

A NEST AND A HOME

See a pretty, fragile thing That some bird has made; With what careful fashioning Every twig was laid; Piled with happy song by day, Now 'tis but that useless thing— A deserted nest.

HEALTH NOTES.

A Very Common Delusion Which Is More Moonshine.

Treatment of Small Wounds—A Snuff for Nasal Catarrh—Preparation of Children's Drinking Water—The Sick-Room—Infant's Apparel.

In a contemporary there recently appeared a highly sensational item about a "ferocious cat." It speaks the breath of a Beverly child with nearly fatal results. It appears that a little girl was found asleep with a cat lying on its back with its head close to her mouth, "breathing her breath." The cat was driven off and the little one fainted away, and it was feared that she would die. Of all the delusions which possess mankind—and there are almost as many as there are grains of sand—this is one of the most absurd. We are living in what is called the enlightened age, but such a yarn as this, reported in an air of credibility, betrays the fact. There is absolutely no foundation for the delusion; it is pure and simple moonshine. A baby might sleep with a cradle full of cats without fear of losing its breath. As far as the danger from them is concerned, cats are as harmless as dogs, and every one knows that the latter are common bedfellows of children. A good, clean, healthy dog or cat would not, by sleeping with it, threaten the health of a child, any more than would its little brother or sister. These animals are, of course, liable to diseases not easily detected by their owners; they are also often the carriers of infectious disease. Again, they throw off impurities in the room, and through the air, do the highest order of animals. The sleeping nose of the average child is too small, and does not hold pure air enough for him alone; and so another occupant, be it child or a dog or a cat, would have an unhealthy influence—one would be as bad as either of the others. For these reasons it is not well to allow cats to sleep with children, or for none other. The cat lay on the chest of the Beverly child. The little one's breathing, in consequence of the pressure, became laborious. Beyond all doubt, frightful dreams were also induced. In one of them the child is suddenly awakened, and in a state of terror very likely it did faint away; it would not have been surprising had a convulsion come on. Assuredly there is nothing mysterious in this case, and the symptoms were but the natural result of the cause; only a very little common sense is needed to plainly trace one to the other. But superstition and common sense are incompatible; and when they occur together superstition has the nail.

A small cut is often held to be too trifling for treatment, and so is practically neglected. A small wound upon the hands, as one made by a pin, sometimes proves very dangerous, as appears from the following case, the facts of which were developed at a coroner's inquest in London recently: It was shown by the evidence that the deceased and his sweetheart were, as the latter said, "making" when she happened to scratch his thumb. He disregarded the scratch, which festered and resulted in blood-poisoning. He was admitted to the hospital, became delirious, and died four days later. Death was due to blood-poisoning following the wound in the thumb. The jury returned a verdict of "accidental death." Fortunately, such cases as this are very rare. The hands of every one come in contact with substances which are more or less poisonous. An unbroken skin on any part of the body is a very decided barrier to absorption, and that on the hands, thickened and hardened, is especially impervious. The bodies of victims of certain maladies are in the most intense degree poisonous, and hence are dangerous to touch unless care is used. In making autopsies on such, if there is a hangnail on either of the fingers, or the skin is otherwise broken, unless some special precaution is taken, blood-poisoning is very likely to result in consequence of the absorption of the fluids. But while the skin remains intact there is little or no danger of such results. Physicians before making autopsies, and students before dissection, generally paint any little scratches, hangnails, etc., with collodion, and afterward lubricate the hands well with sweet oil or some other oily agent, which closes the pores in the skin and obviates the danger of absorption. If they cut or prick their hands while at work they rush at once to the sink, hastily wash the parts, and then, unless the wound is bleeding freely, suck the same. If water is not handy for washing, a heavy wipe is all that is done before the lips are applied to the wound. Under these conditions the prick of a needle is the most dangerous, for by that means the poison is carried in deep, and the wound, being very deep, closes tightly and shuts in the same. Ordinarily a person receiving a scratch from a pin or needle, or other small wound from a sharp instrument, will do well to wash it thoroughly in very hot water, and afterward, until it is healed, keep on some simple ointment or salve, so as to obviate any danger of poisonous absorption while handling foods which have become tainted, or other suspicious substances.

MISCELLANEOUS.

