humane Society bore down upon them. He was astride a very melancholy looking animal, with cropped ears, very conspicuous ribs and a bob tail.

In spite of the manifest desire of the gentlemen to avoid him, he managed to make his horse shamble up to one of them, and announced that he was going along. They started up Connecticut avenue at a lively gallop, but by breaking the rules of the society he managed to keep well in the rear, and with a horde of small boys following behind, added plenty of excitement, it not pleasure, to the expedition. Most of the passers-by thought the fox hunt had already begun, Miss Bayard and one or two other ladies, handily mounted and followed by grooms, joined them at the head of the avenue, and then the whole cavalcade rode rapidly into the country. They reached the rendezvous in a short time, but not quickly enough to shut the gates on the multitudinous gossips, and a consultation was decided on. The gentlemen were for going on with the hunt, but the ladies had the word of the Police Court before them, and begged that one would give it up. Thereupon was the very well satisfied fox turned out on civilization, and ran for the woods, where a very successful set of Washington forest warden, in a very bad humor, rambled back to the city.—Washington Cor. Indianapolis Journal.