CHOICE MISCELLANY

Our Ginseng In China.

Chinese merchants when questioned as to the real difference between the wild root from Kirin and the cultivated variety from the United States admit that the difference is mostly imaginary, but that since the Manchurian ginseng comes from the emperor's mother country and from the same soil out of which he, the son of heaven, sprang, the Chinese regard it as infinitely more efficacious as a "nourishing" medicine and as a "life giving remedy" than ginseng from any other part of the world could possibly be.

"Foreign ginseng" (American) is more easily crumbled than the Manchurian, which is very hard, semi-transparent and so shaped as to resemble the Chinese character for man, the root being forked.

The strange form of the root, so like the human body, renders it more valuable in the eyes of the Chinese. This superstition is largely responsible for the absurdly high price of Manchurian ginseng.

No great quantity of any medicine that sells for $265 or $280 an ounce can be sold in China, where the amount of money per capita is so small.

So it is that they turn to what they call "foreign ginseng" (the American) as cheaper.—From a Report by United States Consul Cloud, Hangchow.

The Flag Fremont Unfurled.

Locked up in the vault of one of the banks of Redding, Cal., is a flag that is second in historic importance to Californians only to the Bear flag that is so jealously guarded by Pacific coast pioneers.

The flag referred to is the one that General Fremont unfurled from the summit of the Rocky mountains in 1841, when he and his small party were on their way to California before the Mexican war.

The banner is the property of P. M. Reardon, managing director of the Bully Bill mine at Delamar. It was given to him a few years ago by Mrs. Fremont herself. It was made by her own hands on the eve of her husband's pathfinding expedition to the west.

The flag differs from the ordinary emblem only in the field, on which is wrought a large American eagle done in embroidery of great delicacy and beauty. About the eagle are clustered the twenty-six stars that in 1841 represented the states in the Union. On the reverse side of the flag is pinned a silk scarf bearing the inscription in golden letters, "Rocky Mountains, 1841."—Seattle Times.

Hailstones and Eggs.

There is some strange relation between hailstorms and poultry or between hailstones and eggs that fascinates mankind. The hailstone may be dodged, the egg should be dodged, but the comparison between hailstones and eggs never can be dodged. It is impossible to get away from it. Whenever there is a hailstorm, when tender plants are cut to death and window glass is shivered, the hailstones are always the size of hens' eggs. Nobody ever heard of a hailstone the size of baseballs, walnuts or potatoes or the size of macadam rock, golf balls, tomatoes or the fist, but ever and always the size of eggs. Yet eggs vary in size.

No chicken fancier would think of pointing to a cackling hen and saying, "She lays eggs as big as hailstones."

There really should be no comparison between hailstones and eggs. A shower of hailstones is a work of nature, while a shower of eggs is apt to be a work of ill nature.—Washington Star.

Early Hours in Vienna.

Until quite lately the usual dinner hours were from 4 to 6 o'clock, this latter being quite the latest and most fashionable time, for everybody had boxes at the burg and the opera, and these begin at 7 and have to be over by 10, as that is the charmed moment at which all who do not live in a house of their own have to be back unless they wish to be mulcted of the sum of 10 kreutzers. Every porter closes his door punctually at 10, and the 10 kreutzers are his perquisite. When some years ago the question was mooted of putting back the closing time to 11 o'clock there was a revolt among the porters, and the authorities had to give in.—Lady Paget in Nineteenth Century.

Child Marriages In India.

Recently at the Caxton hall, Westminster, Sirdar Arjan Singh addressed the East India association on "Early Marriages In India." Sidar Arjan Singh said in India people married in childhood, sometimes in infancy, and not rarely the promise of marriage was made before birth. If a girl was unmarried at twelve she was regarded as disgraced and her father as a sinner. About 400,000 children in every five years were married when under five years of age. Many girls then married became widows while still babies or small children, and the misery of widowhood in India was inconceivable to the European mind.—London Post.

The Kaiser's Black Diamond.

