

MEXICAN SCORPIONS.
Numbers, Varieties, Danger and Peculiar Habits.
The most common pests in the tropics are the scorpions, which are the scourge of the yearling children of the year. They are within the house, and are found in the wall, between the bricks, and in the floor, hiding inside your shoes, and darting everywhere with an incredible rapidity, their tails (the stinging end) which holds the sting, and which is up with dangerous effect on the slightest provocation. Turn over the rug or tablecloth, and you will find a colony of them; and your shoes in the morning and your bath sponge, and your water and half a dozen of them in your cool depths, into which they wriggle for a siesta, in short, the scorpion must be treated with care of medicine, to be well before taken.
The average scorpion is mahogany-colored and about two inches long; but I have seen them as long as five inches. They are of a yellowish variety are considered the most dangerous, and their bite is apprehended at midday. In the tropics they are black, and so alarm- ing—having been allowed to live for centuries in the deserted ruins of the government of a head (or rather, per tail) ever will kill them. Their sting is fatal, but is more or less according to the state of the victim. Victims have been known to die in convulsions, foam- ing the mouth, with stomach swelled beyond measure, while others do not suffer more than from a bee sting. Common remedies are brandy, taken in small quantities to stupefy the system, ammonia, administered both orally and internally, boiled silk floss, and a large key, or other sharp object, to force out the poison. As most of my friends are aware, this species of in- sect, of Arachnida, of the Palmaria, are distinguished by having the abdomen articulated, with a sharp, curved extremity, beneath which the venom is supplied by two poison-glands at the end of the segment. The anterior feet, or palpi, are modified into claws, like those of the lob- ber, which it seizes its prey, while its feet resemble those of ordi- nary spiders. Naturalists divide the subgenus according to the color of their eyes, whether sta- tionary. They eat the eggs of insects, and also feed on beetles and flies, piercing the prey with their stingers again and again before they eat. When alarmed or in a scorpion "shows fight" im- mediately, running about and wav- ing in all directions; for attack, and, evidently aware of its danger, the young scorpions are pro- ducibly frequent inter- mingles displaying far greater ferocity than their parents. During infancy she carries them clinging in great numbers to her back and tail, never leaving her for a moment, unless, over- come by their weight, her hold re- laxes, and she falls from the wall and down falls the happy family in a wad. The children generally reward her devotion by destroying her as soon as they are old, leaving her piecemeal with the ferocity. Betsy and I amuse ourselves by studying their habits, and some expert in catching them, and suspending them in bottles to send to microscopically friends. —Boston Transcript.

Geologists have been unusually busy in their late work. Herr Jerusalem, has just lighted a second ditch of the long- made other discoveries with Constantine's church which the rewriting of the guide- The French School at Manti- discovered a large circular of the Roman period with inscribed terra-cotta representing theater tickets. Interesting work, however, is being done in Fayum, Egypt. He has been traveling a dilapidated ruin at Hawara, near the site of the labyrinth which Herodotus and Strabo declared to have been in magnitude to the pyra- mid of Amenemhat III. Traveling a long way through the walls twelve feet thick, down into the native rock, and evidently excavated to con- sider the structure. The work has been, as usual, by the hot sea- son, expected, however, in addi- tion to a new Pharaoh, to such valuable information con- sidered of which so little is

THE BUTTER-MILK CURE.
A Number of Cases in Which It Has Been Used with Beneficial Effect.
With the rapid growth of restructive medicine, comes opportunely the reintro- duction of old and well-known domestic remedies, among which buttermilk demands a respectable place. A young lady patient of the writer was suffering from a severe consumptive cough. None of the usual antispas- modics, expectorants, etc., seemed to do any good, simply because her stomach was too weak to bear enough medicine to effect the purpose. Finally I suggested to her mother the use of hot butter-milk. It was adopted at once. Her first night's experience was one of comparative freedom from cough and pain, and pleasant slumber for several hours. It was continued for a long time, with an unvarying relief of all her previous distressing symptoms, and an almost perfect freedom from cough for several hours after each draught of hot buttermilk.
Lingering at one time for weeks from an attack of congestive fever, dosed with calomel and quinine almost beyond endurance, the writer began to desire buttermilk to drink. The physi- cian "didn't believe in humoring the whims of patients," as he expressed it; besides, he contended that a single drink of the obnoxious fluid might pro- duce death, as acids and calomel were incompatible dwellers in the same stomach. But I was a good persuader, and my mother was a susceptible sub- ject. The buttermilk, "fresh from the churn," was procured and drank. No evil resulted; instead came a per- spiration and a speedy recovery.
Many years afterward I had missed my usual noon meal. It was about two or three o'clock p. m.—dinner, of course, was over—when I reached a farm-house, weak, tired, hungry and "all out of condition" for active work. Dinner was suggested by the house- wife. "No, indeed!" said I, "not this time; I am nearly home. But if you have any buttermilk I will take a drink of that to stay my stomach." A good, kind-hearted woman, she soon brought up a pitcher of buttermilk from the cool spring-house, while I examined my patients and prescribed for them. Perhaps a pint was drunk during the stay of nearly an hour. For months indigestion had held his unfriendly grasp on my stomach. From that notable day forward his reign was broken; my stomach, was healed, and I could ride all day, if necessary, with- out feeling so woe-begone from the lack of food as before the drinking of the buttermilk.
There are people, however, who can not use milk of any kind, nor butter; but to others it proves both food and medicine. —Popular Science News.

