

PHILOSOPHY.

The signs is bad when folks commence A-findin' fault with Providence. And balkin' 'cause the earth don't shake At every prancin' step they take. No man is great till he can see How less than little he can be Ef stripped to self, and stark and bare He hung his sign out anywhere. My doctor is to lay aside Contentions and be satisfied; Jest do your best, and praise or blame That follows, that counts jest the same. I've allus noticed great success Is talked with troubles more or less, And it's the man who does the best That gets more kicks than all the rest. —James Whitcomb Riley.

The Craven Fire.

THE morning papers were full of the recent fire. I had given the paper but a cursory glance, but now, having examined the mail, I began to make a more thorough reading. Fires in New York were of so common occurrence that they deserved little notice, and the incendiary seemed to have a fertile field in which to follow his diabolical inclinations with little or no fear of detection or molestation. This morning it was the same old story, with perhaps a few new trimmings, followed by the usual comments as to the probable perpetrator of the crime. It was painful to think that in the center of civilization wanted destruction of life and property should go unchecked and unpunished, and yet the efficient departments of the city seemed to be making every effort to bring the criminals to justice. A carriage stopped before the office, and Inspector Jones and Mr. Smith, of the Department of Public Safety, entered. They wished to consult me on business. "I see you have been reading about the Craven fire," said Mr. Smith, glancing at my paper. "It was clearly the work of an incendiary. I am satisfied that it is closely allied with a number of recent city fires, and that one person or gang is responsible for the whole. Now I want you to draw on your detective force and use every possible means to run down the author of this fire. We will pay you any expenses that you may incur and allow you to name your own fee for professional services. If you accept this offer, I would suggest that you begin work at once. What say you?" "I fear that I shall not be of much service. You forget that I am not a detective. However, if you wish me to see what I can develop, I will accept your proposition."

house was fired. I can't tell much about it. I was so badly frightened. I rushed from my room just in time to escape death by suffocation. Father met me in the hall and assisted me from the house. Suddenly he rushed into the burning building. An explosion followed and that is the last I saw of him. "You have stated the case very clearly," said the inspector. "Do you suspect any one of firing the house?" "I don't know," she answered slowly. "I don't see how papa could have any enemies. He certainly treated Butts well."

"Ag equals 280 plus Ni equals 30 plus Cu equals 60.25 plus Pb equals 31.25 plus 811 hydroxide plus 80d. Bicarb. fused, or 810.2 equals 11.00. 412.50." No doubt Mr. Craven was an inventor, and here was his secret. While the paper might not be pertinent to the case, it would at least be a kindness to Miss Craven to place her in possession of her father's formula, which some day might prove valuable. Again, the presence of chemicals in the house would account for the explosion. A half hour later Perkins rushed into the office very much excited. "By Jove, Colonel, that real estate poster is all a fake! The people at No. 376 have been annoyed for two days with inquiries about it; they say they are perfectly ignorant of the whole transaction, and as they are jewelers I am inclined to believe their story."

the completion of this plant Mr. James Butts appeared on the scene and took charge of operations. At various times Butts visited other plants of a similar nature, and also solicited capital for his own. This accounts for the peculiar meetings at Mr. Craven's house, the last of which, according to the story of Miss Craven, was not entirely harmonious. You also recall her statement that when Butts departed he informed Mr. Craven he would hear from him. The week before the fire Mr. Butts left, and here is the message, no doubt sent by a confederate, that was found tacked up on an elm tree near the house. Strike out every other word and read it for yourself. "Perkins took the paper and read it. 'By Jove,' he weakly repeated. 'To continue, we will take up the paper which you found in the little iron box near the body of the deceased Mr. Craven. Remembering that a silver dollar weighs 412½ grains, there is only one deduction to be made from this paper.' 'And these two papers gave you the clue to the entire matter?' cried Perkins. 'Certainly.' 'And Mr. Craven fired his own house to escape the secret service detectives, but forgetting his formula rushed back to save it?' 'Exactly,' I replied. 'And now for the last point in our problem, the explosion. It is self-evident that a hydraulic press weighing several tons would not be destroyed by fire, hence it must be blown up. Its present position is therefore due to that cause, and was only discovered by your unfortunate fall.' 'Well,' said Perkins, 'it's a very true saying that a blind pig will find an acorn once in a while.'—Waverley Magazine.