A memento of the kaiser's recent visit to Morocco is a splendid full blood negro of gigantic stature whom the emperor brought home with him from Tangier. The negro was selected for the imperial guards on account of his great size. "Othello" was designated as tambourine player, but as he had been used to flowing Arab attire he took badly to the light tunic and still worse to his jingling hand instrument, with which he publicly rapped the bandmaster on the head during his first performance. The Moor has now been withdrawn from the band, and the emperor is pondering what to do with his "black diamond."

Took the Last Chance.

An old Scotch gravedigger was remonstrated with one day at a funeral for making a serious overcharge for digging a grave.

"Well, ye see, sir," said the old man, in explanation, making a motion with his thumb toward the grave, "him and me had a bit o' a tift twa or three years syne owre a braw watch I selt him, an' I've never been able to get the money out o' him yet. 'Now,' says I to myself, 'this is my last chance, and I'd better tak' it.'"

NEW SHORT STORIES

Not the Same Man.

One of the last times that the late General Fitz-Hugh Lee was in New York he related the following at a private dinner. He regarded it, he said, as the most amusing incident in his varied career. He called it "an Irishman's apology."

"I was waiting at the depot at Charlotte, N. C., one afternoon some years ago for a train to Richmond," he said. "It was behind time, and not caring to go back to the hotel I lighted a cigar and paced up and down the long platform. Among the waiting passengers a diminutive Irishman, with trousers touching the tops of his shoes, a cutaway coat six inches too long and a little old billycock hat, particularly attracted my attention. He was an unusual character, with the style of whiskers known to the lads in the army as 'sluggers.'

"When I first saw him he was pacing up and down the platform, with his head bent slightly forward, eying me

"I THOUGHT YEZ WOR A FELLER I YUSTER KNOW."

intently from under his shaggy eyebrows. His hands were clasped behind his back under the tails of his coat, and with every step he took he caused the coat tails to beat a sort of rhythmic time. He did not approach nearer than ten feet, then would wheel quickly and retrace his steps.

"Finally he emptied some tobacco into a small black pipe, stuffed it in with his thumb and, boldly approaching, said:

"'Would yez moind givin' me a loight fer me pipe?'

"I knocked the ashes off my cigar and handed it to him. He jammed it down into the bowl of his pipe, and, pulling away with a smacking of the lips that could be heard at the far end of the platform, all the time glancing sideways into my face, with a quizzical expression, he exclaimed:

"'When I first saw yez'—smack, smack, smack—'I thought yez wor a feller I yuster know when I was drivin' a sutler's wagon out be Fort Totten'—smack, smack, smack. 'He was a dam rascal'—smack, smack, smack—'but I see yer not the man.'"—New York Times.

Smoking a Bad Habit.

In Kalamazoo United States Senator Julius Caesar Burrows is regarded with an awe commensurate with the length of his name, titles and Washington experience.

Julius Caesar, so the story goes, drops into a cigar stand in one of the hotels and buys a bunch of cigars with great regularity. He is an inveterate smoker. As he stood by the cigar lighter and proceeded to pay the dealer, light his cigar and stuff the bunch of all day smokers into his pocket at the same time he chanced to see two old men wearing G. A. R. buttons, who were sitting near by. He nodded his recognition at them.

"John"—puff, puff—"how are you today?" Puff, puff! "Do you smoke?"

Yes, John smoked.

"Jim," to the other veteran, "do you"—puff, puff—"Do you smoke?"

Yes, Jim smoked too. The two vets wet their lips with their tongues expectantly.

Puff, puff!

The senator turned to the clerk with a sad look on his face.

"Smoking is a very bad habit," he observed sagely. Then he grabbed his change and, puffing vigorously, made for the street.—Detroit Tribune.

Oddities of Greeley.

