## Fable of the Managing Mamma

By BELLE BLITZ

"I will give her a shoestring figure," said another.
"I will make her duil and stupid,"
said the third.

"I will give her cheap, plain clothes to wear," said the fourth.

"And that will be about all of her," cried the cyll fairies in chorus, chuckling horribly. But at this moment a good fairy approached the basement in which the unconscious infant lay, and as sho waved her wand above it, said:
"Do not fear, my child, I will bestow upon you a good gift that will make all of their curses powerless to hurt you, for I will give you the blessing of a

We shall see," shricked the four

evil fairies, as they mounted their broomsticks and flew away. "We shall see," murmured the good fairy, "and they will learn that it is better to have a mother who is a good press agent than it is to have a perfect profile."

For many years it seemed as if the four evil fairies had gotten in their work and were going to win but. Little Aurelia, for such was the infant's name, grew up into a maiden who belonged to the also-ran class. Her complexion and her hair looked as if they had been cut off of the same piece of calico. She had no evebrows to speak of. Her For many years it seemed as if the four evil fairies had gotten in their work and were going to win but. Little Aurelia, for such was the infant's name, grew up into a maiden who belonged to the also-ran class. Her complexion and her hair looked as if they had been cut off of the same piece of calico. She had no eyebrows to speak of. Her figure was patterned after a telephone post, while as a conversationalist she was like a sentence at hard labor.

All of this caused the evil fairies great glee, and whenever thy met up with a peacherino of a girl they would whisper to her:

"How unfortunate," said another woman, "that your daughter is so tall and lanky."

"Ha, ha," laughed Aurelia's mother, "you are indeed a back number not to know that the fashionable figure is all bones, and that a woman would rather be accused of crime than of being fat. Besides the only kind of a waist that Mary's pictures, and then, turning to their proud parents, would remark:

"That is true," responded the woman, who was a dimpled darling, and she hiked away and began banting and physical culturing in order to work off her curves and acquire angles, and thus so highly cultivated and so artistic in

tist is always to be heard, and the burden of his tale is always the same. The managers will not

mere task of receiving and return-

"The mere task of receiving and returning the manuscript sent to the offices of the important managers," one of them said, "is enough to keep a man busy; and the so-called play reader in a theater

usually finds that his principal duty. He may occasionally read a play which the manager hands to him or which has some especial claim on our attention. The ordinary play from an unknown

'If you knew the sources from which

these plays come you would not be sur-prised at their treatment. Some of them are so ignorantly written that their au-thors show they are not possessed of even an elementary education. Others show a complete ignorance of the theater

a play reader or anybody else. We have the trouble of returning them; and it is just such dramatists as these that make

play is lost.

"Next to this class, and even more of a nuisance, are the writers who are not quite so bad, who write the English language correctly and who are able to

spell. But their plays are no more possi-ble for use. They receive maybe a little more attention. If I read them I glance

at the final scenes in the acts, and if they interest me I investigate further. I sup-

pose my play reader does about as much. Neither of us has yet found a master-piece by this investigation, and I don't

believe that we have overlooked one.
"What kind do I really read? I read

the dramas by well known authors who have done work for me before and who

may be relied upon to turn out something

that will at least be a workmanlike job Many of these plays I read as they are

heing put together. I read the work of

amateurs when they happen to be friends or friends of friends. I don't read their

lays, however, when the first act shows

THE GIRL I LEFT BEHIND ME.

(By Thomas O. Davis.) The dames of France are fond and free And Fleminsh lips are willing,

And Spanish eyes are thrilling: Still, though I bask beneath their smile

Their charms fail to bind me.

And my heart flies back to Erin's isle,
To the girl I left behind me.

For she's as fair as Shannon's side, And purer than its water, But she refused to be my bride,

Though mapy a year I sought her; Yet, since to France I sailed away, Her letters oft remind me That I promised never to gainsay The girl I left behind me.

She says-"My own dear love, come

home.

My friends are rich and many,
or else abroad with you I'll roam
A soldier as stout as any;

ou'll not come, nor let me go, I think you have designed me." My heart nigh broke when I answered-To the girl I left behind me.

For never shall my true love brave
A life of war and tolling;
And never as a skulking slave
I'll tread my native soil on;

But, were it free, or to be freed,
The battle's close would find me
To Ireland bound—nor message need
For the girl I left behind me.

DIALOGUES OF THE DAY. From the New York American. "Did you notice the fellow who man

And soft the maids of Italy.

A Manager Tells How to

Sell a Play

NCE upon a time there was a girl baby about whose cradle that she will still be left hanging on the parent stem when all of the balance of the plum crop is gathered in."