A snuff which is much used in Germany for nasal catarrh is composed of the following ingredients: Menthol, three parts; boric acid, two parts; powdered orris root, five parts; powdered sugar, ten parts; powdered coffee, thirty parts; powdered milk sugar, fifty parts. Snuffs as a rule do more harm than good in catarrh, for the reason that they are so generally irritating. The first few applications of such are likely to act pleasantly by "clearing out the head," but if persisted in an irritation is almost always set up, which narrows the nasal passages and makes the user much more uncomfortable than he was at first. This German snuff is a mild preparation and would not irritate except in very exceptional cases. And yet, some patients, with peculiarly sensitive linings to the nasal passages, could not use it. Its most active agent is menthol, which is of positive value in the treatment of catarrh of the nose when rightly used. Taken all in all, it would be safe for a victim of this annoying affection to try this snuff if he feels like doing so. If it does him good he would be justified in using it occasionally—say, take a pinch three or four times a day, and, of course, he would have sense enough to stop it if it aggravated his trouble.

THE MARRIAGE TIE.

An Eloquent Defense of the Christian Sacrament and the Ethics Involved.

The enemies of proper marriage assume that Christianity is hopelessly discredited. Well, for the sake of argument, let us suppose that this is so. Does it follow that the ethics of marriage, which, as a matter of fact, the modern world has received from Christianity, are also discredited? I reply most certainly not. The ethics taught by Christianity are independent of those mysteries and would subsist all its eternity, though Christianity and all religions were swept into oblivion. The moral law is ascertained, not from the announcements of prophets, apostles, evangelists, but from a natural and permanent revelation of the reason. The great fundamental truths of ethics are necessary, like the great fundamental truths of mathematics. So much concerning Christianity and ethics in general. And now, of the ethics of marriage in particular. The earliest form of marriage known to us was that in which the bride was obtained by capture; her volition counting for nothing, her consent not even sought. Then, she was recognized as a person; her liberty inviolable; her will free; to be won she must be wooed. Now marriage is a contract, and is subject to the ethical rules that govern all contracts. Marriage is something more than a mere contract. We may safely put aside the ecclesiastical view of it. Quite apart from that view, from those considerations, we must so account for it. For it is a symbol of the mystery whereby our spiritual life is joined to our bodily frames. Nay, it is more than that. It is the outward, visible, sensuous means whereby we attain to the inward, spiritual grace of the purest joys, the most unselfish affections that this world offers. It is a natural sacrament, of which the husband and the wife themselves are the ministers.

THE GERMAN DOMESTIC.

She Wears No Bangs, But She Does the Work of Two Men.

The German servant girl has no bangs for bangs, nor fur-lined coats, nor four-buttoned kid gloves. She is square-shouldered, heavy-footed and large-limbed. She is neither clean, quick, nor intelligent, but she can work. She has the strength of an ox, and is always willing to use it. Most servant girls in German cities are peasants. Daughters of the poor town-bred families usually become factory hands, shop girls or waitresses. The conservative peasants, however, with their old prejudices in favor of every thing feudal, prefer domestic services for their children to any employment. As soon as the peasant's laughter is fourteen or fifteen years old she learns how to split wood, hoe potatoes and plant cabbages. She milks the cow before breakfast, hitches her to the plow after breakfast, and often turns furrows all the morning under the direction of her father, who, in the meanwhile, smokes a pipe and rests. She mows hay and digs water trenches. During the harvest she carries great baskets of vegetables from the fields to the barn on her back. When her younger sister becomes old enough to help her parents to work the little farm, however, the eldest daughter loses her grip on her father's heart. She is regarded by him as an incubation, for nothing is more useless in the eyes of a German peasant than a grown daughter who does not earn her living. Therefore, if no Hans or Fritz wishes her to be his helpmate in raising cabbages and potatoes, she must go into domestic service in the city.

"A LITTLE NONSENSE."

"Karline, what'er doin' wid' yo' bes' fur' us?" "Only 'er sprinklin' a little hair restorer on it. De wool's fallin' out." "Time." "Physician—"Why, man, yo' sent yo' word yo' had the grip." Patient—"I know, doctor, but I didn't think you'd take time to visit a fellow who only had a common every day broken leg."—Philadelphia Inquirer.

Travel in Old Times.

