Element of Decay.

Indirect influence had its nearly perfect work in the Persian empire, where the Queen Mother was permitted to exercise an injurious influence over the king, the court, and the empire. It was one of the tendencies which leads Sayce, the historian, to say, after touching upon it: "In short, the empire contained within it from the first all the elements of decay."

Wisdom in Action.

The times are waiting for men who shall serve and not merely inquire; strive and not merely investigate; give to their age and their kind not so much learning in bulk as wisdom in action; great doing as the only true fruitage of great thinking; the consecration to the uplifting of one's fellowmen of one's best rather than the conserving by mere culture of one's self. —Henry Potter.

Blessed Sympathy.

Sympathy with animals blesses and humanizes men and women. To get into real relations with an animal is a liberal education. It is something to be really interested even in a plant and to observe the working of life in any sphere not our own. How much more when that life is directing a personality which consciously looks up to us and will love us if we will let it!—Christian Register.

Longevity in French Villages.

A remarkable record of longevity is to be found in some of the rural parishes of France. In the village of St. Thomas de la Fliche there have been only fourteen parish priests in three hundred years, the fourteenth being still in possession. The parish of St. Germain du Val, in Paris, has had only three pastors in one hundred years, while that of Givry en Argonne has had but five in 130 years.

No Wonder.

Nerve Specialist—My dear sir, I can't understand your case at all. Here you were practically cured a few days ago and now your nerves are in frightful shape again. Have you had a sudden shock of some kind? Patient—I received your bill yesterday.

The Most Original Authors.

The most original modern authors are not so because they advance what is new, but simply because they know how to put what they have to say as if it had never been said before.—Goethe.

Useful Instrument in Farm House.

Every farm house should have a harness needle in it. One of the many uses to which the needle can be put is to sew rips in shoes that may save an extra trip to the cobbler's.—Home Department, National Magazine.

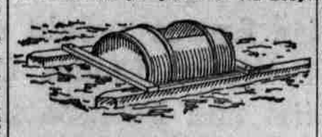
SOMETHING for the LITTLE ONES

EASY TO MAKE BARREL BOAT

Timbers Attached Prevent Capsizing and May Be Constructed by Any Handy Boy.

A boat that any handy boy can easily make is constructed of a barrel which is kept with the opening cut in one side up by two 4 by 6-in timbers and two tie pieces, 2 by 4, says the Popular Mechanics. The lengths of these pieces will depend on the size of the barrel.

A good watertight barrel should be selected and an opening cut in the center between the hoops, of such a size as to allow the body of the occupant room for handling an oar. The timbers are attached to the barrel with iron straps—pieces of old hoops



A Barrel Boat.

will do. The two tie pieces are put across the timbers at the ends of the barrel and spiked in place.

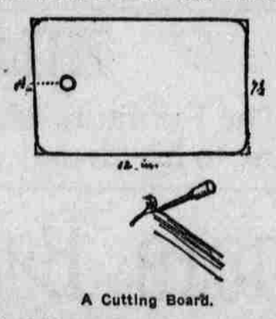
The boat is to be propelled with a single, double-end paddle. There is no danger of the boat capsizing or the water splashing into the barrel.

CUTTING BOARD QUITE HANDY

Convenient Article for Use in Any Play Room May Be Made of Ordinary Piece of Pine.

Use pine three-quarters of an inch thick. You should have a piece 7½ inches by 12 inches for a cutting board.

Round the corners by making them one-quarter of a circle whose radius is three-quarters of an inch. Round with the grain of the wood, as shown



A Cutting Board.

in the figure. Do not go quite to the line with the chisel, and finish with the plane.

Next drill the hole. Drill until the point of the drill begins to come through the wood and then take it out and put the point in on the other side of the board. When the hole is finished, plane the sides of the board and finish it with sandpaper.

LIFE OF CHINESE STUDENTS

Exercise Is Not Given Attention It Should Receive in Far East Colleges —Much Superstition.

The life of the Chinese college student is different in many ways from that of students in our own universities. The Chinese student is not very strong physically. He has stooped shoulders and a pale complexion. His life is not wholesome, for he sleeps in a small room which is not ventilated, and he does not eat very wholesome food.

Exercise is not given the attention it should have in the Chinese college. The intercollegiate sports include a 100-yard dash, the high jump, pole vault, 200-yard run and a football game. In the Imperial university at Pekin the teachers are gathered from all parts of the world. The Chinese believe that topics that are foreign to them should be taught by foreigners. The students accept practically all of the foreign teachings except medicine. The medicine which is taught is largely Chinese and is made up of many superstitions. The Chinese believe that a man has nine pulses and two hearts. They do not believe in cutting up dead human bodies for the purpose of studying their parts, as we do. They would not do this because they think the disembodied spirit might return to punish them through torture.

