Excusable.

He—They say feathers are all the rage this year.

She—Yes—and beads, too.

He—Paint and powder are always more or less in vogue, aren't they?

She—Yes. But, then, you must remember this is the age of Indian fads.

Success may sometimes come unexpectedly, but work alone can hold it.—F. W. Murray.

Cleanliness prevents rust; the best-cared for machines last the longest.

Method in His Effort.

"You seem to have a great liking for large words."

"Well, sur," answered Mr. Erastus Pinkley, "I once knowed a man whose life were saved by a big word. He once told me dat I prevaricated, an' by de time I foun' out what dat word meant it were too late fok me to hit him."—New Yorker.

Merely a Hint.

The man who thinks he knows it all
May find out by and by,
That the man who doesn't know so much
Eats far less humble pie.

Science and Invention

London produces ten lunatics per day; New York nearly as many, with greater proportionate increase.

The self-lighting Bunsen burner of a German chemist depends upon the igniting effect of a pellet of palladium sponge, which is passed over the escaping gas as the tap is opened.

Over-fatigue is regarded by Dr. Burton-Fanning as the determining cause of 10 per cent of his cases of pulmonary consumption. Even a single excess—as unusual bicycling, climbing, hunting, or even dancing or tennis—may bring into activity unsuspected latent tuberculosis.

The statement is generally made that the principal geysers of the Yellowstone Park greatly exceed in size and power all others in the world. J. A. Ruddick, now of Ottawa, Canada, contradicts this, and says that the Waimangu Geyser in New Zealand far exceeds in proportions anything described in the Yellowstone region. Mr. Ruddick has never himself seen Waimangu in action, but has often witnessed the eruptions of the geysers called Fairoa and Pohotu, the former sometimes playing to a height of more than 200 feet.

The curious electric heater of M. Camille Herrgott consists of conducting wires woven into carpets and other fabrics, and it is designed to give a moderately high temperature to the fiber—hemp, cotton, linen or silk. It does not affect the pliability or appearance of the material. It is claimed that the heater is perfectly safe, and that the wires cannot be raised above a certain temperature. The arrangement can be applied to many purposes. Carpets, rugs, etc., can be kept at the temperature of the body or higher, and dry or wet medical applications can be kept easily at 150 deg. C. In the industries numerous uses are suggested, as in filters for fatty or gelatinous matters, and for warming carriages or trains, etc.

New materials from which paper can be made are continually found. Recently in our Southern States yellow pine waste has been successfully manufactured into that universal substance without which so many features of modern civilization could hardly survive. Fine paper can be made of corn stalks and of rice straw. In addition to spruce, whose usefulness in paper-making has caused great uneasiness concerning the ultimate fate of the beautiful White Mountain forests, marsh pine, fir, aspen, birch sweetgum, cottonwood, maple, cypress and willow trees all contain fiber suitable for the manufacture of paper. Hemp, cotton, jute, Indian millet and other fibrous plants can also be used for this purpose, so that there seems to be no danger of a dearth of paper.

Major Powell-Cotton's expedition in Eastern Equatorial Africa resulted in the discovery of six tribes of men previously unknown to the civilized world. One of these tribes is known to its neighbors by the name of the Magicians. The Magicians dwell on the high lands half-way between Lake Rudolph and Lake Albert, and their villages consist of two-story houses built of wattle, and grouped together on the upper slopes of the hills. They inspire great awe among the dwellers in the valleys below, although the latter outnumber them a thousand to one. Their formidable reputation appears to be based upon their superior intelligence. None of the new tribes discovered by Major Powell-Cotton had ever met a white man, and they treated their visitors in a friendly manner.

LAUNDERING IN WINTER TIME.

Methods by Which Clothes May Be Kept White and in Good Condition.

