

MADE OF GLASS.

Many Odd Articles Now Fashioned from This Material.

Wearing Apparel, Coffins, Fish Bait and House Furnishings Among the Number—Glass Houses a Future Possibility.

There is an inventor who is known at the patent office in Washington as the Glass Man. His name is C. W. McLean, of New Bern, N. C., and during the last few years he has obtained patents for a surprising number of devices in glass.

Among these is a glass coffin, which is guaranteed proof against decay and rats. So long as no deliberate attempt is made to smash it, it ought to last forever. Another contrivance is a staircase made wholly of glass—steps, landings and novel posts being all of that material. Yet another is a glass barrel, but perhaps the most remarkable invention of the Glass Man is a billiard table of glass.

The day may yet arrive when people will live in glass houses. A patent has been secured by other inventors for glass bricks of a peculiar pattern. The material of which they are composed being a first-rate non-conductor, these bricks will keep the cold out of a dwelling built of them, while admitting the light. It is claimed that they will exclude noise, being hollow. Furthermore, the inmates of a glass house need not be afraid of being under too close observation by neighbors, inasmuch as it is not requisite that the bricks shall be transparent. They may be opaque ground glass, or of any color that may be suitable for decorative effect.

Thus before many years have passed it will be considered the height of luxury, perhaps, to occupy a dwelling of glass. Glass bricks, of course, are expensive. People who live in glass houses will be able to afford to wear clothes of glass. Nearly 20 years ago there was shown at the Centennial exposition in Philadelphia a bonnet composed entirely of glass. It was a love of a bonnet. The flowers on it were glass, and so were the ribbons, which looked like the finest satin. The patentee of this process describes it as suitable for the manufacture of neckties, shawls, table covers, etc.

In fabrics of this kind a very fine quality of glass is used. It is spun in threads of exceeding delicacy, and of these several colors may be produced at the same time. They are woven in a loom of ordinary pattern. Anybody may observe that a thin sheet of glass is somewhat elastic. The threads employed in weaving are of such fineness as to be perfectly pliable and not at all brittle. With a gown of glass would naturally go a pair of glass slippers. Not like Cinderella's. Oh, no! Cinderella did not wear glass slippers. Her slippers in the original French story were of "vair," which means fur. Vair and "verre," meaning glass, are pronounced exactly alike. Hence the corruption.

A Pittsburgh man named Smith has invented a process for making glass slippers in molds. They would not do very well for dancing. There is no reason why a glass gown should not be woven of iridescent glass, and its wearer would look like an animated rainbow on a ballroom floor—one dazzling shimmer of ever-changing hues.

Until recently the manufacture of iridescent glass was set down in the list of the lost arts. But in 1878 it was rediscovered, and now it is a common commercial article. It is made by exposing the melted glass to the vapors of salts of sodium. At the Metropolitan museum of art are exhibited great numbers of bottles, plates and other articles of glass which were made and used long before Christ was born. They were dug up in Cyprus and elsewhere. Many of them have a beautiful iridescence, but it is the result of decay. Glass will rot like anything else, and decay has split the structure of this ancient glass into laminae or flakes, which interrupt the light so as to produce brilliant red, green, purple and other rainbow colors.

The window-blinds of the glass house of the future will be of glass, of course. That is another patent, and the inventor suggests that such blinds may be made of whatever colors are desired. Baby in the nursery perhaps will play with glass building blocks, and at a suitable age he will receive a Christmas gift of a pair of roller skates with glass rollers. Both of these ideas have been patented.

When he is old enough to go fishing he will not dig worms in the garden, but will be provided with artificial bait in the shape of a hollow minnow of glass, coated on the inside partly with a solution of gold or silver and partly with a luminous paint. The originator of this minnow says that it is a brilliant object in the water and calculated to compel the attention of any fish that has a particle of appetite.

Glass bedsteads may be proof against lightning and bugs, but it is hardly to be expected that glass houses should be free from mice. The inmates could hardly do better than to employ glass traps for the capture of such vermin. The great advantage of the glass mousetrap, according to the statement of the inventor, is that "if a mouse should enter the trap, he may be seen by others who chance to come that way, and they will be inclined to join the one inside, especially when they observe that he is nibbling a choice morsel."

Up to date the glass mousetrap has not made itself popular, notwithstanding the important arguments in its favor, and of the most of the other devices described it is unfortunately true that they have not proved profitable to the persons who have contrived them. This remark however, by no means applies to the glass lemon-squeezer, which is already a familiar household utensil. The inventor of it is said to have sold his rights for \$50,000.—N. Y. World.

FRENCH LOSSES IN WAR.