Wanted His Cream Spanked.

"Mamma," said four-year-old Bobby, "what is that white stuff on my berries?"

"That is what we call whipped cream," answered his mother.

A few days later Bobby dined at a neighbors and, being offered some ordinary cream, he asked: "Haven't you folks got any spanked cream?"

Just Turn Around.

I can stretch my arms apart, having a coin in each hand, and yet without bringing my hands together, I can cause both coins to come into the same hand. How is this to be done?

Answer:—Place the coin on a table, then, turning round, take it up with the other hand.

An Ox Problem.

If 12 oxen will eat 3 acres and one third of grass in 4 weeks and 21 oxen will eat 10 acres in 9 weeks—how many oxen will eat 24 acres in 18 weeks, the grass being allowed to grow uniformly.

Answer—Seven hundred and twenty.

Willing to Please Again.

Little James while at a neighbor's was given a piece of bread and butter, and politely said, "Thank you."

"That's right, James," said the lady, "I like to hear little boys say 'Thank you.'"

"Well," rejoined James, "if you want to hear me say it again you might put some jam on it."

SKELETON OF GIANT

REMAINS OF A BIG INDIAN FOUND IN CALIFORNIA.

Seven Feet Four Inches Was the Height of Member of Extinct Race Whose Bones Were Dug Up.

San Francisco, Cal.—Up to about 100 years ago a giant race of Indians inhabited the coast region of California. Remains of these have been discovered in the islands of the Santa Barbara channel. To William Altmann, assistant curator of the Golden Gate Park Memorial museum, belongs the honr of discovering one of the tallest and best preserved skeletons of this extinct tribe.

Altmann utilized his vacation in excavating an old Indian burial mound on the nursery of Thomas S. Duane, two miles from Concord, in Contra Costa county. The giant skeleton was found ten feet from the surface, and around it were a large number of mortars and pestles, charm stones and obsidian arrow heads.

The skeleton has not yet been mounted, but the bones were assembled on a table in the curator's office and placed on private exhibition. The bones are in good state of preservation, being hard and firm, although brown with age. Two or three of the vertebra are missing, and the skull is broken into three parts. The skeleton measures seven feet four inches. The tibia is seventeen inches in length.

The skull is in great contrast with that of the Digger Indian of the present day, being of a much more intellectual type. The under jaw is square and massive, being remarkably thick and strong. Either the dead Indian was of great age or he subsisted on hard food, as shown by his molars, which are worn perfectly flat and close to the gums.

The find is of the greatest importance to anthropologists the world over, confirming as it does, the theory advanced when the giant skeletons were unearthed in the Santa Barbara islands, that a superior race of Indians, physically and mentally, preceded the Digger and other native races of the present day. This is evidenced also in the pestles and charm stones found near the body.

The former are ornamented with phallic carvings, whereas the pestles made by the former and present day Diggers, are not carved or ornamented in any way. The charm stones are of baked clay, a beginning in the art of pottery making, which are not found with Digger remains.

This interesting find was made on the Salvador Pacheco ranch, part of which is occupied by Duane's nursery. It is Altmann's intention to make a further exploration of the mound at an early date for other relics of the bygone tribe.

TAKES PAL'S PLACE IN JAIL

Man Breaks Into Lockup and Frees Chum, but Lands in Latter's Cell.

Altoona, Pa.—Breaking into the borough lockup at Tyrone, William Neugebauer liberated a comrade, William Davidson, but subsequently landed in the cell vacated by the latter.

Davidson was arrested the other day for disorderly conduct on a train between Altoona and Tyrone, and was confined in the lockup to await a hearing. Neugebauer went to the lockup about midnight, picked the lock on the door and walked in, found the cell keys hanging on a peg, opened Davidson's cell, and the two departed a few hours later.

"Hey, Billie! Let me out, too," cried another inmate, but the request was ignored, whereupon the unliberated one "peached" on Billie to Chief of Police Wands a few hours later.

Neugebauer was arrested, and when arraigned before a magistrate made no defense, so he was held for court. Meantime his pal, Davidson, has gone away on a vacation.

Kept Vow Sixty-Eight Years.

St. Louis, Mo.—John M. Frey, eighty-nine years, old kept a vow 68 years, in which time he never crossed the Mississippi river, though he had lived continuously in St. Louis. Born in Switzerland and christened there Giovenne Frei he came to St. Louis at the age of twenty.