THE BEST PROTECTION.
How Young Mechanics Can Fortify Them- selves Against Competition.
The day is at hand when intelligent and educated mechanics are in demand, not perhaps as workmen on the com- mon classes of work, for that is gener- ally done by specialists in that particu- lar line; but in these days of great and constantly increasing new and im- proved designs in mechanisms, there is a call for a class of workmen capa- ble of designing and working out these new ideas, or developing those that have been designed by others.
There are to-day, in almost every large shop at least, a large number of men employed who are perhaps good workmen, or even experts in a special line, but who know very little of the business in a general way. These same men are taking the places of the more experienced all-around men, because they have spent their time in perfect- ing themselves in a particular line, and as a rule will sell their services for much less than the man who has taken the time to perfect himself as a machinist.
In order to protect himself against this class of "cheap labor," the young man who is ambitious to rise in the world of mechanics must fortify him- self against their encroachment behind a wall of superiority, skillfulness and progression, and by his superior ability to meet the demands of the age of pro- gression, create a new field for his labors and make his services so valuable that he may command a price that will enable him to feel repaid for the effort it has cost.
There is very little encouragement for a young man to spend three or four years learning a trade, only to find when he is ready to accept of a job that he must take his chances with others who have spent very little time, but can perform one single branch of work as well as he.
The country is overflowing with these specialists, men of no character or ability or ambition, who are yet able to earn much more in this way than they are able to do at any other trade, and yet are not sufficiently proficient to demand the pay of a thorough machinist.
It is a fact, which there is no gain- saying, that this class has done much to lower the standing and prospects of able and thoroughly practical men, and to lessen their prospects of gaining a respectable livelihood. —A. B. Grimes, in Boston Budget.

ABOUT THE BABY.
How to Feed Infants During the Hot Days of Summer.
Feed the baby pure milk and water with the addition of sugar. If possible the milk should be obtained from a new milch cow and unmixed with other milk. It is better to have it fresh twice a day but where this is impossi- ble the morning's milk will answer, if placed at once on ice.
Many mothers find that cows' milk does not agree with the baby, but this is in most cases because the milk is not sufficiently reduced with water. Prob- ably the doctor and the nurse will say, "one-half milk and one-half water," or "two parts water and one of milk," but for most children this is too strong. Three parts water, and one of milk, is amply sufficient for the average child; and if very delicate, four parts water and one of milk will be sufficient for the first three months.
"My baby 'throws up' her milk so often and then wants more," says one mother, "but I suppose it is a sign of a healthy baby to 'throw up.'" In one sense it is; in another it is quite absurd. Of course, if you have over- loaded your stomach with indigestible food, you will be relieved much sooner if you can 'throw up' than if the food remains in your system. But you do not regard your spell of vomiting as a sign of special health. You wish you had not eaten the indigestible food. So with baby. It is well if she can get rid of the indigestible food, but much bet- ter not to have taken it. In nine cases out of ten the food was too strong for her; add more pure water and she will be able to retain and digest it.
As I have said, three parts water and one part milk, for the first three months; from that to six months, two parts water, one of milk. Gradually increase the proportion of milk until at the age of one year the entire strength of the milk may be given.
If inclined to constipation sweeten the milk with brown sugar, otherwise with granulated.
Perfect cleanliness of the nursing bottle is of great importance. What- ever may be said in favor of the long tube bottles I believe the nipples which are drawn on over the bottles, are best. These you can remove, turn inside out, and be absolutely sure, are clean. Lime- water is excellent for cleaning both bottles and rubbers.
Prepare the quantity of milk to be used during the day, and set it on the ice. You then know just how much baby drinks and are much more likely to have the proportions correct than if prepared in a hurry when baby is cry- ing for it.
The best way to heat the milk is by pouring it into one of the bottles, (two should always be kept on hand) and placing it in a quart measure of hot water. Of course the water should not be warm enough to crack the bottle. The bottle in this way retains the heat and keeps the milk at an equal tem- perature while baby is taking it. Too often the warm milk is poured into an ice cold bottle and long before baby has finished her meal might as well not have been warmed. "Since the warm weather came on my baby seems hun- gry all the time," says a young mother.
"My dear, baby is thirsty, not hun- gry." While you are taking a drink every half-hour, poor baby, panting in flannels, is not allowed a drop of water. She must not drink unless she eats.
The rest of us may have no appetite, but we are allowed to drink, not so with baby. She must wait her regula- tion two or three hours, and then eat at the same time if she would drink. Poor little thing cutting teeth and "druling" so she "wets her bibs in no time!"
"She will not take water; I've tried her!" Yes, with a teaspoonful of ice cold water. When her little mouth has always been used to warm food from a bottle, no wonder she chokes and spits.
Sweeten a little water slightly and put it in her bottle, with the chill off, (off of the water not the bottle) and give her a few swallows at a time. But baby will soon learn to drink from a spoon, if the water given is not too cold.
Do, dear mothers, remember that when we are not well the strong food to which we are accustomed is not suitable for us; we must have some- thing weaker. So with the baby; when she is not as well as usual, reduce the strength of her food. —Ladies' Home Journal.

