

A LITTLE OF EVERY-THING.

Germany has a 4000-ton forging press.

A natural gas gusher has been struck in Boone county, Indiana.

Bees never store honey in the light because honey so exposed granulates and is thus useless to the bees.

Dr. F. Werner records that, in captivity, certain grasshoppers bite off and even devour portions of their legs.

A fresh egg contains the same amount of nourishment as one and a half ounces of fresh meat and one ounce of wheat bread, but in a more digestible form.

Women require one hour of sleep more a day than men. Fewer of the latter reach the age of fifty than the former, but afterward the sterner sex has the best of it.

Electricity is never visible but in its form of zigzag lightning. Edison thinks differently as to the first point, and photography has proven the second to be an optical illusion.

Boston is talking of disposing of its garbage by chemical treatment instead of by cremation. The plan proposed would require the investment of about \$175,000 in a plant.

In experimenting with potatoes, Raulin finds that the crop decreases in proportion as the clay and limestone in the soil augments, and increases with the augmenting proportions of sand and humus.

Among the waste products now finding application in agriculture are woolen waste, wood dust and residue from crude wool. These are used successfully after proper treatment as fertilizing materials.

A firm of opticians have devised what they call a "Hat Detective Camera." It is provided with a complete apparatus weighing only two and one-half ounces, which can be fitted into a hat, the operation being conducted through the ventilating hole.

The black, solid-looking shadows cast by the electric lights that may be seen in the air when it is not clear suggest that the "cosmic dust" which is supposed to occupy the inter-planetary spaces may be capable, in certain conditions, of showing a profile of the earth under the powerful light of the sun.

Tortoise Shell.

The greater part of the tortoise shell used in the manufacture of hairpins, combs and other articles both for the toilet and for decorative purposes is imported from the East and West Indies and is worth in the rough state from \$2.50 to \$6 per pound. The price varies according to the thickness of the shell, not according to the making, as is generally thought to be the case. The quantity reaching the market is always about the same, as the turtles deposit their eggs on the sand, and the natives, who consider them a great delicacy, take all they can find, so that only a small per cent. of those laid are ever hatched. This shell does not melt, but welds like iron, and when soft is pressed into the desired shape and the carving is done. Objects of tortoise shell, when broken, can be mended so the repairing will be quite invisible. Canton flannel—not chamois skin, as it contains too much oil—should be used to rub combs, lorg-

nettes, etc., and if frequently applied the polish will remain bright for a long time. Combs of tortoise are said by good authority to be better for the hair than either rubber, bone or celluloid, and women who have used them for years say it would be quite impossible for them to dress their hair with any other kind. In time these combs almost seem to become a part of one's self, to partake of the owner's personality as far as any inanimate object possibly can.

A Fish That Builds Houses.

In Lake Nyassa, Africa, there is a curious little black fish which builds a breeding house every year. In the bottom mud of the lake it scoops out a basin two or three feet in diameter, heaping up the mud removed from the hole so as to form a wall around the margin. In this lake within a lake this queer little fish erects a mud house about fourteen inches across at the bottom, rapidly coming to a point in the shape of a broad cone. A hole about four inches in diameter, always on the south side, serves as an opening for egress and ingress. A dried specimen of this queer piscatorial domicile preserved in the Royal Museum at Berlin has two doors and a mud wall separating the dwelling into two rooms.

Supply of Emeralds Decreasing.

Emeralds are said to be steadily disappearing. In the '50s and '60s emeralds were the favorite jewel, and were worn strung on a thread like pearls. Such a string of emeralds was exhibited in a jeweler's window and was estimated to be worth \$3,000. Now emeralds are no longer polished into a round form, but are polished like diamonds. Faultless stones of a deep and good color have always been as valuable as diamonds. The reason of the scarcity of emeralds is the decrease in production in the Ural Mountains. Emeralds were first discovered on the right bank of the Tokowier, near Katherineburg, in 1830, and in the first years the harvest was a rich one. Now the decrease, both in quantity and quality, hardly repays the labor. The harvest of emeralds in Labachthal, in the Salzburger Alps, has also proved disappointing, so that emeralds are now only to be had from Australia and from Muso, near Santa Fe de Bogota, in Colombia, in any appreciable quantity. The latter spot has been noted for its emeralds since the Sixteenth Century.

Stockings of Paper.

Stockings of paper are among the latest products of German inventive genius. A Berlin paper, devoted to the shoe trade, states that the socks are made of a specially prepared impregnated paper stock, for which an extraordinary effect on perspiring feet is claimed. The paper absorbs the moisture as rapidly as it is formed, and the feet remain dry and warm and perfectly sound, while the constant temperature maintained in the shoes is said to be a great preventive of colds. The manufacturers instruct bits of their paper to be put between the toes, and then a large piece to be wrapped over the foot, and the stocking to be put on over all. Because paper absorbs moisture may be a reason why some shoemakers make shoes with paper soles instead of leather.

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