The three months' trip in crossing the ocean so disgusted and terrified the young Swiss-Italian that he vowed on reaching St. Louis he never again would trust his body over water. Ferries at St. Louis were succeeded by bridges, but the vow was kept, and he did not cross the river.

Didn't Like New York Bean.

New York.Philip Walsh, fourteen, of Boston, who came here to make his fortune, became homesick in two days. He told City Hall Park Policeman Campbell that New York beans were not fit to eat.

Twice Dislocates Neck.

Camden, N. J.—Turning his head to dodge a falling timber at the New York shipyards in Camden the other day, Hugh Washburn, forty-nine years old, dislocated his neck for the second time within two years.

He was taken to Cooper hospital suffering terrible agony, where it was stated that he would recover.

Washburn was injured in a like manner while working in a Baltimore shipyard two years ago.

Woman Miner Spurns the Ballot.

Pittsburg, Pa.—Far back in the coke regions of southwestern Pennsylvania has been found a woman who for 30 years has worked side by side with her husband in the coal mines. Approached by suffragettes and asked if she would like to vote, just as her husband, she declared she would rather let her husband do that.

Small Reward.

Kalamazoo, Mich.—A Burdick hotel chambermaid, who found $40,000 worth of jewelry belonging to a New York salesman which had been lost for 14 hours, received $1 reward.

CONFORMATION IS ESSENTIAL IN BREEDING DRAFT HORSES

Of the 100,000 Animals Marketed at Chicago Not More Than 5,000 Would be Termed A-1—Economy of Heavy Mare on Farm for Work and Producing Colts is Summed Up by Expert.

An Excellent Farm Team.

There are a number of considerations for the farmers to keep in mind in breeding horses for the draft horse trade. Among these are that size, weight, condition and character each bear an important influence in determining the prices paid on the markets and therefore that this influence is reflected upon the prices which they receive from the country shippers and buyers, says the Wisconsin Agriculturist. Nothing that influences the large central markets for the products of the farm fails to affect the sale of a single article directly on the farm.

Probably the one thing which the general run of horses that reach the markets lack more often than any other is size and incidentally therefore weight. It is stated from good authority that there are more good horses marketed in the Union Stock Yards at Chicago than any other place in the United States, and yet of the 100,000 horses marketed there not more than 25,000 would weigh over 1,550 pounds, and not more than 5,000 were what would be termed A-1 horses. First class draft horses for the city trade should not weigh less than 1,600 pounds when in working condition, and if they weigh 1,750 pounds they will satisfy all the better. To carry such weights horses should stand about 16 hands high or over and should have conformations in proportion.

The condition of a horse is all important, both as to soundness and thrift. Horses that have poor feet, bad hocks, weak wind, or poor shoulders are sticklers on the market. They sell very slowly and at very low prices. So also do horses that are in a poor condition of thrift. Fat always helps to sell horses quickly and at good prices, for it makes them look good and the horses, moreover, do not need to be conditioned before they can be put to work. A horse which looks thin when it leaves the farm is liable to look considerably thinner after it has been shipped and arrives at the sales stables. Fat horses ship far better than thin, thriftless ones. Then, too, the suspicion of being a poor doer on the best of care is liable to attach itself to the thin horse in the mind of the buyer, whereas when he looks upon a well conditioned horse no such suspicion occurs to him.

Character is a valuable asset to any horse that is placed on the market, and like size and weight is generally lacking in the usual stock of horses to be selected from in the country. A horse that shows intelligence, good breeding and those qualities that come through careful handling and good training will outsell the common, plain looking horses by a considerable margin; size, weight and condition being otherwise alike.

The man on the farm engaging in horse production from the viewpoint of dollars and cents and anxious to make his acres earn the highest net returns should breed his mares to the best sires that are available combining size, weight, soundness and character, and should breed to them consistently. They should endeavor also as soon as possible, either by purchase or by breeding up, to possess themselves of big drafty mares combining those qualities. The only regrettable thing about the sale of the dapple gray mares on the January 11, 1912 Chicago horse market for $1,000, is that the mares were not purchased by some good farmer to be used for breeding and farm work purposes instead of by a Chicago teaming firm to draw a big wagon. It is regrettable that they should ever have gotten away from the farm, for if they were worth $1,000 for drawing a big wagon and heavy loads, certainly they were worth that on the farm where they could do work to earn their cost of maintenance and raise colts worth $1,000.

