

PATTERING FEET.

Something's afoot; beware, beware!
Roughing it in the bedroom stair,
With here a stumble and there a slip,

Sharp little footfalls queer and quick,
Never a careful step they pick.
Quantity marking a morning song,

Trotting bright on the passage floor,
Up they come to your bedroom door.
Never was music half so sweet

As the pit-a-pat patter of tiny feet.

Dear little voices, high and clear,
Ring like a bell in the sleeper's ear,
Round hands pluck at his troubled head,

"Daddy, oh, Daddy, get out of bed!"

Keeping the rules—it's all a game—
Out they patter—so they come.
But somehow the song moves rather slow,

As down the passage and out they go.

And it's oh for the years that have passed away,
And the feet that pattered at break of day.

Now they are heavily booted feet,
And they tramp and stamp in the busy street.

And some of them seemed to tire of fun,
So they wandered away till they met the sun;

But he sends them sliding along his beams,

To patter again in your morning dreams.

WHY I RESIGNED.

Why did I retire from the force?
The speaker was a well-knit,
Elegant man, whose face, without
Being handsome, revealed the possession

of a certain intelligence and a sensitive nature. His eyes were frankly

observant, and his demeanor was one of alertness and vigor.

"Yes," proceeded ex-Detective Morrison,
"I suppose it will ever be a bit of
mystery to my late colleagues of the

Criminal Investigation Department that I who had confessedly done much

excellent work should have renounced my career when my prospects were

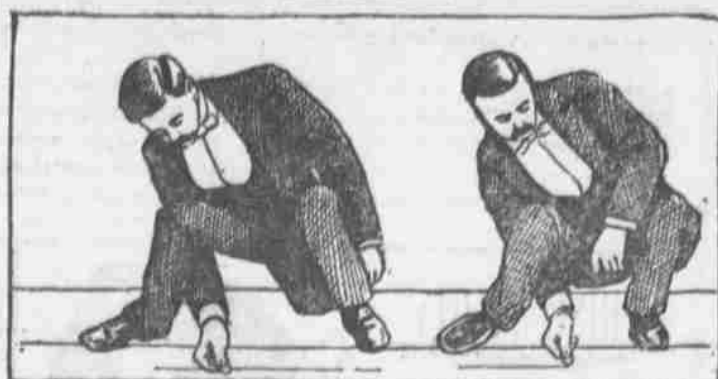
most promising. "What! Going to resign!" exclaimed the Commissioner.

"You who largely assisted to secure the arrest of the authors of the De Mallin-

court paste-jewel frauds, who discovered the Hampstead poisoners, and

who successfully traced the possession by its owner of intelligence and a sensitive nature.

ATHLETIC CONTEST FOR PARLOR FROLIC.



Here is a good game for a evening party. Let a line be drawn across a certain portion of the room and then let the men stand thereon and try which of them can draw the longest line with a piece of chalk without moving his feet.

They must assume the attitude shown in the picture, namely, they must keep the left hand on or beside the knee and must only use the right hand. This seems an easy thing to do, but let anyone try it and he will soon find out that it is extremely difficult.

In London, besides, news had come of these notes having been given an increased circulation at several West End establishments.

"These notes fell on my ears. They had been uttered by a well-dressed, handsome man, who was just getting into a cab from which a lady had only a second before alighted.

"I always act upon impulse. I was attired in fashionable clothes, and I too went into the shop. The lady bought a pair of links for her husband and gave a ten pound note in exchange.

"I followed her closely in another cab. She had not entered the mansion ten seconds before I had resolved to make some inquiries at the office on the ground floor.

"She was actually leaving the office as I approached. 'Yes,' I heard the obsequious clerk say, as she entered the lift. 'I can assure you that to-morrow a man shall come and see what is the matter with your gas service. We cannot understand it.'

"The lady still left an impression on my mind—an impression that her form and manner were not new. I imperatively dismissed the notion from my mind, for I had now a scheme in view. I hurried back to the jeweler's; he had in the meantime taken the note to the bank.

"The housemaid at 61 Overchurch Mansions was in a very unpleasant mood. 'Here's the missus says as 'ow you wasn't comin' 'ill to-morrow! It's most 'gravin'!' An' 'a' murther, bring 'em some fric-cas to dinner, and the missus says it's a comin' with 'er 'nawer! Of course, what do it matter to you?'