A GIRL'S CITY EXPERIENCE.

BEING a farmer's daughter, the eldest of a large family, and my father in rather close circumstances, I concluded to go to the city and engage in something, with the hope of bettering home finances, writes a young woman in the Practical Farmer. I procured a situation with a private family and went to work. But the contrast between my life there and at home was so great that I remained but three weeks. At home I was a leader among my friends and associates; there I was not deemed worthy to associate with the family whose roof sheltered me. At home I gathered with father and mother, sisters and brothers, around the family altar morning and evening; there I was denied this precious privilege except on Sunday mornings when I did not attend church. At home I sat with the family at the breakfast table and discussed with them the topics of the day; there I took my meals in the kitchen in loneliness and silence, and they almost choked me. I often glanced at the family gathered around the tea-table or library lamp of an evening, and it always filled me with a longing desire for home. My work was light and the people were kind to me, but I could not endure that loneliness and lack of companionship. How I did wish they would invite me into the library with them just one evening any way. That room, with its well-filled bookcases, beautiful statuary and rare paintings had an almost irresistible charm for me; but it was too sacred for my country-bred feet to tread except with a broom and dust-cloth in my hand, and I wondered why it was so. I do not know whether my experience would be called a failure, a success, or a mistake, but I believe it was all three. I made a failure as a servant girl, but I gained knowledge concerning the "hired-girl problem" that I could have gained in no other way. My object in writing this article is to convince other girls that home is the best place.

Another Letter to Wed a Peer. It is reported that Miss Daisy Letter, sister of Lady Curzon, is engaged to the Earl of Suffolk. Miss Letter is several years younger than her sister, Lady Curzon, and has been voted no less beautiful by Washington society. When Lord Curzon went out to Bombay as Viceroy of India, Lady Curzon took her sister with her. The younger woman has been as popular as the elder as popular as the elder.



ent to 'chool Too Far'. There is a class of children who suffer from overworked brains who have no right to suffer. We refer to children under 7 years of age, whose parents understand nothing of the laws of physiology, but feel that no time should be lost in getting the child to school. The brighter the child the harder he is pushed. During the first seven years of life the brain develops very fast. All that is done to crowd it during this time is done to the child's disadvantage. During this period attention should be given to developing a good constitution, remembering that the brain will go forward fast enough after that age. Parents make a mistake if they send their children to school before they are 7 years of age (unless, perhaps, to the kindergarten). There is no doubt about this. All physiologists agree on this point, and there is no sound argument against it.—New York Telegram.

To Keep the Hands Soft. One of the best preparations for keeping the hands soft and white is a mixture of glycerine and vinegar, to which a little perfume may be added if desired. After the hands are washed, dry lightly, and while still damp rub on a little of the mixture. This may be used with excellent results by people who can not use the glycerine alone, the vinegar neutralizing the unpleasant effects of the glycerine.

Purses "Out of Sight." The strictly tailor-made girl has discarded the purse. Nothing of the sort is seen in her hand or suspended from a neck chain. For large purchases she uses the credit or C. O. D. system, and her small change is carried in one of the many pockets with which her tailor gown is always well supplied.

Cultivate Napping. The cultivation of the "forty winks" habit is the cultivation of longevity and of general well-being throughout life. There is no antidote against American nervousness half so potent as the quick renewing, in the midst of duties, afforded by a short nap. It would seem that a single dip into oblivion is that magic, fairy touch which preserves us youth and vigor, however

taxing may be the routine of our lives. To this many will say: "But I cannot sleep in the daytime." That, however, is only incidental, for any one can cultivate the habit by trying persistently.

It may take a week, two weeks, or even a month, before the first "dropping off" occurs; but it is sure to come; a second will quickly follow, and the habit ultimately becomes established, says the Pittsburg Dispatch.

