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## FOR YOUNG FOLKS

### WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

Care With Which Great Britain's Standards Are Guarded.

Packed away in a wall of the house of parliament, in London, are carefully preserved a solid bar of bronze and a block of platinum, says Chicago News. Both are in cases, but the platinum is guarded with special care. It is inclosed in a box of silver gilt, which is itself inclosed in a case of bronze. Outside of the bronze case are other cases of mahogany, lead and oak, and the block of platinum itself is wrapped in a peculiar kind of paper containing no silica, so as to provide against any kind of decomposition.

Why all this great care? you ask. Because that block of platinum weighs exactly one pound and is the English official standard of weights. The bar of bronze is the standard of measure, for it has the yard length, thirty-six inches, marked off on it, the whole bar being thirty-eight inches long.

Once in twenty years the bar and the block are solemnly taken from their resting place, and all the official weights and measures of the government are compared with them. Very delicate apparatus is used in making the comparison, and if the slightest difference be found the standards used in the bureau are made to conform to the standards so sacredly preserved in the parliament house wall.

If all the pound weights and yard measures now in common use were lost or destroyed, there would not be any trouble, as you see, in getting others.

### The Mesmerized Ring.

Attach a massive gold ring to a silk thread about twelve inches long and fasten the other end around the joint nearest the nail of your right forefinger. Allow the ring to hang about half an inch above the surface of the table, on which you rest your elbow to steady your hand. Hold your finger horizontally, with the thumb thrown back as far as possible from the rest of the hand. If there be nothing



RING OVER COIN.

ing on the table the ring will soon become stationary. Place some silver coins—three half dollars will do—immediately below the ring and it will begin to oscillate to and from you. Bring your thumb in contact with your forefinger and the oscillations will become transverse to their former swing. This may also be affected by letting a girl take hold of your disengaged hand. When the transverse motion is fairly established let a boy take hold of the girl's disengaged hand and the ring will change back to its former course. Instead of silver you can suspend the ring over your left forefinger with similar results.—Washington Star.

### Capping Verses—a Game.

The players are supplied with slips of paper and a pencil, and every one writes a line of poetry, either original or from memory. Then the slips must be folded so that the line is hidden, but the last word of the line must be written over the fold. The slips are passed on, so that a different writer supplies the next line, which must rhyme with the last word of the previous line. A new line is written and passed on, with the new rhyming word written on the fold. When the papers have gone the round of the company the slips are unfolded and the verses read out.

### More Valuable Than Gold.

Many persons think of gold as the most valuable of metals, but there are sixteen or seventeen more valuable than it is. Among them are the following: Iridium, which is worth about \$300 a pound; trypsin, \$600 a pound; barium, \$1,400 a pound; yttrium, \$3,150 a pound, and vanadium, the most valuable, \$8,625 a pound.

### Toby's Natural History.

"It stands to reason," writes Toby Trip in his composition, "that most of our rats come from Gnanaway and that some of our choicest poultry are cotech in China."

### Little Discoverers.

Fred discovered that drifts piled high are made by the snow feathers out of the sky.

One at a time!

Maud discovered 'tis sweet to help others. All, as well as her sisters and brothers, If only a little.

Willie discovered the tallest man. Grew tall and strong, as any boy can. Little by little.

Annie discovered, and 'tis certainly true, That hours pass swiftly with something to do, Great or little.

Tom discovered that dollars are made By having a place where the pennies are laid. One at a time.

I wonder now if you happen to know That characters, evil or beautiful, grow Little by little? —Youth's Companion.

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