In this, however, thay reckoned without the good fairs when all of the balance of the plum crop is gathered in." out the good fairy, who, going to Aurelia's mother, said: "Get busy. You cannot make Aurelia

beautiful, but you can make her the fashion by touting her blemishes as Thus admonished Aurelia's mother got

the expression of a connoisseur, in-stead of apologizing for her daughter's looks, began to bat every one who was "What a pity," said her dearest friend.

as she pretended to sympathize with her, while in reality she hurled the tabasco, "What a pity that Aurelia has straw-colored hair!" "A pity!" cried the mother, as she gave the friend the hoot, "why, her hair is her glory, and if you were more

cultured you would know that instead of her locks being straw-colored, they are the pale gold that artists adore."
"So they are," exclaimed the friend, who did not want to be thought out of the know, and forthwith she went out and bleached her own jetty treases so as to understudy Aurelia's. "How unfortunate," said another woman, "that your daughter is so tall

same plan I do. It is barely possible that the great American drama dipped through our fingers. It may be that a small army of good playwrights has been neglected and would have been

supplying us with good dramas if we

had only examined their contribution

had experience and had done work of the kind you wanted. You would not

pick out an unknown man just because you thought it was time the number of architects or decorators should be en-

The manager could suggest no special way in which the aspirant could get his play read, and only general advice can be given on that subject.

"Try to interest the actor or actress in your play," was the advice of a man who had now had enough plays produced to make it easy for him to have his work accepted. "Flatter their vanlty by writing a part that will suit a man or woman. It may not suit them, but say that it does when you write to them or speak to them about the play. In one way or

Aurelia became the great original hip-less and stomachiess straight-front model, and was no longer spoken of as stringy, but became celebrated far and wide as lithe and willowy. Now Aurelia never talked, because she had nothing to say, neither did she

she had nothing to say, neither did she had nothing to say, neither did she carry a side line of accomplishments like most girls, but so far from letting these defects depress the market the mether used them to boom her stock.

"How thankful I am," she would say to the men who had been working overtime trying to corkscrew a few remarks out of Aurelia, "that my daughter is not one of these silly little creatures with a double-action tongue, that will talk the unfortunate man that marries her into his coffin. On the contrary, she adores sitting at the feet of a wise, intelligent, philosophical, eloquent spell-binder like you and catching the pearls of thought as they drop from his lips."

"Truly," said each man to himself, as he heard mamma dope out the politic explanation of Aurelia's silence, "it shows marvelous good sense and taste in her to prefer to listen to me inatead to f spieling herself, and what I mistock for duliness I now see was merely ther profound admiration for my views." So Aurelia's society was much sought after henceforth by men, and she be came renowned as the most entertaining girl in her set.

Nor did Aurelia's mother quit the

"If I had a drama I thought suited to Mrs. Fiske, I should write to her explaining what the period of the piece was, something of its general nature and a full description of the character she was to act. Such a letter to her, Richard Manafield or any of the actors who are allowed to choose their own plays would not be ignored."

"My advice to the unknown play."

of course, pleasant for a young writer to have his first play produced by a manager of the first rank with one of the manager of the first rank with one of the leading stars. Then he is sure of his large royaltiss if the piece is a success, for these managers do things on a large scale. But it is much easier to get access to some of the less important players who star in the smaller cities. If one of them accepts a play from an unknown man and it turns out to be a success.

"In these plays, when they are read, the little thread of plot they contain is found to have been taken from something that the writer has seen on the stage before or read. Many of these plays are dramatized novels, although credit is rarely given. Of course, dramas of this kind are not worth the time of play reader or anybody else. We have

"Richard Mansfield, Mrs. Fiske, E. H. Sothern, James Hackett, Julia Marlowe, Ada Rehan, Nat Goodwin, E. S. Willard, W. H. Crane and a few others do have a say in deciding what plays they will act in, and if the aspiring playwright has a piece suited to any one of them he should try to get it under their notice.

thing.

"It grouches me," she would say, "to see young girls sporting giddy raiment, and I apprehend that only those do it who are not used to society and do not know better. See how simply I dress Aurelia as becomes an innocent debutante."

"She must be an authority," said the others, "or she would not dare to turn down a French confection," and so they regarded Aurelia's bum attire with awe.

"What wife one so sensibly and conomically brought up would make," and the men as they hot-footed after Aurelia, who became a great belie. Thus was defeat turned into victory, and the truth established of the old axiom that there is nothing like having a mother who knows the ropes.

