If I could find the rarest flowers
That over all the wide world shine.
The edelweiss, with true love power,
The aloe and the spirit flower—
I'd pluck them all in one glad hour
To make my love a Valentine.

If I could catch the fleeting beams
Of bright Aurora's rays divine,
And keep the gleam of sunset skies,
And hold the rainbow's wondrous dyes,
I'd take the glow that in them lies
To paint my love a Valentine.

If I could chain the lightning's flash And spin it in a golden line.
And keep the starry flakes of snow,
I'd bind them with the lightning so.
That frost and fire should blend and glow
To make my love a Valentine.

But since these wishes may not be,
And nothing rich or rare is mine.
Except my heart and love so true,
This painted flower of dainty blue
Shall bear them, with the wish that you
Will always be my Valentine.

—N. Y. Independent.

WOMEN FENCERS.

Why They Use the Foils and How They Do It.

An Effective Aid to Beauty and Health-Popularity of Fencing In Europe-Mrs. Langtry an Expert in the Art.

"Ah, madam, you will never make a nable heels." So saying the polite sadly, at the little blocks which projected from a point near the middle of the soles of his pupil's slippers, and which had just tripped her up in a tion-for she had completely lost her balance-the little actress whose fencing lesson was thus unseasonable interrupted, presented an uncommonly pleasing picture. Her cheek was flushed and her eyes were bright with the exhilaration of the exercise; the violence of the last lunge and its disastrous result had set a few locks of golden hair free, and the close-fitting costume displayed a figure every line of which told of health and harmonious muscular development.

The costume was certainly one which applause on the stage. It consisted of a white flannel jacket, double-breasted the glory of a black velvet costume. and padded across the chest to deaden the force of her assailant's thrusts. A short skirt, with blue and white stripe, reaching just to the knees allowed the fullest freedom of movement. A pair of silk stockings, gloves with long if she had been brought up in fencing gauntlets that protected the wrists, and the slippers with the offending heels wildness and looseness which characcompleted the costume.

have much difficulty in placating the on. But in future the high heels were discarded and in their place came slippers without any heels at all, which are the only proper foot-gear for either man or woman while fencing. Soon the master was able to say with triumph of eloquent in praise of fencing, and told urally as if it were a needle. There are of my morning lesson all through the urally as if it were a needle. his pupil: "She handles the foil as nat- what it did for her. whom I would not match her, if she day," she said, in a general toning up had their strength. It's a pity that of the whole system, but I find that my more women don't fence. I like to fencing is particularly valuable to me teach them. Their movements are nat- in my profession. It gives me a comurally more graceful than those of men, mand over my muscles and a suppleto train them to execute thrusts with delicacy, but when it comes to an actual bout with the foils they lose their heads. Coolness and judga good swordsman, and my experience light cane about her head. She calls it qualities which women do not research the state of defending one's self with an each of the art of defending one's self with an each of the art of defending one's self with an each of the art of defending one's self with an each of the art of defending one's self with an each of the art of defending one's self with an each of the art of defending one's self with an each of the art of defending one's self with an each of the art of defending one's self with an each of the art of defending one's self with an each of the art of defending one's self with an each of the art of defending one's self with an each of the art of defending one's self with an each of the art of defending one's self with an each of the art of the art of defending one's self with an each of the art of qualities which women do not possess in any high degree."

The number of women who handle the foils is larger than is generally supposed. Even in New York where fencing has become a popular amusement only, ladies will be admitted. Probably only within the last few years, fencingmasters find plenty of female pupils, although these are generally actresses. Actresses are credited—probably justly with taking more care of their beauty than any other class of women. Now, women who are really careful of their beauty should not neglect their health. and no exercise is more healthful than fencing. It makes the carriage erect and graceful; it gives suppleness and elasticity to the muscles, it has the exhilaration that makes exercise palatable -in fact, if a woman prizes a clear skin and a well-rounded figure, a foil and mask will prove her most efective aids; and this the young women of the stage have not been slow to dis-

Then again it not infrequently happens that an actress is assigned to some part that requires her to make a display of swordsmanship on the stage. Then she goes to a fencing-master and after a few lessons she is able to make a graceful exhibition out of what would uncouth scene.

