

SHRINKING OF TIMBER.

Precautions Which Will Enable Wood-Workers to Turn Out Good Work. The various kinds of oak, and some other kinds of timber will shrink more or less every time the surface is dressed off, even a small fraction of an inch.

HABITS OF FLIES.

Interesting Facts About Two Loathsome Members of the Family.

The horse-fly is the most cruel and bloodthirsty of the entire family. He is armed with a most formidable weapon, which consists of four lancets, so sharp and strong that they will penetrate leather.

The sewer and cesspool fly resemble each other in their habits, with a single exception—the former lives in cleaner water and has a less complicated apparatus. The female lays her eggs where they may be reached by the filthy fluid.

Punishing Chinese Gods.

A curious case of punishing the gods is reported by the last mail from Foo-chow. The idols of a certain temple in that city were those appealed to by persons who desired to be revenged on their enemies.

—A woman's "shoo" is generally less efficient in scaring hens out of a garden than a man's boot.—Time.

MISCELLANEOUS

It is said that a fir standing in the Kanich Valley, Nevada, which measures fifty-eight feet in circumference seven feet from the ground.

—A South Carolina man attempted to pawn a horse, and was surprised when "his uncle" told him that he didn't like securities that could walk away.

—A Michigan man, in digging a well, struck a vein of water which he thought contained mineral properties, and was disgusted to find that he had tapped a sewer.

—The five great continental powers of Europe now have 12,000,000 men under arms, not to mention the naval armaments, almost double in size the whole sea fighting force of the world twenty years ago.

—The citizens of Dijon boast that have the oldest poplar in France, but just how old it is no one knows. It is 122 feet high, forty-five feet in circumference at the base, and twenty-three feet in circumference fifteen feet from the base.

—Kentucky is as famous for its wide-spread and critical knowledge of the Bible as for its sensitive appreciation of red-eyes. The newspapers down there are many of them daily commentaries. Here is a sample paragraph from the Scottsville Sentinel:

—The first attempt to record a public speech by means of the phonograph was made at a political rally in New York recently. A funnel seven feet long was placed in front of the platform, connecting with the transmitter of the phonograph.

The following anecdote is related of President Lincoln: One evening Mrs. Lincoln swept, magnificently dressed, into the library where the President was waiting to escort her into the brilliant reception-parlor.

TWO MEN AT DINNER.

Difference Between an Englishman and a Frenchman at a Table d'Hôte.

"The Englishman is big, square, red, hairy. He has breakfasted at nine o'clock and walked all day with a few minutes' rest for lunch. He calls for champagne sec. He guzzles the soup; he does not taste it. He drenches the fish in some black English sauce, and sends it after the soup.

"But the poor Frenchman! He is tall; he will soon be bald; his white teeth are miracles of the dentist's skill.

—A woman's "shoo" is generally less efficient in scaring hens out of a garden than a man's boot.—Time.

IMAGINARY ILLS.

The Treatment of Hypochondriacs Discussed by a Physician.

So many people are hypochondriacs that a physician expects to find one-third of his patients laboring under imaginary ills. It is easy for people to exaggerate symptoms, and by giving themselves into the hands of quacks, become confirmed victims of supposed ill health.

—Not Used to Traveling.—Stranger (at hotel bar): "Best whiskey, please." Bartender (severely): "This is a prohibition town, sir." Stranger: "Ah, excuse me." (moving away.) Bartender (excitedly): "Great Scott, stranger, haven't you sense enough to get sick?"—Drake's Magazine.

TIMBER CULTURE.

What Lands on the Farm to Devote to the Planting of Trees.

While the great mass of our farmers admit the necessity of timber cultivated in a general and systematic way, but few on this side of the treeless plains are ready to give up to this work their best cultivated fields.

Fortunately it is not necessary for them to make such sacrifices, as a rule. There are few farms east of the great plains that do not contain more or less waste land. Such lands often prove admirably adapted to tree growing.

Some of the finest natural growth timber is found along the steep sides and tops of ledges and among huge boulders that nearly cover the ground. Such lands are planted in England by digging holes here and there wherever the chance is afforded among the rocks, and carefully planting such trees as are desired.

On the treeless plains of the West a few acres of the best land is not begrudged the forest plantation. It becomes then more a question of outlay of labor and of capital for seed and trees.

PUNGENT PARAGRAPHS.

—Chaussier dried a man in a kiln and there resulted only twelve pounds of solid matter.

—An experiment recently made in Scotland proves that the tortoise can walk a mile in four hours.

—Telephones are great convenience, and yet people are all the time talking against them.—Yonkers Statesman.

—A traveling man remarks that any fellow who makes love to a widow is literally courting danger.—Merchant Traveler.