"However, she had to put up with the presence of the workman—the assured her that he had been sent by the express instructions of her mistress to attend to the gas.

"The leakage was in a pretty little dining-room. It was only divided by a thin partition from another room in which two persons were talking.

"Ah, pauvre petite, you are tired! Never mind now why I want so many notes changed and never allow you to spend gold to-night! Remember our dinner party to-night!"

"This was said in a low, soothing voice—the voice of a man born to cozen women. The workman was listening intently.

"Well, well, dear! the man went on. 'Don't you know that on the continent we can't change notes easily? Why, what a time we shall have! We shall have to play the roles of an old staid couple in the presence of the bride and bridegroom!'

"What? whistled the workman—a marriage?"

"Really, now," said the supercilious housemaid to him a minute later—"you can't finish the job to-night, eh? You must go and get some piping? Well, of all the haggard creatures—"

DISCOVERY OF NERVOCIDINE.

A Powerful Anesthetic Made from an Indian Plant. A new local anesthetic obtained from an Indian plant called 'bausa-lana' has recently been submitted to careful examination by some Hungarian dentists.

This salt has been named 'nervo-cidine.' In weak solution (0.10 to 1.20 per cent) nervocidine produced a marked local anesthesia of the cornea of warm-blooded animals.

After seven hours the cornea regained its normal condition. A 1-10 per cent solution of nervocidine brushed over the mucous membrane of the cheek caused local anesthesia of the brushed surface and of the tongue, accompanied by loss of the sensation of taste and the perception of heat and cold.

Attempts to produce local anesthesia by subcutaneous injections of nervocidine in animals have not yet been successful, says the Pittsburg Gazette.

The general action of nervocidine on the system was that of a poison, producing death by paralysis of the motor centers of the nervous system and of the peripheral nerves.

In the Bermuda rats often build their nests in trees, like birds and squirrels. A Mexican carpenter considers hanging one door a big day's work.

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CYCLONE CELLARS.

Means of Protection Against Storms by People in the West. The cyclone is by far the worst form of disaster that visits this country coming at unexpected times and dealing death and destruction in such widespread manner.

When the summer days bring waves of heat across the stretches of hot soil, then the residents of the prairie west begin to cast their eyes to the windward. They are watching the formation of the clouds, and he who could not distinguish a cyclone bank from any other is indeed a tenderfoot.

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QUEER STORIES

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LARGEST STEEL VAULT.

It is 53x28 Feet, and Belongs to a New York Bank. At a cost of \$185,000 a New York safe deposit company has just completed a steel vault 23 feet 6 inches wide, 29 feet 8 inches deep and 8 feet 6 inches high—the largest in the world.



The entrance to this great fire and burglar-proof room is fortified by a gigantic circular steel door. This monster barrier, behind which will repose millions, weighs 42,000 pounds, and the hinges themselves tip the scales at several tons, yet the workmen fastened it in place without trouble.

To all purposes it is not much more than a gigantic toy, for a child can swing it back and forth. This is made possible by the well oiled ball bearings on which it acts.

The door, which is eight feet in diameter and 24 inches thick, is made of Remington special and chrome steels. Around the outside of its circular edge is a groove and tongue that interlock with the jam into which it fits, and when its 24 three and one-half inch bolts have been shifted into place it presents an impenetrable surface.

Controlling the bolts are a four-movement mechanism and 72-hour time locks. In addition to these there is a combination lock that is used in case of emergency.

The great vault into which it opens is nothing more than a huge box of steel. It will contain 10,000 safe deposit boxes. It took fifteen months to complete it.

WEST POINT TRAINING. It Has Its Lasting Effect on Men's Manners. The old West Pointer said to the lady who sat beside him at the recent football game between Princeton and the soldiers: "You will observe how strong are the habits inculcated by a military training."

The game was just about to begin. Each eleven was drawing up on its side of the field awaiting the sound of the referee's whistle. The platoon was placed on the line that divided the gridiron into halves in place of the kick-off. A silence fell upon the spectators as the referee raised his hand and shouted: "Are you ready, Princeton?"

In reply from the Princeton captain came something that sounded very much like: "Yes."

"Are you ready, West Point?" "We are ready, sir," returned the West Point captain, politely.