Ellery Channing was associated with Horace Greeley in the editorial rooms of the New York Tribune in 1844-5 shortly before going to Europe. He several times made very just observations to me about the great editor and his quaint habits. He said Mr. Greeley was a genuine man, original. His peculiarities were not assumed, but natural. He would write at his desk while persons were talking to him. His time was so fully occupied that he had no other way to write editorials, and he was very anxious that these should go in at the appointed day, he thought them so important.

"Greeley's dress, which was much remarked on, was not an affectation," said Channing. "His famous white coat was originally given to him. Then he had others made of the same color. It was very becoming. He also wore a white hat on the back of his head. He spoke with a queer whining voice and was constantly losing his pen, his scissors and the other properties of his desk. 'Where's my pen, my scissors?' was his frequent salutation. Finally they fastened his scissors to his person so that he could not lose them."—Critic.

Pleasant by Comparison.

Old Hunks (sitting for his photograph)—Well, ain't you ready? What are you waiting for? Photographer—A little pleasanter expression, please. Mrs. Hunks (who is standing at one side)—He's got his pleasanter expression on, Mr. Smith. I guess you didn't notice how he looked when we came in. —Chicago Tribune.

The world, which took but six days to make, is like to take 6,000 to make out.—Browne.

OLD TIME MYSTERIES

SOME RIDDLES IN LIFE THAT HAVE NEVER BEEN SOLVED.

Lands and Peoples That Are Supposed to Have Disappeared—The Legend of the Lost Atlantis—The Ancient Pygmies of Tennessee.

The public appetite craves nothing so much as a riddle, a secret to guess, but nowadays every man's life is so bare, so exploited, and we live so much out of doors from the cradle to the grave that very few facts or fancies can be kept hidden. There were, however, certain mysteries which during the last century the American public pondered and worried over which are yet unsolved and, except by a few old people, are almost forgotten.

One of these, perhaps the oldest, is the question whether beneath the Atlantic not far from the Bahamas there is a sunken continent known to the Greeks as the lost Atlantis. It was still talked of familiarly in the first half of the last century. Seafaring men declared that when the water was calm and clear they had caught glimpses of ancient cities beneath, with their glittering roofs and spires, and that in certain conditions of the atmosphere the tolling of the bells could be distinctly heard. Treatises were written by learned professors to prove the probability of the legend, and other treatises, as learned and vehement, to flout and jeer at it as an idle fable.

Certain flotsam and jetsam, which was washed ashore after heavy storms on the coasts of Georgia and Florida—logs of strange woods unknown to this generation, coins, bits of carved marble and beaten brass—was ascribed to the long dead workmen of Atlantis.

The lost colony is now known only as the subject of an ancient fable, but years ago it was by most educated people believed to be an actual fact.

Another much discussed mystery then was what had become of the colony of civilized people who at the time of the settlement of the country lived on the western coast of Greenland.

That country is, as you will see by a glance at the map, shaped something like the half of an egg, cut lengthwise, the flat side upon the earth, the point to the south. The rounded center is a heap of impenetrable ice mountains. As the centuries go by enormous bodies of ice slip from it into the sea and, breaking off, drift slowly down along our coasts. These are the icebergs of the Atlantic ocean. Now, along the narrow slip of habitable land which edges Greenland on this side, tradition says, once dwelt a civilized people who, both in knowledge and the habits of life, were far in advance of the Laplanders.

They were well known to the early Danish navigators, who made frequent mention of them in their logs and reports. The question yet unanswered is, Where are they now? Tradition among the Laplanders reports that the whole colony two centuries ago emigrated in a body to the eastern coast of Greenland, attempting to cross the hitherto impenetrable masses of ice in the center. No tidings ever have come back from them. Some of the scientific men who accompanied the Hayes expedition made this question a matter of special study. They reported that a doubt could hardly exist that these people did once inhabit that part of the coast and that they now had utterly vanished. If they had been swept away by a pestilence their household belongings at least would be left to tell of them, but not a shard of pottery, not a single grave, remains to show that they ever lived. It was supposed by the Danish missionaries that they had perished in the ranges of ice mountains, but among the Laplanders there were traditions that they had safely reached the western coast and settled there, now forming a civilized community, wholly isolated from the rest of the world. One of Nansen's voyages was, in fact, directed to that coast in the hope of finding this colony. He was not able to reach the northern part of the coast, and the mystery is therefore yet unsolved.