—"I wish I could sell all I write," remarked a certain author to a lady. "There are those," replied his companion, sweetly, "who say you can't write all you sell."—Life.

—"Mrs. Barkley, are you familiar with 'Songs without Words'?" "O, yes, quite. Mr. Barkley frequently sings them when he comes home in the morning."—Terre Haute Express.

—A Brooklyn man intends to start a goat farm, which he thinks will bring him \$10.80 per day. He will stock it with seventy-five goats, and as the ordinary goat will give three pints of milk a day, he calculates upon ninety quarts per day at twelve to fifteen cents a quart.

—One of the leading American colleges has resolved to dispense with a "class yell" next year. An institution of learning that will thus aim a deadly blow at the higher education of our youth doesn't deserve the patronage of the American people. Football may go next.—Norristown Herald.

—"You should have counted on the expense of married life before you entered upon it," said the young husband's friend; "it was only a question of common sense and reason that you should have exercised." "Common sense and reason?" echoed the youthful benedict; "why, I was in love!"—Chicago Globe.

—Railroad Superintendent.—Any of the passenger cars need repairing?" Head Examiner:—"Yes, sir; No. 306 is in very bad shape; ought to go to the shop at once." "What's the matter?" "Two of the windows are so loose that any ordinary man can raise them, sir."—Time.

—Two vagrants called on a kind lady in the suburbs of New York. "To which of you two shall I give this nickel?" she asked. First tramp:—"Give it to him, madam. He has purchased the route from me, and I am just taking him around to introduce him to the customers."—Texas Siftings.

—Editor Society Journal (to reporter):—"Mr. Jinks, the directors have ordered me to raise your salary. You bring in more society scandal than all the other reporters put together." Jinks:—"Thank you. The advance will be handed over to my wife. It is hers by right." Editor:—"How so?" Jinks:—"She is the secretary of the ladies' anti-gossip club."—Cartoon.

—A gentleman who has recently aken up French, and who loses no opportunity of airing the little knowledge he has thus far acquired of that language by translating and pronouncing such words and phrases as his friends might encounter in his presence, was thus addressed by an acquaintance: "If you only knew as much English as you do French, what a success you would be!"—Texas Siftings.

CLUMSY DIRECTNESS.

The Most Common Way of Giving Offense in an Unconscious Way.

Some people are perpetually giving offense in the most unconscious way. "Now, do let me propose you as a member," says Smith. "But suppose they blackball me?" replies Brown. "Pooh! Absurd! Why, my dear fellow, there's not a man in the club that knows you even!" A lady very desirous of concealing the awful fact that she is the same age as her husband, observed to a visitor: "My husband is forty; there are just five years between us." "Is it possible?" was the unguarded reply of her friend. "I give you my word, you look as young as he does."

—A woman's "shoo" is generally less efficient in scaring hens out of a garden than a man's boot.—Time.

DOING UP LACE-CURTAINS.

Valuable Suggestions on a Most Important Household Topic.

Once thoroughly understood this work is as easily accomplished as any simple washing. After taking the curtains down shake out the dust carefully, so as to avoid tearing the material; then spread them out on two lines near together, and brush them gently with a soft feather duster; this will remove all the dust that can be got off.

The blood-warm water and starch should be strained, that no particle of bluing may settle on the curtains. After scalding, take the curtains from the boiler and rinse thoroughly, but with a gentle hand, until all suds are out. Then wring or squeeze out and put through the bluing water; wring out from that and prepare to stretch and pin out smoothly, to the original length and width.

—A woman's "shoo" is generally less efficient in scaring hens out of a garden than a man's boot.—Time.

—A woman's "shoo" is generally less efficient in scaring hens out of a garden than a man's boot.—Time.

An Artificial Silk-Worm.

"It is by no means impossible," said a Paterson silk manufacturer, "that artificial silk may sometime replace the product of the silk-worm's labor. That, of course, is only a possibility, and not a probability, but it is very probable that artificial methods will replace the tedious and expensive means now employed to utilize the worms. It has for some time been known that worn-out silken fabrics can be utilized by putting them in a chemical bath which separates foreign substances from the silk itself, and saves the latter in a solution. This solution can be respun or used to plate other thread. Now, as I learn from France, Dr. Chardonne, of that country, has succeeded in making a purely artificial silk. He makes a solution of nitro-cellulose, alcohol, ether, ferrous chloride and tannic acid, in nicely-calculated proportions, and runs it from a reservoir through an exceedingly minute hole into a bath of water, acidulated with one-half of one per cent of mono-hydrated nitric acid. The fluid hardens in the water, and is dried in hot air. I is said that the thread can be readily dried, but I do not know what other valuable qualities it has."—N. Y. Mail and Express.

Not Very Complimentary.