The economy of the heavy mare on the farm, both from the standpoint of doing farm work and producing colts compared with light and medium weight mares is nicely summed up as follows by Secretary Dinsmore of the Percheron Society of America: "The cost of maintenance under farm conditions is about the same, the heavier mares are more efficient in the work of the farm, the colts are ready for work a year younger, and if carried to the same age, will bring about twice as much as the colts from the light weight mares and about one-third or one-quarter more than the colts from the medium weight mares."

This summary was drawn up after some careful thinking, upon the question being put to the secretary by an extensive land owner looking forward to the purchase and breeding of horses, "What kind of mares should I use? I want to know all things considered, whether I should buy a 1,200 pound, a 1,400 pound or a 1,700 pound mare?" In other words, the land owner as a business man wanted to know whtat would be the relative cost of maintenance, what the relative efficiency on the farm and what the relative market value of the colts produced, of these three classes of mares. Here is how he thinks out the matter, and his thinking was based on extended observation and experience:

All three classes can, of course, be managed, as far as maintenance cost is concerned, at about the same general figures. But in respect to working efficiency, if we rate the 1,700 pound horse at 100 per cent., liberal allowance is made if the 1,450 pound horse is credited at 90 per cent., and the 1,200 pound horse at 80 per cent. The colts bred to a good draft sire will average somewhere about 1,500 pounds; colts from 1,450 pound mares 1,600 to 1,700 pounds, and colts from 1,700 pound mares, 1,800 to 2,000 pounds. Then, too, the lighter weight colts necessarily make their full weight only at maturity and they will not be fit to sell until they are four and one-half or five years of age. The same is true of the medium weight colts, but buyers are scouring the country for heavy colts. Every good gelding is gathered up at three years of age. The heavier colts sell earlier, or if carried until they are older and then put on the market, the prices advance accordingly. Colts weighing around 1,500 pounds will not bring more than $140 to $175 on the average, because they come in competition with the great glut of common light drafters on the market. Those weighing around 1,650 pounds to 1,700 pounds will bring $200 to $240, and heavy weight geldings will bring $300 to $350. The heavy mares therefore produce colts that bring from one-third to twice as much money as the lower weight mares.

Sizes of Silos.

A silo 12 feet in diameter and 30 feet high will hold when full about 75 tons of silage. A silo 14 feet in diameter and 30 feet high will hold about 103 tons. Twelve cows require 36 tons of silage to supply them 200 days at the rate of 30 pounds a day. A silo 10 feet in diameter and 22 to 24 feet high would be a very good size for this number of cattle. If it is desirable to make some preparation for summer, and as a rule it is, then the silo should be built still higher. On reasonably good land a yield of 16 tons per acre of green corn may be expected. On very rich land as high as 20 tons of green corn are produced.

Don't Excite Cows.

Do not allow the cows to become excited by hard driving, abuse, loud talking, or any unnecessary disturbance.

USING GROUND FEED FOR HOGS

Fed in Conjunction With Corn Will Bring Animals Up to Large Weight in Short Time.

In finishing hogs I make a slop of ground oats and shelled corn (ground) and a small handful of oilmeal to each hog, says a writer in Swine Breeders' Journal. This feed, in conjunction with ear corn, or shock corn if possible, will bring hogs up to large weights in a surprisingly short time.

I believe that most up-to-date stock raisers will agree that with such kinds of grain as wheat, rye and barley, grinding and mixing with other feeds is absolutely essential. For example, no one would think of feeding wheat to hogs without first thoroughly soaking it or running it through a feed mill. It may not be necessary to grind it very fine, but it should at least be crushed pretty completely, or ground fine enough so that the hard, compact portions of the grain will not go through the animal, undigested. This is true for old as well as young animals.

Another point upon which most people will agree is that for the young growing stock, especially animals which do not have a full set of teeth, grinding is necessary. It not only enables young animals to get more of their feed, but they eat greater quantities and grow much more rapidly. On unground feed of the type noted, a young animal would do very little good; but if wheat, barley, rye, etc., be ground and mixed with a little corn, they will thrive.

Leveling Board.

A leveling board attached to the cultivator helps to reduce the loss of soil moisture by evaporation. When the ground is kept fine and level, less surface is exposed to the air and the capillarity at the surface is less active.

Market for Skimmed Milk.

Skimmed milk finds its best market in the pig pen.

Mirage Easy to Be Seen.

The celebrated Fata Morgana, a presentation of natural "moving pictures" on an immense scale which is occassionally seen in the Straits of Messina, is explained by a scientific writer as being a mirage, such as frequently occurs in various parts of the world; "in fact," he says, "one may see a mirage any day by looking through the stratum of air overlying a hot stove, or adjacent to the side of a wall heated in the sunshine." Young scientists will be interested in verifying this statement.