Recent chronicles of rapid transit by our magnificent ocean steamers are in wonderful contrast to what is related of a Major Langbush, aide-de-camp to the Marquis de la Fayette, who had for his amusement, being an American gentleman of fortune, traveled on foot through Great Britain, Lapland and Russia, and intended continuing his travels in the same way through Germany, Italy and Turkey, and returning to England to take his passage to America, which he imagined would occupy him ten years to accomplish. He is said to have met with many hardships and had escaped from many perils of which he did not like to speak. He was accompanied by a faithful traveling companion—a dog—and for his available accommodations had a pocket compass, a hatchet, a pair of pistols, a sword, and one shirt in his bag with which to change that on his back.—Boston Post.

How to Dispose of Sewer Gas.

A plan for disposing of sewer-gas proposed some time since by Mr. John Penn, of Greenwich, England, has come up again for serious consideration. The scheme is simple, and as experiment has shown, effective. Chambers' Journal describes the method as consisting in "causing ordinary street lamps to be made air-tight, except an opening below leading into the sewer or drain, and a chimney above to carry off the products of combustion." Test papers applied immediately below the burner, by discoloration show the presence of the gas in abundance; applied above attest its absence, thereby proving that the gas has been consumed.

PROGRESS OF INVENTION.

Why the Bronze Axe Can Be Called the Beginning of Civilization.

The earliest and simplest forms of bronze axes with which we are acquainted are profoundly interesting, as casting a flood of light upon the general process of human evolution all the world over. Every new human invention is always at first directly modeled upon the other similar products which have preceded it. There is no really new thing under the sun. For example, the earliest English railway carriages were built on the model of the old stage-coach, only that three stage-coaches, as it were, were telescoped together, side by side—the very first bore the significant motto, *Trium juncti in uno*—and it was this pre-conception of the English coach-builder that has hampered us ever since with our hateful "compartments," instead of the commodious and comfortable open American saloon carriages. So, too, the earliest fire-arms were modeled on the stock of the old cross bow, and the earliest earthenware pots and pans were shaped like the still more primitive gourds and calabashes. It need not surprise us, therefore, to find that the earliest metal axes of which we have any knowledge were directly modeled on the original shape of the stone tomahawk. Such a copper hatchet, cast in a mold formed by a polished neolithic stone celt, was found in an early Etruscan tomb, and is still preserved in the museum at Berlin. See how natural this process would be. For, in the first place the primitive workman, knowing already only one form of axe, the stone tomahawk, would naturally reproduce it in the new material, without thinking what improvements in shape and design the malleability and fusibility of the metal would render possible or easy. But, more than that, the idea of coating the polished stone axe with plastic clay, and thereby making a mold for the molten metal, would be so very simple that even the neolithic savage, already accustomed to the manufacture of coarse pottery upon natural shapes, could hardly fail to think of it. As a matter of fact, he did not think of it for cells of bronze or copper cast in molds made from stone hachets, have been found in Cyprus by General Di Cesnola, on the site of Troy by Dr. Schliemann, and in many other assorted localities by less distinguished but equally trustworthy archaeologists. To the neolithic hunter, herdsman, and tillager, this progress from the stone to the metal axe probably seemed at first a mere substitution of an easier for a more difficult material. He little knew whether his discovery would alter the change. How nice to save yourself all that long trouble of chipping and polishing, with ceaseless toil, in favor of a stone which you could melt at one go and pour while hot into a ready-made mold! It may well be looked, by comparison, like weapon-making by magic; for properly to cut and polish a stone axe is the work of weeks and weeks of elbow-grease. Yet here, in a moment, a better hatchet could be turned out all finished! But the implied effects lay deeper far than the neolithic hunter could ever have imagined. The bronze axe was the beginning of civilization; it brought the steam engine, the telephone, woman's rights and the county councillor in its train. With the eye of faith, had he only possessed that useful optical organ, the Stone Age artist might doubtless have beheld the deceased wife's sister loom dimly in the remote future. Till that moment, human life had been almost stationary; henceforth it proceeded by leaps and bounds, like a kangaroo signal, on its upward path toward triumphant democracy and the penny post. The nineteenth century and all its wiles hungry a threat upon the success of his melting-pot.—Cornhill Magazine.

AN ELECTRIC RAILWAY.