Every one accustomed to napping must have remarked how much more refreshing is a nap of five, ten or twenty minutes than a long daytime sleep of two or three hours. This is because in a short nap the brain and senses are rested without relaxing the muscular and nervous systems. Indeed, there is no better way of gaining time on a busy day than to cut out fifteen to twenty minutes for renewing the energies. After a morning's effort body and mind both grow tired; the work flags; "things go wrong." Now is the time for the magic dip, from which you return to your post fresh and in good spirits, ready to carry on things with a vim.

Bracket for Curling Irons. One of the latest and most valuable introductions as an accessory to the toilet is the "keep clean" curling-iron bracket. This clever little arrangement will appeal to the woman who



uses a curling-iron, on sight. It consists of two parts—a nickel-plated steel tube, to hold the iron, and an arm provided with a socket which will fit over any gas burner. It may be allowed to remain on the gas bracket, in no way interfering with the light. The tube



prevents the accumulation of soot on the iron, and also precludes overheating, two matters of great importance in the preservation of the hair. An additional advantage is that it is not necessary to hold the iron over the flame, the construction of the article, as shown in the cut, being sufficient for the purpose.

What a Woman Can Do. A woman has had charge of the street cleaning in the First Ward of Chicago for eighteen months, and the business men of the district have sent her an address of congratulation on her zeal and efficiency. They say the streets were never before kept in such excellent condition.

The Care of the Nails. It is not possible to be too particular in the care of the finger nails. Cleanliness is a mark of refinement, and, too, lack of cleanliness is unsafe, as disease germs are often carried under the nails when foreign matter is allowed to collect there.

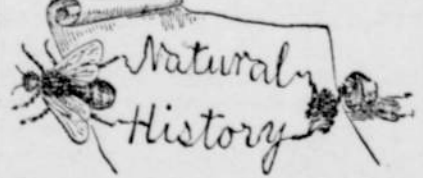
Economical. The long lace ties that are so popular are very neat and airy for summer. The careless, graceful bow-knots at the ends are easily put on, and making the ties one's self considerably reduces the expense.



All over the land our women are trying to make their dresses at home, and in general they succeed wonderfully well. The correct pattern makes the difference between a dress that we can buy so cheaply and a great help, but in one point they often bother the home dressmaker—they allow for such very large seams, which are a waste of material and a puzzle as to the line on which to stitch.

The utmost care should be used in cutting the lining and outside, so that the thread of the goods runs the same way in each; but the lining must be cut and fitted before the outside, which not only secures a better fit, but enables one to cut the more expensive goods with economy. Some persons think it best to fit one side of the waist, then rip apart and cut the other side exactly like it; but others, remembering that no figure is perfect, find it better to fit the waist all around to the form.

To secure a stylish-fitting tight sleeve requires careful basting and fitting. Try on the lining separately, and when the dress goods is basted on be sure and hold it loosely at the bend of the elbow, which will give shapeliness and comfort to the tightest sleeve.



It takes a small exactly fourteen days and five hours to travel a mile.

Peaches are not a favorite except with a few animals, though rabbits fancy them.

The lantern fly of Surinam, South America, has two sets of eyes, so as to catch the light from all directions. It is much more brilliant than our firefly.

Horses, cows, sheep, goats, hogs and many of the wild animals eat apples with avidity. The elephant and deer are fond of them, while others become accustomed to them after a trial or two. All the domestic fowls and many of the wild birds are fond of apples.

Plants protect themselves by terrifying attitudes just as do insects. One of the uses of the movements of the sensitive plant is to frighten animals.

A venturesome browsing creature coming near it is afraid to touch a plant which so evidently is occupied by spirits.

In China carrier pigeons are protected from birds of prey by an ingenious little apparatus consisting of bamboo tubes fastened to the birds' bodies with thread passed beneath the wings. As the pigeon flies, the action of the air passing through the tubes produces a shrill, whistling sound, which keeps the birds of prey at a distance.

A woman who has as many as five little children, doesn't get a night's undisturbed sleep from the date of the birth of the first till the last is ten years old.

Now for proposition No. 2. Granting the accuracy of proposition No. 1, we will say that Mr. Craven belonged to a gang of counterfeiters when he resided in Denver, Col. That subsequently he moved to New York, where for two years he busied himself in perfecting a plant to resume his old business. At