

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...

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.

At the great steel works in Cleveland, O., a large electro-magnet is used, suspended from a crane, to pick up iron or steel bars and billets. It will take up 800 pounds, and as soon as the electric current is turned off after moving the load, will drop it in the proper place, thus doing the work of a gang of men.

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 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'Hote.

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. One discerns his flabby muscles beneath the fine cloth of his fashionable coat. He has placed his monocle in the corner of his eye to read the carte which he holds gingerly in one fastidious hand—a hand which is skilled enough with the sword or the pistol, but which has never in his life struck a blow from the shoulder.

"Now will you affirm that those two men have eaten the same dinner? But the menu was the same!"—Paris Letter.

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.

What is not at all unusual is to find physicians who have become thoroughly hypoed. Many of them with great reputation and a large practice and capable of diagnosing any case become cranks concerning their own health. They exaggerate the slightest symptoms into dangerous cases and believe they have chronic troubles when they would know that, in a patient, it would be but a slight indisposition.

I had a room-mate who became thoroughly hypoed after entering the course. One day he caught a cold and that night suddenly informed me he believed he was going to die, as he was certain he was afflicted with a most malignant fever which he had been studying that day.

Not used to traveling—Stranger (at hotel bar)—"Best whisky, please." Bartender (severely)—"This is a prohibition town, sir."

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.

TIMBER CULTURE.

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

Some people are perpetually giving offense in the most unconscious way. "Now, do let me propose you as a member," says Smith.

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.

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."

A gentleman who has recently taken 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:

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.

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."

Not Very Complimentary. Politician—Why is it, Uncle Mose, that whenever I appear on the street you dodge around the corner?

People Buried Alive. 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.

An Ancient Republic. 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 miles; and when "Historia de la Republica d'Andorre" was published in 1845, the population was under 8,000.

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.