Displeased the Widow.

A Philadelphia traveling man, having gone upon that journey for which there is no return ticket, his many friends of the road consulted together as to the remembrance to be sent by them, and finally decided upon a design which was not only original, but which they considered peculiarly appropriate. They never could understand why the widow would not receive the beautiful suit case, made of white flowers, with the words, "His last trip," in purple violets, on one side.

Worth of Clothes.

The influence of clothes must continue to be, as it has been from the beginning of histroy, either "sacred or or profane," a foremost factor in those forces by which man's destiny is guided. His health and comfort, aims and purposes, social standing and business prosperity; everything indeed that makes his life worth living may be affected by it in directions never dreamed of by the tailor who, if he does not actually make the man, is largely instrumental in making him what he is.

Their Proper Place.

The folks who are perpetually protesting that their consciences are clear and that they have nothing for which to reproach themselves are generally in a bad way, for the probability is that their much-vaunted consciences have stopped working and are of no further use. Such people never allow that they are in the wrong; their favorite sentence is, "I told you so!" and their proper place is on a desert island with thick skinned turtles for boon companions

Hair Fabrics.

In the manufacture of hair fabrics the hair is reduced to a paste by a solvent and all kinds of hair and fibers are used. The paste is run through an artificial silk spinner and drawn from the spinner in threads. Some of these are a yard or more in length. They can be braided or woven like artificial horse-hair. Hair composition of superior quality is kept for the manufacture of wigs and braids.—Harper's Weekly.

Ancient Italian City.

Asolo, which inspired two of Browning's verses in "Asolando," and which is observing the centenary, is a fortified town in Treviso, in northern Italy. It was the ancient Acelum, and possesses a cathedral and a ruined aqueduct. The former palace of Catharine Cornaro, queen of Cyprus, is in the neighborhood. There are beautiful seats in the vicinity, and the town has a population of under 6,000.—London Globe.

Pastor's Merited Rebuke.

When Samuel S. Colber was preaching in an old log schoolhouse in Johnson county, Missouri, in 1852, his congregation was quite small. One Sunday all were sitting at the desks forward near the puncheon floor. The sermon was monotonous and the old log seats had no backs. Observing the sleepy, downcast look of the congregation, the minister woke them up by shouting: "Arouse, heaven is not under the floor!"

Have You Noticed These?

An inventor in America has earned the thanks of all who have been seeking after a really sanitary form of kissing. In certain parts of that great country, when young ladies go to parties and places where they kiss, they are provided with a sterilized ivory ring, mounted on a silver handle. This is interposed between the kisser and the kissee, and the resulting sensation is known as "pasteurized pleasure," or "germless joy."—London Answers.

Stabbed by Umbrella.

Perhaps the strangest weapon ever used for killing was an umbrella. In October, 1908, a man named Ernest Smith was found dead in Chiswick High street, England. He had a punctured wound in the eye which had reached his brain and which the doctors agreed had undoubtedly been caused by the steel ferrule of an umbrella.

Uncle Pennywise Says:

Countless ages of time passed, as we compute time—before the earth was prepared for the advent of man. The oldest civilization known is that of Egypt, and the pyramids are things of yesterday compared with the formation of the alluvial plains of the Euphrates, or the delta of the Mississippi, not to mention the Laurentian rocks.

The Peanut Flux.

The last thing to recover from the effects of a big celebration is the five-cent bag of peanuts. It dwindles painfully during the influx of great crowds. Other foods remain comparatively stable in quantity for a fixed price but the mob diminishes the allowance of peanuts for a nickel by half.

Lacking Important Point.

Can a woman be a successful "magician?" A contemporary wizard says that she can, and that in London there are many society women who have taken a course in wizardy as a means of becoming proficient in some kind of "parlor trick" by which to entertain company. It does seem, though, that a magician without coat sleeves to pull back, as a preliminary to doing his marvels, would be fatally deficient in paraphernalia.

His Grounds.

By a queer trick of politics an ignorant and pompous old darky was elected judge of a minor court in a certain western state. In the first case over which he presided he made a ruling so absurd that the lawyer whose case was affected by it said: "This is a very strange ruling, your honor. Upon what grounds do you make it?" "What grounds—does you say? Why, dese yer' co'thouse grounds, of co'se!" replied the judge.—Judge.

Its Only Purpose.

"O Willie, Willie," cried a teacher to a hopelessly dull pupil, "whatever do your think your head is for?" Willie, who evidently thought this another of the troublesome questions that teachers were always asking, pondered it deeply. "Please, miss," he replied at length, "to keep my collar on!"—Youth's Companion.