Another problem which perplexed the last generation was the long extinct pygmy race which centuries ago undoubtedly inhabited the Tennessee mountains. Legends among the Indians told of such a tribe of dwarfs, who were supposed to be of more intelligence than the red men. But these legends were very hazy. A burying ground, however, actually was discovered in the early part of the last century in which all of the skeletons were of pygmy proportions. Some of them were carried away to college museums. But as far as I know no scientific inquiry has ever been directed to this question.

Another curious matter which caused much speculation in the early part of the last century was the fate of the colony of French emigres who fled to this country in the eighteenth century and took refuge in the northern part of Alabama. Like those Frenchmen who found safety in Delaware, they were for the most part of noble blood. Marquises and counts earned their living in Wilmington as dancing masters and even chefs, and their descendants live there still.

But the poor gentlefolk who went penniless to Alabama to escape the guillotine penetrated the wilderness and made up a colony of vine growers, farmers, etc. They worked helplessly awhile, starved and then melted away mysteriously. Whether they returned to ungrateful France or died in their exile nobody knows. It was a romantic, tragical question which much interested the last generation and is now forgotten. But it is still unanswered.—New York Herald.

Moliere's Births and Deaths.

There are two tablets in Paris informing the sightseer that he is passing the house where Moliere was born. One is in the Rue du Pont Neuf; the other at the corner of the Rue Sauval, where it meets the Rue St. Honore. One inscription says that Moliere was born in 1620 and the other in 1622. Some time ago there were two houses in which Moliere was said to have died.

Having been poor is no shame, but being ashamed of it is.—Franklin.

FARM AND GARDEN

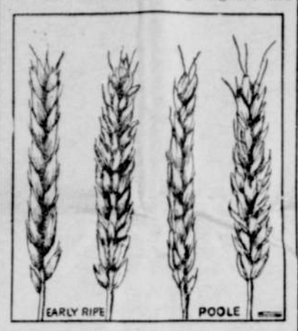
WINTER WHEAT.

Leading Varieties—When to Seed. Thick or Thin Seeding.

The Ohio experiment station has been testing different varieties of winter wheat for the last thirteen years, and among conclusions which it has recently stated are the following:

Yield of grain alone being considered, the best ten varieties in the order of their rank are: Gypsy, Mealy, Early Ripe, Poole, Nigger, Perfection, Mediterranean, Valley, Currell's Prolific and Dawson's Golden Chaff.

Weight per bushel being considered, the ten varieties testing highest are



Hickman, Red Wonder, Fulcaster, Gypsy, Valley, Deitz, Currell's Prolific, Perfection, Nigger and Lebanon.

Ranking the several varieties as to yield, weight per bushel and protein content, giving 60 points to yield, 25 points to weight per bushel and 15 points to protein content, the ten varieties scoring highest are Gypsy, Early Ripe, Nigger, Poole, Mealy, Currell's Prolific, Valley, Red Wonder, Democrat and Fulcaster. It is believed that the first four varieties of this list will prove quite generally satisfactory over the state. While the Mealy does very well upon rather thin upland, it is quite disappointing upon the richer soils and especially the bottom lands of the state. Strong in yield, it has a greater tendency to shrivel than many varieties.

Experiments in thick and thin seeding, covering eleven years' work, indicate that eight to ten pecks of seed per acre will give better results than a less amount of seed upon the somewhat worn lands of the state.

In normal seasons Sept. 20 to 22 has proved the most satisfactory date for seeding in the latitude of Wooster, with Sept. 15 next highest in yield.

Experiments extending over a series of thirteen years have failed to show on the average any grain from the use of seed from which the small and light grains have been removed by use of the fanning mill, although three seasons out of the thirteen the first grade gave largest yields.