Many housekeepers find difficulty in doing their laundering during cold weather. In the summer season cottons and linens can be bleached on the grass and dried in the warm sunshine, and, while they are whiter for being frozen and thawed, there is seldom warmth enough in the depth of winter to thaw them on the line, and if they are handled in the frozen state they are apt to crack. For this reason good housekeepers will not allow fine table linen to be dried out of doors in the winter, even though it may be slightly yellowed by indoor drying. Fine handkerchiefs are very easily torn and delicate underwear can be ruined more quickly by being taken from the lines and folded when frozen than in any other way.

If white cotton garments are much stained freezing will restore them to their proper color, and if there is time they can be left out on the lines until they freeze hard and thaw out, provided they are not handled in a frozen state or left to flap about in the wind. Loosely woven materials, like stockinette may also be left outdoors on the lines until they are dry enough to bring into the house.

A large laundry is a very useful place in winter, as the clothes can be dried there and the dangers of freezing avoided. Such a room is also very useful for ironing in hot weather. It should be provided with a laundry stove and the fire kept up until the clothes are dried.

Flannels and woolen stockinette ought to be dried on wooden frames, which any carpenter will make, and which will prevent shrinking. This is because the ultimate fiber of wool is spiral, and the drawing up and interlocking of the fibers being what constitutes shrinkage. In underwear factories the garments are always washed and dried on frames so that they may be offered soft and unshrunken for sale.

It is much better and easier to scrub soiled flannels with a small brush than it is to rub them clean on a board. A rather stiff brush about four or five inches long is the best article for this purpose. Scrub the bands and seams of heavy woolen shirts, as well as those of cotton, in this way. This small brush is excellent in washing corsets or any heavy pieces that are difficult to rub on a board. If the brush has a small handle the garments may be more easily cleaned with it

Many excellent housekeepers disagree as to the best method of washing white clothes. Some of them prefer to soak their clothes overnight in cold water. Others who are equally good managers, after examining each piece to see if there are any stains or spots that need special attention, plunge them into boiling hot soapsuds and let them stand for several hours or overnight. This latter method seems to draw the dirt quite thoroughly, as the water itself will attest next morning. The clothes are then lifted out of this water into clean warm water, the few soiled places that remain are rubbed out and the clothes are put in the boiler to come to the boiling point. If the water is hard a tablespoonful of washing soda, but no more, should be added to every gallon of water in the boiler, the soda being first dissolved in a little boiling water. If it is put in without melting it may eat a hole in the clothes. If the water is soft a little melted soap should be used instead of soda, and soap should be rubbed over each piece as it is put in the boiler. Very few of the best laundresses boil their clothes longer than three minutes, just long enough to allow them to be thoroughly scalded. Longer boiling only tends to make white clothes yellow. When the clothes are taken from the boiler the water they were boiled in should be poured over them and they should be allowed to stand in it several hours or overnight. No woman who does this will ever be troubled with yellow clothes. There is no better way to bleach them in winter.

About once a month is often enough to blue clothes in winter, and the old-fashioned indigo bag, which costs only a few cents, is the best thing to use at any time.

THEATER FLOATS ON SCOW.

How People Along Three Great Rivers Are Supplied with Amusements.

A floating theater, designed to supply the towns along the Ohio, Illinois and Mississippi rivers with dramatic entertainments, has recently been constructed and is about to start on its journeyings. Its seating capacity is for 1,000 people and there are boxes for the elite and a pit for the orchestra. In addition the vessel is sufficiently large to admit of numerous sleeping rooms for the actors, the deck hands and all those connected with either the show or the boat. The entire force numbers forty. On the steamer which tows the floating theater, besides the boilers and engines, there is a complete electric light plant, besides a kitchen and dining room.

In view of the fact that the long water route of the floating theater carries it into the warmer portions of the South the season for the show does not close until late in the Southern winter. The entire route comprises 2,500 miles. The boat starts at Pittsburg and visits the towns of the coal miners and steelworkers along the Monongahela river. Next it returns and goes down the Ohio to the Kenawha, thence to Cairo, and later up the Illinois river to La Salle. Then, after going back to the Mississippi, the boat slowly makes its way in the direction of New Orleans. The idea of a floating theater is not exactly new, but the extensive scale upon which it is being conducted and the fact that it is the drama instead of the vaudeville program that is being presented attracts unusual attention. "Faust" is the production which has been presented this season.