## A Modern Fairy Queen

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N interesting account has been
given by the boy violinist.
Florizel Reuter, who recently
arrived in London, of his performance before the sultan in Constantinople. The boy, being only 12 years
old, was permitted to play before the
sultan's wives. An ordinary man would,
of course, never have been allowed to do
so.

cony in the center, and in the bal-cony sat the sultan, with two of his sons, and around them his wives and daughters. There were 283 wives and 214 daughters, and the women were dressed in beautiful flowing eastern robes, but some were in European cos-

of them were well educated and spoke French, English and German. They were very outspoken in their discentent at not being allowed to go out to hear music without the restraints imposed upon them. Moreover, they are only allowed to hear what the sultan pleases. At the end of the performance, the boy having played for two hours, the sultan sent his chamberlain to present him with a sack of money worth about \$500 and a decoration. The chamberlain explained to the young musician that he was to hold up the sack, so that the sultan might verify that he had received it, and the little hands found some difficulty in carrying out the command.

After leaving the palace the boy and his mother repaired to the hotel, but the sack of money was stolen immediately, although the decoration was left to him. The next day they sent to inform the suitan of what had happened, but his majesty was suffering from toothache and could not see any one.

He had heard that day of a disturbance in Macedonia, and would take no steps to assist the young artist, but informed him through the chamberlain that the next time he came to Constantinople he would he commanded to play again.

He had heard that day of a disturbance in Macedonia, and would take no steps to assist the young artist, but informed him through the chamberlain that the next time he came to Constantinople he would be commanded to play again.

The youth is fortunate in having secured the patronage of no less a woman than the queen or Roumania. From his earliest years she has taken the deepest interest in his welfare and writes to him nearly every day in English.

The queen has christened the lad her "flower child," and the boy showed a representative of the English press one

of the queen's letters, typewritten, with the signature "Elisabeth" in pencil at the end of the page. The letter begins "My Dearest Flower Child," and invites him in the warmest and most affection-ate terms to her beautiful castle on the

Russia's Weakness and Its Cause

By BARON E. VON DER BRUEGGEN

HE curses of the empire of the cuar are her rotten financial system, the blind surrender of all the affairs of the nation to ystem of centralisation which cripali local and individual effort, and enormous power of a bloated bu-

No one realizes this better than the present czar, a man of high moral ideas and considerable more will power than he is generally credited with.

Only those in the narrowest circle surrounding him know how the almost superhuman effort which this man, who is anything but a physical giant, has made to improve the conditions of the country, whose autocratic ruler he is in name only. But he has only himself and his herole wife and noble mother to rely upon; he does not possess a single adviser whom he dares trust, and not one friend who does not seek personal advantage, and he is surrounded by persons whom by long training and experience know how to keep him in ignorance of everything which they do not desire him to know.

It was the oligarchy, that fears the

him to know.

It was the oligarchy, that fears the day when Caar Nicholas shall carry out his plan of sharing the responsibility of government with his people, that kept him in ignorance of the miserable condition of the Russian army, that disguised from him the true situation in the fer east, that prevented him from making a friendly arrangement with the ambassador of Japan and who precipitated the war which has already cost Russia so dearly. The reports that the cast cried when he was informed that war had actually broken out are cruelly untrue and not believed by any one who knows his strong, manly personality; but, having always abhorred war, the very thought of the useless sacrifice of thousands of ment not only our villages but even our district towns are falling into decay. In the first place the number of their inhabitants has remained stationary in most of them for decades past. So ancient 5 town as Uglitsch has, even like many neas of this colossal empire.

young men, he would have conceded to see government sooner than have allowed a crisis to happen.

As matters stand, Russia is imperatively driven to find an economic base in the far east, Chinese industry, Mongolian and Manchurian gold are to provide the sinews of war. The only siternative to the realization of this grantive to the realization of the sation is continually being saped, dishonesty in the administration is on a the increase and is spite of railways and telegraph the government is least to the increase and is spite of railways and telegraph the government is least to reduce the keep its army of officials in order. The exaggerated system of but reduced the sation is continually being saped, dishonesty in the administration is on a the increase and is spite of railways and telegraph the government is least to keep its army of officials in order. The exaggerated system of the paper administration of the marchy which is today feit every where, the streets are being ground to powder.

I shall give here only one example of the paper administration of this gigantic empire. Somebody has calculated that if one of the ministers were to set one of the ministers were t

## Ratcatching as a Profitable

Business

ate terms to her beautiful castle on the Rhine.