—The habit of studying before pro- ceeding is co-existent with the neces- sity of considering before acting; and a man who is reticent concerning one- half of his thoughts is not communi- cative about the other half.
—The men who get through the most work are those who never seem to be busy, while those who have a morbid habit of being busy and never have a moment's leisure are the worst of time-wasters.
—Take care of the truth, and the errors will take care of themselves. You may destroy a hundred heresies, and yet not establish a single truth. But you may, by establishing a single truth, put to flight with one blow a hundred heresies. —Dean Stanley.

HOSPITAL SCENES.
A Surgeon Talks About What He Con- sidered Annoying Occurrences.
One of the very amusing, though at the same time considerably annoying, occurrences incident to charity hospital experiences is the daily arrival of all manner of indigestible food for the pa- tients, which is either sent in or brought to the hospital by interested friends and relatives. "The first thing a woman does when she comes to visit her hus- band, son or lover," said a hospital surgeon on a recent occasion, "is to give him a bath."
"A bath?"
"Yes, a bath of tears. She cries all over him, don't you understand? And then she takes a lot of stuff, regular mush, you know; and when she has him all stirred up, pulse way up, fever rising, and every thing in a fine condi- tion, she tries to make a finish of him by feeding him a lot of pie, cake, crul- lers, or something of that kind. We usually watch them and take the stuff away down in the office, but very often a woman conceals it under her apron, and we find under the man's pillow after her departure an apple pie, a lot of custard, cake, fruit, tobacco, and even whisky. Why, a man was brought in here insensible the other day from a blow on the head dealt by the gentle hand of the new aqueduct elevator. We had him propped up in bed with his head in an ice pack, all tied up in a rubber bag, and his feet in a vapor bath. Presently his wife, children, sister, brother-in-law and most of the rest of his relatives gathered in a line outside the doorway. His wife insisted on going upstairs, of course, and came flying down, and said she was going right home to get him some breakfast; that he hadn't had a mouthful to eat since early in the morning, and she knew she could cook him something that would bring him round all right. No wonder he was faint lying there all day with nothing to eat or drink." —N. Y. Telegram.

ORIGIN OF FANS.
The First One Carried by the Lovely Daughter of a Chinese Mandarin.
Kan Si was the first lady who carried a fan. She lived in ages which are past and for the most part forgotten, and she was the daughter of a Chinese Mandarin. Whoever saw a Mandarin, even on a tea chest, without his fan? In China and Japan to this day every one has a fan; and there are fans of all sorts for every body. The Japanese waves his fan at you when he meets you by way of greeting, and the beggar who solicits for alms has the exceed- ingly small coin "made on purpose" for charity presented to him on the tip of the fan. In ancient times, among Greeks and Romans, fans seem to have been enormous; they were generally made of feathers, and carried by slaves over the heads of their masters and mistresses, to protect them from the sun, or wave about before them to stir the air. Catherine de Medici carried the first folding fan ever seen in France; and in the time of Louis XIV. the fan was a gorgeous thing, often covered with jewels, and worth a small fortune. In England they were the fashion in the time of Henry VIII. A fan set in diamonds was once given to Queen Elizabeth upon New Year's Day. The Mexican feather fans which Cortez had from Montezuma were marvels of beauty; and in Spain a large black fan is the favorite. It is said that the use of a fan is as carefully taught in that country as any other branch of educa- tion, and that by a well-known code of signals a Spanish lady can carry on a long conversation with any one, es- pecially an admirer. The Japanese criminal of rank is politely executed by means of a fan. On being sentenced to death he is presented with a fan, which he must receive with a low bow, and, as he bows, presto! the executioner draws his sword and cuts his head off. In fact, there is a fan for every occasion in Japan. —American Magazine.

