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### The Old, Old Scorpion.

Scorpions are relics of prehistoric times. They have been in existence since the middle Silurian era, and through all the changes in environment in the millions of years which have elapsed they have remained practically the same in structural character, in habit. There is little if any evidence that these animals in the past days of their history have ever gained a livelihood by means other than those employed at the present day.—London Standard.

### The Swiftest Bird.

Though the petrel is swift, the frigate bird is far swifter. Seamen generally believe that the frigate bird can start at daybreak with the trade winds from the coast of Africa and roost the same night upon the American shore. Whether this is a fact has not been conclusively determined, but it is certain that this bird is the swiftest of winged creatures and is able to fly under favorable conditions 200 miles an hour. Its appearance near land is thought to portend a hurricane.

### Early Japanese Literature.

In the earliest times there was but one seat of learning and literature in Japan—Kyoto, where the mikado resided. The nobles composing his court enjoyed generally a very quiet life and loved to devote their time to poetry, which they held in highest honor, and to the writing of diaries. These diaries form the first historical works of the Japanese. A number still exist and offer a fascinating insight into the life at Kyoto in days of yore. Again it is to be noted that many of the best writings were done by women.

### THE NEEDLE.

THE gay belles of fashion may boast of  
excelling  
in waits or cotillon, at whist or quadrille,  
And seek admiration by vauntingly telling  
Of drawing and painting and musical skill,  
But give me the fair one, in country or city,  
Whose home and its duties are dear to her heart,  
Who cheerfully warbles some rustical ditty  
While plying the needle with exquisite art:  
The bright little needle—the swift flying needle,  
The needle directed by beauty and art.

IF love has a potent, a magical token,  
A talisman, ever resistless and true—  
A charm that is never evaded or broken,  
A witchery certain the heart to subdue,  
'Tis this—and his armory never has furnished  
So keen and unerring or polished a dart.  
Let beauty direct it, so pointed and burnished,  
And, oh, it is certain of touching the heart!  
The bright little needle—the swift flying needle,  
The needle directed by beauty and art.

BE wise, then, ye maiden, nor seek admiration  
By dressing for conquest and flirting with all;  
You never, whatever be your fortune or station,  
Appear half so lovely at rout or at ball,  
As gayly convened at a work covered table,  
Each cheerfully active and playing her part,  
Beguiling the task with a song or a fable  
And plying the needle with exquisite art:  
The bright little needle—the swift flying needle,  
The needle directed by beauty and art.  
—Samuel Woodworth.

### Waked Up John.

"John," said Mrs. Dorkins, "stop reading your paper just a moment."  
"All right. What is it, Maria?"  
"Before you come home this afternoon I want you to go to some store and get me a dozen thumb tacks. Think you can remember that?"  
"Certainly."

"If there's any more than one size—listen now—I want the larger ones. You won't forget?"  
"No."

Late that afternoon M. Dorkins remembered.

He rushed over to the nearest department store.

"I wish you'd tell me," he said to the floorwalker, "where you keep your—er—thumbtacks."

"Chamber of horrors, top floor, northwest corner," said the floorwalker, pushing him in the direction of the elevator.—Chicago Tribune.

### Locating Avignon.

Sir Frederick Pollock used to tell this story of a dilettante society: The qualification for membership was that the candidate had been met in Italy by the proposing member, but once it happened that a candidate was elected who had been met at Avignon. The error was discovered, and the society proceeded to vote "that, in the opinion of the society, Avignon is in Italy." This, however, seemed a ticklish precedent to establish, so they gravely laid their heads together and solemnly resolved in a further motion "that, in the opinion of this society, Avignon is the only town in France which is in Italy."

It is said that the men of Cambodia, unlike other Asiatic races, take excellent care of the women.

More than half of Sweden is covered with forests, and 15 per cent of its surface is within the arctic circle.

"Does your dog ever growl?" "No. He knows that my husband has him hopelessly outclassed."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Women workers in Chilean factories are entitled to one hour daily without loss of pay in order to care for their young children.

State representatives of the Fire Association of Philadelphia and the London & Lancashire Fire Insurance Company have been spending the better part of the week in town transferring the agency of the late V. O. Boots to Geo. W. Chesebro, who has purchased the business from Mrs. Boots.

Mr. Chesebro's insurance experience dates back many years and the patrons and policy holders of these old reliable companies can congratulate themselves upon having a man so well versed in insurance to take over the business for continuation.

Mr. Chesebro comes highly recommended as a man of business affairs and to many townsmen he is not a stranger as he has spent a part of the summer months in the vicinity of Monmouth in looking after

his farm situated about four miles west of town.

Mrs. Chesebro is expected soon to establish their home on Monmouth Avenue. We welcome them to our midst.

The annual budget meeting of the taxpayers of the county attracted a considerable attendance from Monmouth last Saturday, the Grangers being especially active in the project to have a county agent appointed, as the federal food bureau has requested. The maintaining of a county agent was adopted unanimously at the meeting and at the same time a provision in the budget for \$400 annually for a fruit inspector, was cut off.

Miss Grace Porter, office assistant to Supt. Crowley, was married Christmas day to Samuel Lowry and will live on a farm near Rickreall.

### When do Fashions Change

This very curious question is given a logical interpretation in the January issue of Good Housekeeping. To quote: "The question is about as easy to answer as that old conundrum, 'How old is Anne?' But as a matter of fact the best answer would be that fashions are always changing, and it is the subtle, little change that comes between seasons that frequently gives the note of the more radical change that comes with the turn of the season—be it during spring or autumn. Just now the winter fashions are at their height.

One is struck by two things; first, the simplicity that marks the really well-dressed woman, and second the lavish use of fur. Logically enough, there is a war-time feeling that we should be moderate in dress, and this moderation is to be noticed—but owing to the cold in Paris, furs have been employed for the reason for which they were originally intended, warmth. And we here have followed this fashion, not alone for its warmth, but for its beauty. Castor and nutria are worn more than any other fur, and are universally becoming." The article is concluded with a number of very practical illustrations and suggestions.

## To our Policy Holders and Patrons.

The Insurance Agency of the late V. O. Boots and the goodwill of Mrs. Sarah Boots has been purchased by Mr. Geo. W. Chesebro who will continue to represent the undersigned in the capacity as Agent.

We bespeak for Mr. Chesebro the same loyal patronage which has, for so many years, been enjoyed by ourselves in this agency.

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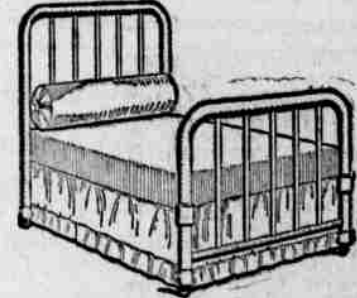
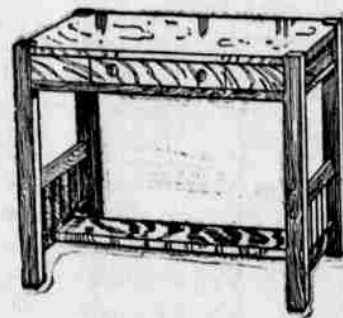
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