A System That Threatens a Revolution—Carrying Mail and Express Packages at a Speed of 200 Miles an Hour.

David G. Woems, of Baltimore, is the inventor of a new rapid transit electric railway system which promises to revolutionize the carrying of mails and express. He has been interviewed on the subject of his new invention at his home in Laurel, Maryland, and has now given the following interesting details of the plan: The railway has two rails, very much like any other railway, but it is enclosed—here in a sort of lattice work and there by a barbed-wire fence, which stretches along on both sides. But the queerest thing about this railroad is what travels on it. Mr. Woems, standing in the door of a shed, touches a button, when out of the shed crawls an iron plated thing about two and a half feet square and twenty feet long, pointed at one end. It is on wheels and looks very heavy and clumsy. No sooner have you begun to look it over and wonder whether it is a torpedo or a rock crusher than it disappears. It goes off like a flash. Apparently nothing touches it, nothing propels it. But it goes. A little rumble, a dark streak going around the curve of the circular railway, and it is hidden in a clump of trees. Mr. Woems still stands with his hand on the button, watching a pencil moving in an automatic device over a piece of ruled paper. "At the half!" he exclaims a moment or two later; "One mile!" then "A mile and a half!" and a few seconds more the long black things on wheels whizzes by. You take out your watch and time it. In a little less than six minutes it reappears. In another minute it whizzes past once more. As it goes round and round it is like nothing so much as a big shuttle moving in a circle with inconceivable rapidity. The track is exactly two miles in circumference. "We are not running very fast now," Mr. Woems says. "Only 1,400 revolutions of our dynamo. This gives us a speed of exactly two miles a minute. Our machines develop up to 10,000 revolutions and we have run them 3,500 revolutions, equal to more than four miles a minute, for twenty-four hours without stopping. On a first-class track, reasonably straight and without too many steep grades, we can easily develop a continuous speed of from three to four miles a minute. In fact, there is practically no limit to the speed that our power can produce. The only question is how much speed the tracks and cars are able to stand. The track we are now using is curved and full of heavy grades."

SOME FAMOUS GARDENS.

Nothing in Modern Times to Compare with the Works of Antiquity.

By the time of Alexander the Persian love for gardens and parks, with many other forms of luxury, had obtained a strong foothold among the Greeks, especially in their wealthy colonies, and wherever the conqueror's footsteps are followed we read of admiration for the works of the Persians and of a desire to imitate them in new constructions. When Harpalus was left Governor of the province of Babylon he was desirous, says Plutarch, "to adorn the palace-gardens and walks with Grecian plants, and succeeded in raising all but the ivy, which the earth would not bear, but constantly killed." When the city of Alexandria was laid out "in the form of a plethrum or military cloak" its vast palaces and public buildings were surrounded with squares and gardens to such an extent that, buildings and grounds together, a third of the space within the walls was absorbed. Diocetes (or Dinocrates) was the architect to whom the work was confided, and it was he who conceived the idea of carving Mount Athos into a statue of Alexander "with a city in the right hand and a reservoir of mountain streams in the left." It is such a scheme entitled to be ranked among landscape-gardening designs? And if not, where shall we find it? for it can hardly be called engineering, since beauty, not utility, was the main object in view. At all events, it remains the most ambitious idea that was ever conceived with regard to the adornment of the surface of the earth. Lucian tells us that at Cnidus there was a great pleasure ground dedicated to Venus, where even "distinguished citizens" enjoyed themselves on the verdant meadows, and where the common people came in crowds on holidays; and he mentions its cypresses, planes and myrtles. In Sicily, where luxury went hand in hand with tyranny, gardening seems to have been practiced in an especially sumptuous way. Dionysius, of Syracuse, had famous gardens where his feasts were held; one of the Hieros built a wall gallery in which the poop deck was covered with earth and beautifully planted; and some modern writers have thought that the famous quarry near Syracuse, where the Athenians perished in agony, were afterward planted as pleasure-gardens. About three hundred years before Christ, Kotys, King of Thrace, "took his pleasure by a cool stream" in a forest through which he had built "level roads." A hundred years later, near Athens itself, Herodius Atticus possessed a villa surrounded by large forests, which is spoken of by Aulus Gellius in his "Attic Nights," and when Xenophon retired from his native country to Scillus, near Olympia, he erected an exact copy on a smaller scale of the temple of Diana at Ephesus, surrounded it with a similar "grove of cultivated trees, bearing whatever fruits are available at the different seasons," and had spacious hunting grounds in its vicinity.—Garden and Forest.