In Continental Europe the women are more fully awake to the advantages of fencing than they are in this country. The Empress of Austria, whose daring hormanship, love for dogs, and general sporting proclivities are so well known, adds an admirable proficiency with the foils to her other accomplishments. All the fencing teachers of Paris have their feminine pupils, who are by no means restricted to the actresses. Young women of the highest classes in society fence as regularly as they ride or dance. In fact, if it were not for a fencing lesson in the morning many of them would feel less inclination to dance in the evening. No actual duel between women is on record, notwithstanding the notorious painting of "An Affair of Honor," which ornamented the Paris Salon a couple of years ago. Nevertheless no one who recently launched at Glasgow, which on knows the vagaries in which the women

would be surprised to read of a sau-

"I remember when I was a young provost in one of the big fencing schools in Paris," said the same teacher quoted before, what a sensation it used to cause when the hour for the ladies' lessons came. All the men except the master and myself were put out, but how they did beg to be allowed to stay! But the master was inexorable. He was an old soldier and believed in discipline. But they used to hang about the doors and look through the keyholes. One young fellow hid in the state of t fellow hid in a closet once, but he was found out and ejected in great disgrace.'

Regis Senac, the genial fencing-master of the New York Athletic Club, said the other day that he never had so many applications from women who wanted to take lessons as he has since Mrs. Langtry became his pupil. M. Senac is not her first master; she ha taken lessons in London, and is now more expert in the use of the foil than a woman often becomes. The writer was allowed to be present at one of her lessons not long ago. M. Senac come to her house in West Twenty-third street every morning while she is in town. He is due at ten o'clock. "And I," said Mrs. Langtry, "often don't rise until he is announced; for you can imagine that sometimes it is a struggle tencer until you abandon those abomi- to get up for a lesson, after having worked hard the evening before. But fencing-master laid aside his mask and I find that I am the better all day for pointed his foil, half scornfully, half the exercise; so I summon up my courage and tumble into my costume.

Mrs. Langtry's costume consists of a close-fitting waistcoat of white buckskin, large baggy trousers of white lunge. Even in her humiliating posi- flannel that descend to the knee, and white stockings. She is too experienced a swordswoman to think of indulging in any extravagances in the way of heels. She wears buckskin gloves, but if her master were not an extremely careful man she would be obliged to wear a heavily-padded glove, at least gets a rap with the foil over the knuckles that makes the whole arm tingle.

The first half of the lesson was just over when the writer was admitted the other morning. Mrs. Langtry had thrown a wrap over her shoulders as a would have gained the young woman protection after the heat of exercise, while Senae was pacing the floor in all After a few minutes of rest work was resumed and the famous beauty rubbed the resin on her soles, put on her mask, and fell into position with the left arm gracefully extended-all as naturally as rooms. Her motions had none of the terize the efforts of a beginner. Every As may be supposed the pupil did not maneuver was clean-cut and precise. The play of her foil was so small that, offended master, and the lesson went to use M. Senac's favorite simile, it could have been executed within the ring of a young girl. After about ten minutes of this exercise Mrs. Langtry claimed the right to another rest. When she had recovered breath she was

ness that are invaluable on the stage

M. Senac is as proud as a peacock of Press. his pupil. He gives her lessons in single-stick as well, and an extremely umbrella. Senac wants her to give a public exhibition with the foils when she comes back to New York. Mrs. Langtry does not absolutely refuse, but she says that if she gives an exhibition a good many men will feel inclined to put on petticoats for the occasion. -N. Y. Tribune.

BLEACHED DIAMONDS.

A Clever Method of Increasing the Value of Inferior Stones.

Every one, of course, knows so thing about paste diamonds and Paris diamonds and the thousand-and-one imitations of this gem of great price. And most people, we imagine, know the various tests by which the genuineness of a stone is established; but the revelations made at the Marylebone police court the other day will probably be news to some of us. As to the case itself, we need say no more than that the prisoners were committed for trial; but certain facts came out during the inquiry which possess considerable interest for the public, or at least for those of the public who are the happy ownerof diamonds. That there should be any means whereby yellow diamonds, which are worth about one-seventh of white diamonds of the same size, can be otherwise have been a bungling and bleached-for that is what the manipulation amounts to—so as to deceive an expert is enough to cause very serious disquietude in many a fair bosom. But walter, inistaking the salutair of to an order. "Ne'n, nein!" said the German. "N ne?" said the waiter. "Y ou'll be lucky if you g't three "—Y. Y. Sun. Mr. Streeter went even further than this, for he gratuitously informed the magistrate that about two years ago a Frenchman succeded in foisting upon the London market some £4,000 worth of diadon market some £4,000 worth of diamonds which had thus been chemically improved. It would be interesting to know what has become of those diamonds. What has become of their doubtless numerous successors. So valoubless numerous successors. So valoubless numerous successors. uable an invention has certainly not been permitted to lie idle.-St. James'

-Spain has a torpedo cruiser, compared with which the grayhounds of the sea are but as waddling ocean poodles. This remarkable vessel is the Destructor her trial trip developed the speed of of the French Capital sometimes indulge about 271 miles an hour.