Six Million Men Said to Have Perished in the Wars of the Last Century.

Dr. Lagrenon of the French academy of medicine has been making an estimate of the deaths by the wars of France for the past century. He finds, according to the New York Sun, that the civil wars of the end of the eighteenth century and of the republic up to and including the year 1800 cost the lives of more than 2,130,000 Frenchmen. From the year 1801 to Waterloo, when France was fighting Europe in arms, more than 2,130,000 Frenchmen were engaged and nearly 2,000,000 perished. Under the restoration, Louis Philippe, and the second republic, when there were campaigns in Spain, Greece, and Algeria, the army included less than 215,000 men, and the loss in battle was only twenty-two per thousand. Even in the brilliant African campaigns the mean annual loss was less than 150 men.

Next came an era of frequent and bloody wars, the war in the Crimea, the war in Italy, the war in China, the war in Mexico, and finally the war with Prussia. Out of rather less than 310,000 French soldiers sent to the Crimea 25,515 perished. Of the 500,000 that took part in the Italian war nearly 19,000 perished. Nearly 1,000 perished in the expedition to China. The medical statistics of the French in the war of 1870 have not been published, nor have those of the Mexican undertaking. The effective strength of the French in 1870-71 was 1,400,000 men. The number lost is not positively known, but it is believed that the wars of the second empire cost 1,600,000 lives. Dr. Lagrenon estimates that the small wars of the third republic have been fought at comparatively small cost of human life. He estimates the total loss for the century to have been 6,000,000 of men, mostly young.

HE REMEMBERED.

But His Prospective Hostess Got Back at Him Just the Same.

Washington society has been described in so many different ways that people in general have no definite correct idea of it; but that there are many bright people there is abundantly proved in a little book called "The Show in Washington," in which the following story is given:

Mavrogeni Bey, the young Turkish minister, aspires to be a society leader. A young hostess was issuing verbal invitations to her friends for an informal five-o'clock tea.

The minister, overhearing her, mullingly begged that he might be included in the list, and at the same time called out to his secretary, who entered the room: "Monsieur Effendi, mademoiselle has asked me to tea with her at five o'clock to-morrow. Remember the engagement for me."

The following day the party met early in the afternoon at the white house, and upon seeing his hostess-to-be, he crossed the room, saying:

"Is it not this afternoon at five that I am to have the pleasure of taking tea with you?"

"I do not remember," was the response of the young lady. "Ask your secretary."

WOMEN'S POSTSCRIPTS.

Reasons Why They Are So Prone to Write Them.

"Why women write postscripts" is a problem that has been engaging the attention of one of the London women's weeklies. The answers betray that the sex understands itself, and does not mind exposing its amiable weaknesses. All are from women who ascribe, among others, these reasons: "Because they seek to rectify want of thought by an afterthought;" "Because they are fond of having a last word;" "Because they write before they think, and think after they have written." Our correspondent puts down the feminine P. S. to the same cause "which leads women to prolonged leave-taking in omnibuses, namely," and rather profoundly it appears to the casual observer, "that they lack organization of thought." Another woman comes to the defense of her sisters with the suggestion "that when women have anything special to communicate they know that their P. S. is equivalent to N. B.," and yet another friendly soul turns a neat compliment in her reason: "Probably because woman herself is the embodiment of the P. S. in the scale of creation, she—the indispensable—was added last."

CRICKET FIGHTING.

One of the Favorite Sports of Chinese Gamblers.

The Chinese are inveterate gamblers, and never lose an opportunity to bet, no matter how trivial the cause may be. One of their great institutions is cricket fighting, the crickets being caught, fed and trained carefully as a blooded horse.

There is a fixed diet for them, part of the food consisting of honey and boiled chestnuts. If they get sick they are fed with mosquitoes. Prior to fighting their weight is ascertained and duly recorded, there being a fixed regulation as to their size and weight.

On the door of the house in which the fight is to take place the record of each cricket is posted up, and the owner of the winner gets ten per cent. of all the bets.

The cricket pit is a low tub placed on a table, and, after weighing, the combatants are put in it and tickled with straws until they rush at each other with loud chirrups and fight until one of them is killed.

He Would Get It.

Lord Cockburn, though a successful defender of prisoners, failed on one occasion to get an acquittal for a murderer. "The culprit," Mr. Crook James tells us, in his "Curiosities of Law and Lawyers," "after the sentence fixing his execution for the 29th of the month, had not been removed from the dock when his counsel passed him, and was then seized by the gown. The prisoner said: 'I have not got justice, Mr. Cockburn.' To this counsel gravely replied: 'Perhaps not, but you'll get it on the 29th.'"



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