THE SECRET OF BEAUTY.

It Lies as Much in Manners as It Does in Features.

What has beauty to do with love? Here is a question harder to answer than to ask. We all have known that there is some sort of connection between them, but it is hard to define. Poets have often tried to define it, but like other mortals, have failed. John Keats comes as near it, perhaps, as any of them when he says: "Beauty is truth, truth is beauty—that is all Ye know on earth, and all ye need to know." That which we know to be true is more beautiful than that which we know or suspect of being false. Haven't you known persons who seemed beautiful in your eyes until you discovered that they were not what they seemed? As long as they impressed you as being true they were beautiful, but the first line of mistrust made them ugly. You can not love the false in nature. You may admire it and you may be fascinated by it, but you can not love it. A milliner-made, hand-painted woman may win your admiration and she may fascinate you, but she can never win your true love. This is true, because nature has made it so. The true and false go side by side, but never hand in hand. The man who mistakes fascination for love is in great danger of being led into a path of misery. His affections will not be returned, neither will his kindness or gentleness be appreciated. She alone is truly beautiful who is true. Her face may not be pretty nor her form exactly sylph-like, yet she is beautiful in the eyes of him who believes in her. May the fellow not use a little powder, or the pale-checked indulge in a tinge of rouge? Certainly they may, because it is the duty of every woman to look well. It is the duty of every girl, young lady, married woman and old maid to be just as handsome as she can. To do this she need not resort to excessive padding, extensive dyeing or lavish painting. Indeed she need not resort to padding at all, because fashion is so very liberal that the thin are allowed to wear loose, flowing gowns, while the stout wear theirs as tight as the skin. Tan and sunburn are also fashionable, as that dark, and even tawny complexion are not only allowable, but quite the thing. Beauty lies as much in manners as in features. If our girls and young women keep this in mind, and strive to be well-mannered, they would not be so much inclined to paint, powder and dress in fussy fashion. It is the well-mannered lady who feels most at ease in public, and attracts the most respectful attention. She may not excite as much comment as her flashy and highly colored sister, but her chances for happiness and prosperity are much better. Some ladies feel flattered to have gentlemen turn and look after them on the street, to gaze at them in public and make remarks about their shape. Could they hear the side remarks that are made they might not feel as highly flattered. Neatness, in dress, and quietness in manners are two things that never fail to win the honest admiration of respectable, virtuous men. Many a woman has won the affection of a good man by the neatness and tidiness of her dress, and lost it by becoming negligent and slovenly after marriage.—Pittsburgh Commercial Gazette.

FLOTSAM AND JETSAM.

Interesting Information Condensed From the Columns of Many Papers.

The oldest inhabited town in the world is said to be Damascus. Five varieties of the alternanthera, a plant native of the Cape of Good Hope, are used to border flower beds and lawns in the Alcazar grounds at St. Augustine. The bright colors produce a pretty effect. An aged lady of Elmwood near Cincinnati, being taken ill while out driving, requested her driver to take her to the office of an undertaker whom she knew well. He did so and she died a few minutes after her arrival. A New York dry goods merchant says that frequently some of the subordinate employes receive larger remuneration than the men in whose hands rest the main responsibility for running a business. The men who usually make the most money in the dry goods firms are not the superintendents and his chief assistants, but the buyers of departments. The biggest edible oysters in the world are found at Port Lincoln in South Australia. They are as large as a dinner plate and the same shape. They are sometimes more than a foot across the shell, and the oyster fits its shell so well he does not leave much margin. It is a new sensation, when a friend asks you to lunch at Adelaide, to have one oyster set before you, fried in butter or eggs and bread crumbs. But it is a very pleasant sensation, for the flavor and delicacy of the Port Lincoln mammoth are proverbial in that land of luxuries. The last pearl-fishing season in Ceylon could not have been more successful than it was. The season only lasts twenty-two days, and during that period 11,000,000 oysters were brought to the surface by fifty divers. They are paid by one-fourth of the number. This season the whole produce was sold at the rate of 34 shillings per 1,000 shells. The Government received £20,000 as their share and the divers £8,400. The largest pearls are worth in Ceylon from £40 to £80, and in Europe they fetch three times the price or more. At Ansonia, Conn., some old women got together and cured a child of membranous croup after the doctors had given it up. The patient was thoroughly wrapped up in flannels and his head and throat were rubbed with goose grease. A dose of the stuff, mixed with vinegar, was with difficulty forced down the child's throat. In a short time he vomited up a large portion of the mucus and broke up the clogging matter in the throat. Being placed in bed, he soon went to sleep, and the next day he was playing about the house and appeared to be far from dying. Salem, Mass., formerly had a large trade with Africa. All that trade was gradually transferred to Boston. It is just as large as it ever was, but because the country has grown so enormously it has become small in comparison with other lines of trade. One of our modern ships will take a cargo to Africa as large as all the ships of Salem in the old days could carry in a year. There are over a dozen vessels engaged in African trade from Boston. There is close competition with the English for this trade. Ships take on miscellaneous goods. Rum is the chief thing. There are bright calicoes, beads, music-boxes, and so on. The return cargo is mostly palm oil, gold dust, furs and ivory.