In view of the possibility of an unfavorable season and of the fact that a more uniform seeding can be secured by removing the shrunken, broken and extremely small grains,

NO. 1—GROWN FROM LARGE GRAINS. NO. 2—GROWN FROM SMALL GRAINS.

the station would advise doing this, but would not hold out any hope that mere grading of the seed will produce a permanent improvement in wheat.

The selection of large, as compared with small, heads does not promise much in the way of improvement.

Permanent improvement in wheat must be based upon the selection of plants as a whole rather than upon parts of plants. Excellence due to hereditary influences must be distinguished from excellence due to environment.

Special Dairy Train School.

One of the latest educational enterprises is the special dairy train sent out by a creamery company for the purpose of reaching farmers in the rich lands of northwestern Missouri and southwestern Iowa. The train carried an exhibition car with dairy appliances and dairy machinery of every sort. Other cars were fitted up to seat an audience. Experts in dairying gave short talks at each stopping place, the use of appliances being demonstrated and instruction given on feeding stuffs and balanced rations. The success of the enterprise was such that in many places the train's facilities proved too small, and overflow and outdoor meetings were necessary.

Lengthening Life of Fence Posts.

Fence posts of cottonwood, ash, maple and other perishable woods may be made to last fifteen, twenty and even twenty-five years by treating their butts with tar oil. This method of preservation has been investigated during the past year at St. Louis. The equipment has been simplified until the installation of a plant is a practicable undertaking for individuals or for a small community. The cost of materials does not exceed 5 to 7 cents for each post treated.—Q. R. Craft.

Feeding Rye to Hogs.

There are several different methods of feeding rye to hogs. One method is to cook the grain whole. Another is steaming in barrels with tight covers and allowing to stand for several hours before feeding. Then, again, the method of grinding finely and mixing into the slops is practiced by many. I have tried several ways, but find I can produce the best results when finely ground and soaked in barrels twelve hours before feeding.—Ohio Farmer.

WINTER KILLING.

Observations on Losses In the Peach Belt of Lake Erie.

In the Lake Erie peach belt of Ohio, which suffered great losses during the prolonged cold of the winter of 1903-04, it was observed by horticulturists investigating the matter that there was a marked contrast in the extent of the winter injury on bare soils—soils given clean cultivation—and on covered soils. The bare soils froze deeper, and the injury was much greater than on soils covered with a mulch or other material.

Benefits of Banking.

A simple, easy and very effective method of preventing winter killing of peach trees was observed in the orchard of one grower. Just before winter set in this grower hauled manure to the orchard, but instead of scattering it beneath the trees in the usual way he banked a very few forkfuls immediately around the stem of the tree. When the supply of manure ran out peat or earth was hauled into the orchard and banked around the stem of the tree in the same manner. The results from the use of these materials were uniform, and, surprising at it may seem, every tree that received this simple treatment survived the winter without the least injury from cold, while the few trees and sections of rows left here and there unbanked and serving as "checks" in the experiment died almost to a tree.

Trees In Sod.

On the same farm trees on a piece of ground which was so stony that it could not be cultivated and which was kept in blue grass sod, with a heavy mulch of coarse material, such as cornstalks, barnyard manure, etc., about the stems, according to the true sod and mulch method, came through the winter without injury.

CROP ROUND UP.

Excellent Prospect For Corn—Heavy Yields of Wheat and Grass.

It seems quite safe to say that there is a promise for a corn crop little, if any, below the highest record ever made.

The yield of winter wheat at the thrasher is decidedly heavier than even the highest indications which could have been deduced from the figures of condition reported through the season. With the exception of Texas and Oklahoma, where the yields were moderately lower than normal, and Tennessee and parts of Kentucky, where too much rain injured the vitality of the crop, the yield is not only heavier than expected, but is above the normal for a series of years. In addition to the bumper rate of yield, the quality of the crop is reported remarkably high from practically every important district. It may not be too much to hope for a crop of 450,000,000 bushels of winter wheat.