She there proposes that the lad should write an opera, and tells him how, in the peace and beauty of the palace, he will grow to be a great composer. "I know that your dear mother will be happy there," she says, "and that my flower child will grow and rise and sing all the day long like a lark, and not be weighed down by any care. You are meant for my darling flower child. God has taken away mine so that I might be the mother of all children, and He sends me you. How shall I not be happy and grateful for such a boon? You are not to wander away for some time, if I can help it. Your time will be entirely taken up by the opera, and it will give you intense pleasure to write it. Never mind the money; you will soon get it back by your own efforts. It is not necessary for a lark to have money. I offer you a nest, and corn; and so sing, my child, and don't think of tomorrow."

Such a letter savors of the beneficent queen of the old fairy tales, and it is good to know that somewhere in this utilitarisn world queens are still fairy godmothers. AT catching as a trade" will probably be a matter for humorous commentary on the part of a great number of people, but there are men in Chicago who follow this queer manner of bust. who follow this queer manner of business as a regular vocation, and who will testify that it is not among the least of the professions in the matter of profits. There are holdings of real estate and houses and flat buildings in

a great city of its troublesome rodents. There is practically no branch of business which does not suffer from the depredations of these four-footed pests, and the work of the professional rat catcher takes him into the private home as well as the store and office. The damage that one insignificant rat can do if left to pursue his labor of de-struction unmolested is enough to sug-gest the loss to a business that would follow the undisturbed work of the one multiplied by a thousand.

one multiplied by a thousand.

A rat has been known in one night to eat a small hole through a 2-foot high pile of valuable overcoats left for the night on a stock table, utterly ruining every coat in the pile. And the object of this industrious animal was

nest.
It takes the artist to go into an office

that can leave no possible doubts as to the efficiency of his methods. His mode of proceeding is almost similar on all occasions. The first thing that he does distribute his "bait." This "bait" is in a liquid form, and is sprinkled about, the scent being of such nature as to attract every rat in a room. Then, when the quiet of night has settled down upon the scene the operator begins his work. He wears, for good and sufficient reasons, the oldest and most worn clothes that he may possess. Upon his feet are heavy woolen socks, padded with cotton until they are as soft and noiseless as a cat's paw. In his left hand he carries a dark lantern, and in his right are the implements of the capture, a pair of steel tongs similar to those used by a blacksmith.

Close behind him follows his partner,

bearing a bag. Entering a room, the light is flashed about until it lights upon a scared victim. Dazed and blinded by the giare a rat will sit and stare helplessly toward the light. Moving helplessly toward the light. Moving on his toes with the softness and care of an Indian deer stalker the catcher gets to within reaching distance of his motion of the tongs, a twist and a toss, and the rat is in the bag, while the catcher is already reaching for more prey. A queer phase of the feat is that the rat is usually picked up by the tail; a hold on the body will invariably cause a squeal of protest and the subsequent frightening of the other rodents. Taken by the tail there is seldom so much as a murmur, and the skilled operator can stand and pick a dozen rats from one group without a pause.

The view of a rat-infested room from the vantage point of behind the dark iantern is a strange one. The shaft of light pierces the gloom and shows the rate of all kinds and sizes sitting, ranging or maying around the room. gnawing or moving around the room. Almost instantly with the sudden flash of light into their eyes they turn to-ward the lantern. They sit perfectly still, as if transfixed, staring straight into the light with eyes that are tem-porarily blinded. For so long as the perator holds the light directly upon them they will sit thus.
Should the light discover the rats at

Should the light discover the rate at a considerable distance from the catcher it is useless to attempt to move upon them, as the moving of the light will scare "them away. So the lantern is held perfectly still and upon them for a full minute. Then suddenly it is turned off. The sudden transition from extreme light to Stygian darkness acts extreme light to Stygian darkness acts upon the eyes in the same manner as the rays of the lantern. The operator then quickly and noiselessly moves to within reaching distance and again turns the light on. Strange as it may seem, the rate will be found in the same positions as when the light was first flashed, and the operator begins to work his longs with speed and day. to work his tongs with speed and dex-

The usual night's work for the catcher is only two hours, as in that time a place will have been thoroughly gone over, and those not captured will have

place will have been thoroughly gone over, and those not captured will have been scared into places of security.

Within the last week there was taken from a certain hotel in the city a total of 168 rats and the catcher was still at work. This is perhaps an average week's work for the expert, for one of them estimated that he took annually over 12,500 of the animals.

The disposal of the rats taken from a building is left to the catcher. He takes them home and dumps them into a box. Sometimes this box contains hundreds of rats at a time. It may be a surprise to discover that the "sport" of holding rat killing contests is still followed upon a scale so large that the "Professor" has a standing order for 100 live rats. This order is from a nearby town, where contests are held regularly between a large number of dogs. These contests are held in a pit constructed much after the manner of a cockpit. Twenty-five rats are turned mto the pit and then the first dog is turned loose. The time is taken from the minute the dog enters the pit. In turn each of the dogs entered kills the alliotted number, and the one which accomplishes the feat in the shortest times is the winner.