Along the route of the floating theater the towns are often but ten or fifteen miles apart. Therefore the jumps of the boat and its company are not long ones. On the upper deck of the steamer is a calliope. Long before the theater reaches the town in which it is to show the sounds of this instrument may be heard. The idle population of the river towns at once begins to assemble on the wharf. As the steamer comes within a few hundred feet of the dock the calliope is silenced and a brass band strikes up a familiar air. The crowd on the wharf then grows larger. Many are there awaiting the first opportunity to secure reserved seats. When the boat touches the wharf the sailors, some of whom are later transformed into actors, make the vessel fast and put the gangplank in place. The scenery is arranged and the orchestra rehearses while the cook is preparing the next meal in the kitchen. The people come aboard and select their seats, instead of doing so from a diagram on shore. At night the theater is brilliantly lighted by electricity and a searchlight flashes over the surrounding territory. The entertainment lasts about three hours.

RATS MADE BEDS OF MONEY.

When the Nest Was Found the Missing Bills Were All Intact.

A short time ago Mrs. Mike Huller, who keeps a grocery on the corner of Eighth and Elm streets, hid away where she could easily find it, $76 in bills for use at a time when necessity or desire required it. She thought of thieves, but not of the rodent description, and was, therefore, quite particular in selecting a hiding place. A few days later she thought she would take a look at her hidden treasure, with the view of assuring herself that the money was where she had hidden it, but on going to the place her surprise can easily be imagined when, on placing her hand where the money ought to have been, she discovered that it was gone.

Matters remained in that condition up to a few days ago, when, hearing a rat traveling around the house, the idea struck her that rats were the real purloiners of her money. Going to work with a vim she was not long in ripping up two or three planks from the floor of one of the rooms of the house and, instituting a close search, was greatly elated to find that rodents had actually stolen the money, packed it away and made a cosey bed of it, for there it was before her eyes. Every bill was found intact, not a dollar missing.—Henderson (Ky.) Gleaner.

Making Money Out of Garbage.

The borough of Fulham, London, by the use of its garbage in the furnace of the municipal electric lighting plant makes a profit of $3,442 a year.

Laugh when a friend tells a joke; it is one of the taxes you must pay.

Queer Stories

In Valparaiso all the conductors on trolley cars are women.

Persons with blue eyes are rarely affected with color blindness.

Sleepers made of earthenware are used on some of the railroads in Japan.

In making the best Persian rug a weaver spends about twenty-three days over each square foot of surface.

Each ear has four bones. The body has about 500 muscles. The human skull contains thirty bones. The lower limbs contain thirty bones each. Every hair has two oil glands at its base. The sense of touch is dullest on the back.

The thoroughness in which the agricultural schools of the Western States are going into the education of farmers is illustrated by the announcement that the Iowa State Agricultural College has just established a course of instruction in the slaughtering of live stock. It is a laboratory course, and the young farmers will learn the art by practical instruction.

Ceylon, according to its recent census returns, has no fewer than 145 inhabitants over one hundred years of age. Seventy-one of these are males and seventy-four females. Of these forty-three men and fifty-two women claimed to be exactly one hundred, while the highest age returned was 120. One hundred is a good round age, and no doubt every indolent octogenarian who could not be bothered to remember the year of his birth put down one hundred to save time.