Spring Wheat.

The season opened very early, and spring wheat seeding was accomplished much sooner than usual. After a large part of the seeding was done there was a return of wintry conditions, so that the crop made small growth in its early history. In the latter part of June red or leaf rust was present throughout the northwest to an extent probably never before equaled. Early in July black rust was found to be prevalent in many of the most important districts of Minnesota and the Dakotas. With very limited exceptions black rust nowhere developed beyond the first infection, and the result is that it has done no material damage to the crop. The final rate of yield will be fully up to the average, and upon the acreage planted will give a spring wheat crop of probably not less than 285,000,000 bushels and possibly somewhat above that figure.

Heavy Growth of Grass.

The grass crop both in the east and west is heavy. This includes both meadows and pastures, the tame hays and clovers and the natural grasses. In the west an unusually heavy yield was secured. There was too much rain over a large part of the central valleys at time of haying, and a considerable percentage of hay was lost and the quality of part of the crop was lowered. In spite of this the crop will be fully as large as last year and ample for all requirements.—Orange Judd Farmer.

NEWS AND NOTES

Dr. George T. Moore has been reinstated by Secretary Wilson of the department of agriculture, and it is said that Dr. Moore now has under way investigations that are likely to prove valuable to agriculture.

The harvest of the northwest territory of Canada is expected to be heavy.

The American Association of Nurserymen, recently in session, will agitate for a discontinuance of free seed distribution by the government.

Onions are reported as maturing small in some of the states leading in production, notably in New England, New York and Ohio.

If too many people board any kind of craft they are liable to sink it, or at least to make it unsafe. This is worth thinking about by those who are paying extravagant prices for sheep at present, remarks National Stockman.

Spencer and the Great Riddle.

To every aspect of the problem of life Herbert Spencer must have given thought, but he has plainly declared that the human intellect as at present constituted can offer no solution. The greatest mind that this world has yet produced—the mind that systematized all human knowledge, that revolutionized modern science, that dissipated materialism forever, that revealed to us the ghostly unity of all existence, that re-established all ethics upon an immutable and eternal foundation—the mind that could expound with equal lucidity and by the same universal formula the history of a gnat or the history of a sun, confessed itself before the riddle of existence scarcely less helpless than the mind of a child. —Lafcadio Hearn in Atlantic.

The Thrown.

"I'm taking my riding lessons in strict privacy."

"Why not in public?"

"So as to avoid the fierce white light that beats about the thrown."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

FACTS IN FEW LINES

The London Lancet says every mouthful of food should be chewed thirty times.

Wellington, the capital of New Zealand, is said to be the windiest city in the world.

Nearly 2,000 cases of mistaken diagnosis have been admitted to the London hospitals during the past year.

Japan annually exports about 10,000,000 fishing rods. They are made of bamboo, got from the dense forests of that tree.

The postage stamp, like the railroad and the telephone, is a nineteenth century invention and only sixty-five years ago at that.

Petrels and penguins of the Auckland and Macquarie islands are threatened with extinction, a syndicate having been formed to supply the world with penguin oil.

The Scottish Patriot announced the other day in big type that in case of war between Norway and Sweden a committee was ready to send at once 1,000 Scots, fully equipped for the field, to aid Norway.

Thomas Maher of Milford, Conn., has a happy family in the shape of an old cat and two ferocious bull pups. When the latter's mother died the old cat stepped into her place without the slightest friction.

Before Formosa passed into Japanese hands 20,000 Chinese coolies were imported every year during the tea picking season. The number now is less than 6,000, the Japanese employing their own coolies.

Celery is the cultivated variety of the English weed smallage. It was introduced into kitchen gardens in England about the time of the reformation by some Italians, who gave it the Italian name "celleri."

Blue bricks have been used to face the dam at the Cray reservoir, Swansea. This is said to be the first instance in England where blue bricks have been used in place of the stone masonry for facing a dam.