How Long a Child Should Sleep.
A healthy baby, for the first two months or so, spends most of its time asleep. After that a baby should have at least two hours of sleep in the fore- noon and one in the afternoon, and it is quite possible to teach almost any infant to adopt this as a regular habit. Even to the age of four or five years a child should have one hour of sleep, or at least rest in bed, before its dinner, and it should be put to bed at six or seven in the evening and left undisturbed for twelve or fourteen hours. Up to the fifteenth year most young people require ten hours, and till the twentieth year nine hours. After that age every one finds out how much he or she requires, though as a general rule at least six to eight hours are necessary. Eight hours' sleep will prevent more nervous derangement in women than any medicines can cure. During growth there must be ample sleep if the brain is to develop to its full extent, and the more nervous, ex- citable or precocious the child is the longer sleep should it get; its intel- lectual progress is not to come to a premature standstill or its life be cut short at an early age. —Childaquaun.

AUSTRALIAN SLAVES.
How They Are Procured and Abused by Their Masters.
The method of procuring these slaves is simple, but effective. The settler who desires the labor of a native man, woman or child, draws up a paper, in which the native is made to say that he offers himself for employment for a certain period. The master signs this document, and the native makes his cross in presence of a policeman, and the thing is done. From that time the native is really a slave as though his master owned him body and soul. He is generally ignorant of the contents of the paper which he has "signed," but it places him absolutely in the power of the master to do with him as he pleases during the term of the "assignment," and at its close he is frightened into signing again. Most of the natives thus as- signed are kidnapped and brought in from the interior, and when once they have made the cross, whose signifi- cance they do not appreciate, these are held by the magistrate as subject to the Master and Servants act of Great Britain, and punished under its provisions if they run away, although that law was never intended to apply to bar- barous people. Mr. Gribble relates many instances of the cruelties prac- ticed on the Australian slaves, of the manner in which they are loaded with chains for trivial offenses, and of the indignities which are heaped upon the women and girls. Most of the slaves are used in working the pearl fisher- ies, and the punishment for stealing pearls is in many cases instant death, the master acting as judge, counsel and jury. In one day sixty of the unfor- tunates—men, women and children—were thus summarily executed and often the natives are shot for running away. Men make a regular business of kidnapping the natives for assign- ment. —Christian at Work.

A Most Excellent Fit.
He had a professional look and some- thing resembling a medicine case as he entered a Jefferson avenue saloon yester- day and walked to the telephone. He called up some one, and the conversa- tion ran as follows:
"Any one at the office?"
"No; but a message just came for you."
"What is it?"
"Man at No. — Napoleon street in a fit. Wants you right away."
"In a fit! I'll be there in ten minutes! Good-bye. Here, barkeeper, hand me that bottle of brandy, quick—man in a fit—be back in ten minutes—name's Dr. Blank—best thing in the world for fits!"
It probably "fitted" the doctor all right, for there has been no returns made, and neither can his name be found in the directory. —Detroit Free Press.

—Be careful you do not commend yourself. It is a sign that your reputa- tion is small and sinking, if your own tongue must praise you. Let your words be few, especially when your superiors or strangers are present, lest you betray your own weakness and rob yourself of the opportunity which you might otherwise have had to gain knowledge, wisdom and experience, by hearing those whom you silenced by your impertinent talking. —Sir Matthew Hale.

LOCATING THE BLAME.
The True History of a Cannuck's Illumi- nated Optic.
"How did it happen?" asked the Ser- geant at the Woodbridge street station, as a man with a black eye entered the office.
"That's what I came to explain, sir, for I don't want you to think it was my fault. I was down here by the depot, I wanted a drink, I went into a saloon. While I was drinking a man steps up and says: 'Can you change me a fifty- dollar bill.' I says: 'I can't.' Says he: 'You are a liar.' Says I: 'I beg your pardon.'"
"Yes."
"Then I finished my beer and the man says: 'I can do you up in two min- utes.' Says I: 'I beg your pardon, but I am no fighter.' 'You look like the man who robbed my mother's grave,' says he, 'and I've got to smash you.' Upon my soul you are mistaken,' says I: 'I am from Canada only this morn- ing, and I would scorn to rob a grave.'"
"I see."
"I'll lick you," says he. 'I beg your pardon, but don't,' says I. 'Put up your dukes,' says he. 'I left 'em at home,' says I. 'Take that,' says he, as he gave me this poke in the optic. 'I'll go to the police,' says I. 'Do,' says he, and he gives me a kick to help me along. That's all, sir, and now you can see who was to blame and who wasn't. Begging your pardon for this call, I bids you good-day, sir." —Detroit Free Press.

—Say, Jack, I see you wear a mili- tary hat and people call you captain. I did not know you were ever in the army?" "Well, no, I never was, but I am drawing a pension and feel as if I ought to do something for it." —Bur- dette.