RELIGIOUS AND EDUCATIONAL

if all pious parents would read Dr. Hot-ace Bushnell's 'Christ an Nurture' once

a year. -The Jewish Messenger says that t the curious specimens of prayer lately published may be added this of a mod-ern rabbi: "Oh, Lord, Thou remem berest we said last week," etc.

-The total number of communic nts at Trinity Church, New York, is 1,35 of whom 575, representing 410 families are from the working-class. Although Trinity is very wealthy, it will be se from this that well nigh one-half it actual communicants are people in moderate c reumstances.

-A revivalist at Louisville was inter rupted the other day by a crying baby whose mother started for home with it Don't take the baby out,' preacher cried, "I wish there were fifty babies here. God bless the mother for bringing that baby. Let t cry; I can talk louder than babies can cry.

-According to the latest published statement, under the authority of the Baptist Church in New York State, it appears that there are in the State 86 urches, or four less than last year and that the membersh'p amounts to 116,068, indicating, as compared with last year, a gain of 1,831. The baptisms of the year numbered 5,012, or 206 in excess of the previous year.

-Those who are striving to devise means for the preservation of American forests are being well abetted by the school-authorities in many localities The "arbor-days" of the schools and colleges are bringing the youth of the land to an appreciation of the value of on her right hand; for one sometimes | trees, and are awakening strong public sentiment in favor of energet'c mean to check the processes of wasteful den udation. It will probably be much easier in the time of the next generation to get legislation in the matter. - Cur-

-The Buffalo Commercial Advertises gives this hint to educators: "We have heard of one very sensible school-teach er who has discarded geographical text books for a season, and in the mean time has made her scholars as thor oug'ily familiar as they could be, with the means available, with the situation histore, physical features, mate ial re sources and political conditions of the Soudan, Russ'a, England, Afghanistan and other countries, the scenes of great international contentions. This appears to be more practical and profitable than in committing to memory the names o the principal rivers in A'a ka, of the capes on the west coast of Ireland and the county towns in the State of Kansas.

WIT AND WISDOM.

-A dog that knows where to find a bone is wiser than a scholar who has not learned how to make a living .ohn Swinton's Paper.

-Always look at your worries through the wrong end of an operaglass. Examine your joys with a microscope.—Phil delphia Call.

-It takes two weeks to recover from the effects of pepper th: own into the eyes. Be satisfied to take these | gures instead of the papper.-Detroit Free

-"Will you pass the butter, Mr. Fogg?" asked Brown. "Every time,"

Thoughtlessness. Time to me this truth hath taught— T.s & treasure worth reveal ng— More offend from want of thought Than from any want of feeling.

-Money will make us work, but money will not make us give our hearts to the work-mothing but love for our work or real good principle can make us do that. Jean Ingelow.

-Rather Embarrasing: Boy-"Why your face isn't very long, is it?" Visitor—"Not very, why do you ask?" Boy—" 'Cause pa said you came from Chicago here on it."—N. Y. Graphic.

-"That article you Had in last week's paper was the funniest thing I paper was the lumness that I ever read. 'said a lady to an editor. 'I am glad to hear you say so.'' "Oh, not at all. It would make a dog laugh. I thought my husband would split his sides."— Arkansaw Traveler.

"Never go back," advises a writer. "What you attempt do with all your strength." This may be good advice, but it won't work satisfactory. When a young man, for instance, attempts to court a girl he may do it with all his strength, but he goes back, all the same. He goes back about six nights a week .-No ristown Hera'd.

-A German went into a restaurant and, as he took his seat, an Ir ish waiter came up and bowed policy. "Wie geht's?" said the German, also bowing politely. "Wheat cakes!" shouted the water, mistaking the salutation for an

-"Lose money! Why, I have lost more money than you ever saw. Fiv years ago I lost \$1,000.000 m Paris. 'How was that?' "Taere wasn't How was that?" "There wasn't a

Mr. Arthur Shurtleff, Parker, Dakota, writes that he suffered for two years with a lame knee, which was entirely cured by the use of St. Jacob's Oil. He considers it a most wenderful remedy. It conquers

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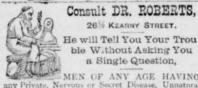


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