"To burying carcass of a supposed elephant, washed ashore close to Ballycrovane coastguard station, £1," was an item passed at the last meeting of the Castletownbere rural council, Cork, says the Irish Independent.

The robbery of a jewelry store on Broadway, New York, effected by entrance through a plateglass window on either side of which was an all night drug store and an all night restaurant, was a crime of peculiar boldness.

It has been discovered that the high prices offered for horses by the Russians last winter caused the theft of many animals from the Chinese imperial stables. The stolen horses were sold to the Russians for cavalry mounts.

In spite of her recent sale at $4 per square inch New York is still far behind London in record prices for real estate. On the busiest street in the world, the Strand, a few years ago in a public sale a lot was sold for the equivalent of $312 per square inch.

Portland, Me., has a horse with "horse sense" to an annoying degree. The animal belongs to a tradesman and when left in front of the store in the sun quietly walks under the store awning for shelter in spite of the fact that his action drives passersby into the street.

Rattan furniture was first made in the United States with bamboo and a kind of grass imported from China. The Chinese have now learned the trick and make this furniture in large quantities. The grass grows in unlimited quantities in the salt water marshes along the coast.

Salt beef is to be removed from the bill of fare in the English navy as soon as the present stock has been disposed of, to be replaced by a ration of preserved meat. When the new arrangement comes into force salt pork will be issued on one day out of three and preserved meat on the remaining two days.

Greenleaf Davis, a Maine woodsman, says that birdseye maple is caused by woodpeckers pecking little holes in the tree to get the sap. These holes afterward heal up, but the scars left in the wood. Mr. Davis is trying to produce the birdseye effect in a maple grove by baiting the birds so they will peck the trees.

Dr. Wolfgang Weichardt of Berlin has discovered the "essence of strength," by which the power of any animal, even a man, may be nearly doubled, an antitoxin which may prove of immense value to athletes and incalculable good in cases of nervous exhaustion and in convalescence of serious ill persons.

Papua is the home of a small spider, the body of which is about the size of a pea. It is black in color, with a brilliant red spot in the center of the back. It is frequently to be found making its nest in old packing cases which have laid neglected for some time. Unless molested it will not attack. The bite is very small, although fatal in inverse proportion.

It may be that Hirdhito Michi-No-Miya will be the next emperor of Japan. He is the son of the crown prince, who, it is understood, has symptoms of consumption. The little prince is now four years old, and the ministers of Japan are already looking about to find a wife for him. He will have nothing to say about the matter and must marry whoever is chosen for him.

A county court judge at Bristol, England, remarked the other day: "If there were a county court judgess in Bristol as well as a county court judge one of the greatest troubles of my life would pass away. I feel convinced that if there were some lady sitting in my place, in a wig or without one, she would not be taken in so freely, so copiously and so hopelessly as I am by the ladies."

Preparing For the Wedding.

"I suppose," said the facetious stranger, watching a workman spread a carpet from the church door to the curb, "that's the highroad to heaven you're fixing there."

"No," replied the man; "this is merely a bridal path."—Philadelphia Press.

Anvil Duet.

Gladys—If she thinks her young man is such a paragon of perfection why does she watch him so closely? Esmeralda—She is afraid he is too good to be true.—Chicago Tribune.

THE ONE WHO CAN DO THINGS

There Is Always a Demand For the Exceptional Man.

Progressive employers are always looking for the exceptional man or woman, the one who can step out from the crowd and do things in an original way, who can economize in processes, who can facilitate business. They are always looking for the earmarks of leadership, of superior ability. They are looking for the progressive employee with new ideas who can help them to be more of a success. They know very well that they can get any number of automatons—multitudes who will do a thing just well enough to keep their places—but they are looking for originality, individuality, for up to date methods. They want employees who can put things through with vigor and determination, without lagging, whining, apologizing or asking questions. Nothing can bar the advancement of employees of this kind. Nobody can keep them down. If by chance some one above you is actually trying to prevent your promotion for selfish reasons, it ought to be very flattering to you to know that he is trying to keep you back and should make you all the more determined to get ahead. It is a pretty good indication that there is some reason for his fear and that you have material in you for a better place. This should encourage you to redouble your efforts to do your work so well, to stamp such superiority upon everything you touch, to acquit yourself so much better than the man who is trying to keep you down—to be so much pleasanter, so much more of a man—that it will be only a question of time when you will get the position you are striving for, or perhaps a better one.—Orison Swett Marden in Success Magazine.