The precious pearl is produced, at least in many cases, by the presence of a minute parasite in the shell-secreting mantle of the pearl oyster and other mollusks from which pearls are obtained. A spherical sac forms around the parasite, which becomes a nucleus about which the substance of the gem is gradually built up in concentric layers. Some times the parasite remains at the center of the pearl, and sometimes it migrates from the sac before it has become hopelessly imprisoned. Reasoning upon these facts, Dr. H. Lyster Jameson, to whose efforts the discovery of some of them is due, suggests the possibility of the artificial production of marketable pearls by infecting beds of pearl oysters with the particular species of parasites that are known to attack such mollusks with the effects above described.

HOMES OF THE ESKIMOS.

Cosy Snow Houses in Which They Spend Long Winters.

Despite the great rigors of the Arctic regions the Eskimos live comfortably enough, considering the state of their civilization, in their igloos, or snow houses. These, says a writer in The World's Work, are dome-shaped structures, exposed to the full blast of the north wind, and are hardly distinguishable from the surrounding snow drifts. They are built entirely

ENTERING THE SNOW HOUSE.

with a view to keeping out the cold air, and admirably serve the purposes of their rude but skillful architects. At the entrance stands a large block of snow. This is the door. In the daytime it is pushed aside. At night it is drawn before the opening, which it completely fills, keeping out of the passage both drifting snow and prowling animals. In order to enter the snow house, it is necessary to crawl on "all fours" along a tunnel about 30 feet long. At the end is the storehouse, which leads to the living apartments.

Light is let into the interior through large, clear sheets of ice. In the center of the living room stands the "kudlik," a saucer shaped thing full of moss and seal oil which serves as a stove by day and both stove and lamp by night. The beds are seal skins piled upon the floor.

Business Woman's Rules.

Be honest.
Don't worry.
Be courteous to all.
Keep your own counsel.
Don't complain about trifles.
Be loyal to your employer.
Don't ask for vacations.
Be business-like, not womanish.
Be prompt—a little ahead of time—if possible.
Be neat and attractive but unobtrusive, in your person.
Take kindly criticism in the spirit in which it was intended.
Do the very best you can each day and every day, so that when there is a chance for promotion, you will not only be "called, but chosen."

Could Not Favor Unions.

The city of Toronto recently called for bids for firemen's clothing and the lowest competitor was the Crown Tailoring Company. The contract, however, was awarded at a higher price to a concern using the union label. Thereupon the Crown Tailoring Company obtained an injunction. In rendering a judgment Chancellor Boyd declared that in issuing its specifications the city could not demand the use of any particular union label and thus discriminate against certain classes of laborers who might be as capable as those entitled to use the label. The true test of ability, he held, is not membership in a union.

Doctors for Russia.

Russia is very short of doctors, having only eight for every 100,000 inhabitants. Great Britain has 180 for the same number.

Masculine View.

Wife—I wonder why the fashions are always changing?

Husband—Oh, I suppose women realize after a time what frights they are and want something more frightful.

A new typewriting machine returns the carriage automatically when the end of a line is reached, so that the operator is not compelled to pause.

To be sensibly dressed is to give freedom to one's movements, and enough warmth to be protected from sudden changes of temperature.

A Parting Shot.

"After all," remarked the rejected suitor, as he prepared to go, "I suppose a man of 25 would soon tire of a wife who hovered around the 32 mark."

"How very ungallant of you to insinuate that I am 32," said the woman in the case.

"Well, perhaps you are not," he replied, "but it struck me that you were somewhere near the freezing point."

Nothing Doin.'

Kerwin—Fellow offered me $50,000 for my mining stock last week.

Parker—And of course you accepted it?

Kerwin—Not me. I figure that if he offers $50,000 it must be worth at least $150,000.

Had Had Practice.

"You must take us for fools," say those who are listening to the man who is telling of his adventures. "You claim you rode from New York to San Francisco in a packing box on a freight train and carried food and bedding and books and a lamp to read by, as well as a coal oil stove to furnish heat. Bosh!"

"Bosh nothing!" was the indignant answer. "I want to say to you that I lived in a flat for ten years, and the only mistake I made on my trip was not having a bathroom built into the packing box."—Judge.