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SOME FAMOUS GARDENS.

Nothing in Modern Times to Compare with the Works of Antiquity.

By the time of Alexander the Persian love for gardens and parks, with many other forms of luxury, had obtained a strong foothold among the Greeks, especially in their wealthy colonies, and wherever the conqueror's footsteps are followed we read of admiration for the works of the Persians and of a desire to imitate them in new constructions. When Harpalus was left Governor of the province of Babylon he was desirous, says Plutarch, "to adorn the palace-gardens and walks with Grecian plants, and succeeded in raising all but the ivy, which the earth would not bear, but constantly killed." When the city of Alexandria was laid out "in the form of a plethrum or military cloak" its vast palaces and public buildings were surrounded with squares and gardens to such an extent that, buildings and grounds together, a third of the space within the walls was absorbed. Diocetes (or Dinocrates) was the architect to whom the work was confided, and it was he who conceived the idea of carving Mount Athos into a statue of Alexander "with a city in the right hand and a reservoir of mountain streams in the left." It is such a scheme entitled to be ranked among landscape-gardening designs? And if not, where shall we find it? for it can hardly be called engineering, since beauty, not utility, was the main object in view. At all events, it remains the most ambitious idea that was ever conceived with regard to the adornment of the surface of the earth. Lucian tells us that at Cnidus there was a great pleasure ground dedicated to Venus, where even "distinguished citizens" enjoyed themselves on the verdant meadows, and where the common people came in crowds on holidays; and he mentions its cypresses, planes and myrtles. In Sicily, where luxury went hand in hand with tyranny, gardening seems to have been practiced in an especially sumptuous way. Dionysius, of Syracuse, had famous gardens where his feasts were held; one of the Hieros built a wall gallery in which the poop deck was covered with earth and beautifully planted; and some modern writers have thought that the famous quarry near Syracuse, where the Athenians perished in agony, were afterward planted as pleasure-gardens. About three hundred years before Christ, Kotys, King of Thrace, "took his pleasure by a cool stream" in a forest through which he had built "level roads." A hundred years later, near Athens itself, Herodius Atticus possessed a villa surrounded by large forests, which is spoken of by Aulus Gellius in his "Attic Nights," and when Xenophon retired from his native country to Scillus, near Olympia, he erected an exact copy on a smaller scale of the temple of Diana at Ephesus, surrounded it with a similar "grove of cultivated trees, bearing whatever fruits are available at the different seasons," and had spacious hunting grounds in its vicinity.—Garden and Forest.

How to Dispose of Sewer Gas.

A plan for disposing of sewer-gas proposed some time since by Mr. John Penn, of Greenwich, England, has come up again for serious consideration. The scheme is simple, and as experiment has shown, effective. Chambers' Journal describes the method as consisting in "causing ordinary street lamps to be made air-tight, except an opening below leading into the sewer or drain, and a chimney above to carry off the products of combustion." Test papers applied immediately below the burner, by discoloration show the presence of the gas in abundance; applied above attest its absence, thereby proving that the gas has been consumed.