THE DOMESTIC HUSBAND.

One View of the Man Who Haunts His Own Home Circle.

The foolishness of wives is shown in their warfare against the club, be it good or bad, and their indiscriminate laudation of the domestic man. The latter is not apt to be an alluring personality, for, oscillating between downtown and home, his circle of interests is necessarily narrow, and he inevitably takes up with more or less petty matters and becomes a domestic martinet or a tame cat. All the big civic interests that engage the energies of public spirited men in their leisure from business he ignores, as he does association with men identified with other worthy interests. The petty gossip of the home and the evening paper constitute the typical domestic man's mental sustenance in his moments of relaxation from the grind of money making, and apart from merely having him within reach it is hard to understand what pleasure the wife can take in this variety of husband, for he apparently feels under no obligation to make himself agreeable. It is not he who makes the meal cheerful by setting the conversational pace in the direction of amusing stories or interesting information, his usual contribution being fussy comment on some trivial domestic incident. More often he eats in silence and departs in the shortest time possible for the most desirable chair in the living room, there to remain for the remainder of his evening. Such a man, however good a provider he may be for his family, is a social vegetable merely, in whom no woman is justified in taking pride at this day, when the need in public affairs is for citizens who bear their share of the burdens peculiar to our nation and times.—Vogue.

Rings at Weddings.

There is a popular idea that a ring made of gold is the only one that can be legally used in a wedding ceremony. That is, however, a fallacy. Any and every kind of ring may be used, and, though gold ones are customary, there is no reason whatever why silver or any commoner metal should not be called into requisition. Numerous instances are on record of runaway marriages in which a brass ring has played the all important part, and the legality of the ceremony has never been questioned. In some cases a piece of hurriedly tied string has answered the same purpose, as have also circles cut out of card or paper. In not a few weddings where consternation has reigned on the discovery that the ring has been forgotten a door key has been used instead or a hastily severed link of a silver chain. It is only required that a ring be used, but of what nature it is not stipulated.—London Answers.

The Last English Decapitation.

The last occasion of decapitation for high treason in England was, I fancy, that of Thistlewood and his four companions for the Cato street conspiracy. I take the following from Thornbury's "Old Stories Retold:"

"Exactly a quarter of an hour after the last man was hung the order was given to cut the bodies down. The heads were than haggled off with brutal clumsiness with a surgeon's knife. The mob expressed loudly their horror and disgust, more especially when the turnkey who exhibited the heads dropped that of Brunt. 'Hello, butter fingers!' shouted a rough voice from the roiling crowd below. The day had gone by for such useless brutality."

This horrible scene was enacted on May 1, 1820.—Notes and Queries.

Queer Books.

Among the world's queerest books is "Pharamond; or, The History of France—A Fam'd Romance, in Twelve Parts." It was "written originally by the author of 'Cassandra and Cleopatra,'" and it was "Englished" by J. Phillips, Gent., and published in London in folio in 1677. "Pharamond" runs to 1,173 closely printed folio pages, which contain in all some 1,073,295 words. That is to say, it equals in length ten modern novels of about 100,000 words apiece. Sir Philip Sidney's "Arcadia" works out, interspersed poetry and all, at some 400,000 words, or four modern novels.

Proof of Immortality.

"What authority have you for the statement that Shakespeare is immortal?"

"The fact that he still survives after having been murdered by bum actors for 300 years."—Cleveland Leader.