The price paid for rats used this way is 10 cents each, so it can be seen that the profits of the catcher are not only in the charge for his work. As the charge of an expert catcher is 17 per night it is evident that the profession of ret catching is decidedly resumerative.

The Journal's Course in Athletics-Standing High Jump

By RAY C. EWRY, American Champion and Holder of World's Record



RAY C. EWRY, AMERICAN CHAMPION AND HOLDER OF WORLD'S REC-ORD FOR STANDING HIGH JUMPING—PREPARING TO LEAP.

"Yes. That's what you call bigamy, "No. That's idlocy." "Lest your job?"

"Lest your job?"

"Well. not exactly. I know where the job is all right."

"How is it you do so well writing for a living?" I can't make my sult."

"Difference in method my boy. You write to publishers and I write to a gianness."

"It was to be publishers and I write to a gianness."

"The discrepancies. like waler, will the bar and knee drawn up as high as unseful in preparing for this sport.

These discrepancies. like waler, will the bar and knee drawn up as high as unseful in preparing for this sport.

These discrepancies. like waler, will the bar and knee drawn up as high as unseful in preparing for this sport.

Smoking and draking of any kind of the legs and the impetus from the oral in the level, and if the boys in the possible.

Smoking and draking of any kind of the legs and draking of any kind of the legs and the impetus from the oral in the masses of the legs and the impetus from the oral in the masses of the legs and the lift of the standing lumps would be found in the games of every club.

Unlike the running high jump, the standing sevent needs great power in the limited number of competitions in fallowed to interfere the former is somewhat in the nation.

The former is somewhat in the nation.

The former is somewhat in the nation of the legs and the lift of the sanding lumps would be an inducement for an additional number of competitions in former and the impetus from the oral close of the legs and the impetus from the our universities would take up and train for these neglected events the increase in entries would be an inducement for an additional number of competitions in find their level, and if the boys in the public schools and the voung men of the impetus from the oral close of the legs and the impetus from the oral close of the legs and the impetus from the oral close of the legs and the impetus from the oral close of the legs and the impetus from the oral close of the legs and the impetus from the oral close of the legs and the impetus from the oral close of the legs and t (Copyright, 1904, by W. R. Hearst.)

legs and shoulders to raise, and later to lift the body over the bar. Height of the athlete does not mean ability to succeed, but rather is it a matter of conformation, either natural or acquired, ombined with regular practice and judgment.

In my own case, while at school I had tried every kind of sport, with but meager success, till I took up the standing high jump in order to help out my school

When once I had decided that I would compete in that item I wint right into it, using all my time out of study in either actually performing the jump or following athletic and gymnastic work calculated to improve the necessary mus-

cles and give strength.

My jumping consisted of about 10 to 12 jumps a day, the highest being about 4 feet 7 inches, which was the best 1 could then do. Combined with this, I played baseball and other outdoor games. played baseball and other outdoor games.

My gymnasium work was of a nature
to develop the thighs, abdominni muscles, and included all exercises which
would aid in the lifting and perfect control of the legs. I also paid particular
attention to the shoulder muscles used
in the arm-lift.

The squats and skipping the rope with
stiff kness were two of the exercises

stiff knees were two of the exercises which I used, and are of great value,

while very simple.

After I once got my muscles into shape a very little practice sufficed to keep them right. About six weeks previous to jumping in a contest, however, I jumped in practice every day till with four the court when I allowed I jumped in practice every day till within four days of the event, when I allowed
myself complete rest from any such exertion. During this six weeks' work I
only placed the bar at a medium height,
extending myself about once a week.

In jumping I stand from 12 to 17
inches away from a bar according to the
height; for 4 feet the shorter distance,
while in doing my record of 5 feet 5½
inches there was about 17 inches of
space between the center of my feet and
the computed position of the bar.

space between the center of my feet and the computed position of the bar.

Don't get too near: it means jumping higher to clear the bar.

Having got the correct position. crouch down as low as possible, with arms extended backward. As the body is gradually straightened out in preparation for the final spring from the feet, the arms should be brought forward and upward. At the time of leaving the ground the arms should be fully extended when the body is above the bar.

The most having been gotten out of the spring and the arm and shoulder lift, the inside leg should be raised over the har and knee drawn up as high as possible.

When well over the bar, curl up the Smoking and draking of any kind of the straight from



CLEARING THE BAR.

For the same reason attention should be paid to what is eaten, as a little in-digestion will make a man nervous and balky.