Politician.—Why is it, Uncle Mose, that whenever I appear on the street you dodge around the corner? Uncle Mose.—Bekase de good book says ter shan der "pearaco ob eblil."—Texas Siftings.

PEOPLE BURIED ALIVE.

The Awful Story of a Russian Peasant Woman's Fate.

In Russia people are oftener than elsewhere condemned—unintentionally, of course—to that most gruesome of all deaths, of which E. A. Poe had such unfeigned horror—burial alive. But the circumstances accompanying this frightful torture are seldom so characteristic or so horrible as in the case of the wife of a peasant in the government of Volhynia, on the borders of Austria, who, according to the local journal, Volhynia, was lately buried in a comatose state. She was expecting soon to become a mother at the time of her supposed death. After the "corpse" had been kept the usual time, the parish priest, Konstantinoff, recited the prayers of the burial service in the church-yard; the widower cast three handfuls of earth on the coffin, and all departed except the grave-diggers. In filling up the grave the latter shoveled in an unusually large sod of hard earth, which struck the coffin with a loud noise, and woke up the unfortunate woman from her sleep. The horror of her position at once dawned upon her. She cried out in most piteous tones to the grave-diggers to rescue her from a horrible death. She solemnly promised them all her property if they would take her from the grave and coffin. The more she cried and entreated, the more strenuous were their endeavors to fill the grave; and on leaving the church-yard, when their work was done, they still heard her cries and moans.

The grave-diggers then hurried off to her husband who was surrounded with guests, drinking to the memory of the deceased. Having related what had taken place, the matter was discussed by the guests and the neighbors, who soon came rushing in, and it was finally resolved nem. con. that an evil spirit had taken possession of the deceased, and that, in order to prevent her walking at night and disturbing the people, it was absolutely necessary to disinter her and drive an aspen stake through her body. The husband sent a deputation to the priest, asking permission to disinter the body and perform this superstitious rite deemed necessary in all such cases. The priest, horrified, hurried off to the church-yard, and had the body disintered in the hope of saving a life, but superstition had already got its victim—the woman was dead, but unmistakable signs showed she had struggled hard to escape from the most horrible death the human mind can conceive.—Pall Mall Gazette.

AN ANCIENT REPUBLIC.

Facts About Andorre, the Smallest of All Commonwealths.

This, perhaps, the smallest of all nationalities, is remarkable for its long lease of life. Its greatest length is under thirty miles; its greatest breadth is under twenty; and when "Historia de la Republica d'Andorre" was published, in 1845, the population was under 8,000. It is marvelous "while nearly all the charters, prior to the middle age of the German and Italian republics, have disappeared, the original charters of this republic have remained almost unsuspected in its Pyrenean archives for more than a thousand years." The first credited tradition of Andorre dates from 778, and the first written charter, which is still known to exist, from 801. The war of Andorrian independence lasted for 400 years, and their Bill of Rights was obtained at its close in 1278. To give somewhat of an idea of the primitive character of this nevertheless sturdy nation, the Talker finds the following, descriptive of their judicial tribunal: "Five times a year, on the occurrence of some great festival of the Church, the four-and-twenty representative oligarchs assemble at the village which courtesy designates the capital, to deliberate on public affairs. Each of the twenty-four councillors arrives on horseback, and a national stable with twenty-four stalls is prepared. Each legislator, with his own patrician hands, puts up his respective horse, attends divine service in a chapel attached to the chamber of deliberation, exchanges his peasant's dress for the stateliest costume, shoots partridges and pheasants in summer, hunts bears and wolves in autumn and winter, feasts by night with a kind of Cyclopean sumptuousness, passes few laws, and effectuates no reforms." The Andorrian religion is a curious admixture of worship and pleasure, but in these regards is not widely different from the practices of other countries. On some saint's day, sacred in their calendar, the people congregate at a lonely spot, where a chapel opens for a brief mass on each anniversary of its patron. The remainder of the day is given up to dancing, a recreation of which the Andorrians are fonder even than their neighbors, and which it is no hard thing for them to get up, even without a saint's day. A green sward, a clear moonlight, a balmy air, and the falling fragrance of a mid-summer night's dew, are sufficient incidents. The chief dance of the people, termed the "val d'Andorre," is awkward enough, but peculiar to the commonwealth, and reputed to have been in vogue in the days of Charlemagne.—Christian at Work.

A Husband's Generosity.

"To-morrow, Maria, will be your birthday, and I want to give you some appropriate present. What shall it be?" "Whatever your kind heart may suggest, John." (Next day.) "Maria, you know how your poor back has suffered from pulling off my boots in the evening. It will not suffer any more, my love. See! I have brought you a nice new bootjack which I will use hereafter instead."—Chicago Tribune.