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THE FALL SESSION onens September 15th, 1904.

Bellefonte, Pa., January 20, 1905.

How the Corks are Made

While business was liveliest in a well-

patronized drinking saloon the other after-noon there entered an old and poorly-dress-ed man, who did not look as though he

had the price for a drink nor the wit to

get one without it. He was not after re-

freshment, however, for he went with quick confidence to the end of the bar and

from the floor behind it picked up a box of

was carrying. Then he made for the door, nodding to the barkeeper as he went out.
"What's that for?" inquired a patron with partially-quenched thirst, who had noticed the incident.

"Oh, he's an old fellow who comes in

regularly after our old corks," replied the barkeeper. "Guess he uses 'em to bottle up something he makes."

But it turns out on investigation that

the busy barkeeper was wrong. The old cork gatherer sells what he collects to cer-

tain small manufacturers of cork, who trim

them down and make them look like new

before disposing of them again. Ma-chinery is used for this purpose, and the

buisness is an extensive one, yet it is quite

publicity, for the made-over corks, while

in many cases harmless and of good ser-

vice, are not considered sanitary nor other-

wise desirable. The incident serves to in-

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making corks, and an interesting discovery in connection with it is that the largest cork manufactory in the world is located in this State, with factories in Pittsburg and Lancaster and offices in Philadelphia.

Anyone who has ever tried to trim a piece of cork down to fit a smaller bottle knows what a perverse substance it is; how hard it is to cut it without tearing, no matter which way the grain runs, and how nearly impossible it is to shape it properly. The cutting machine used in making corks only does its work because it is sharpened and kept sharp. An official of one company explained that the saving of labor and cheapening of product by the use of machinery as employed by Americans, where other nations work by hand, are better illustrated in the cork business than in any other he knows of

in any other he knows of. CORK COMES FROM SPAIN In Spain where the cork tree principally grows and whence comes the entire supply sed in this country, all of the cutting done by hand, and even in England the machinery is not nearly so advanced as here. More than one cork manufacturer in this country has, indeed, his own special machines for certain operations, invented by himself or his workmen, which outsiders are not permitted to examine too closely for fear of duplication of the idea.

The tree from the bark of which corks are made is a species of live-oak. It grows in Spain without any special care or cultivation, but attempts to grow it here in Southern California and at other places where the climate seems about the same have not been successful, the product being inferior. A tree sometimes lives to be 150 years old, and its bark is taken off at 20 years and about every 10 years there-after. The first barking is nearly worth-less, and it is not until the tree has been stripped a second or third time that the product is available for cork of good qual-Largest Manufactory in the World is in this ty. The slower the new bark grows the better its quality is, and this quality im-proves with each stripping.

The bark, after being taken from the tree trank from the ground up to the first fork and sometimes from the larger branches, is dried in the sun and air for several weeks to rid it of its sap, then boiled and softened, so it may be flattened out. In this condition it is carried on old corks and dumped them into a bag he donkey's from the cork groves to the sea was carrying. Then he made for the door, coast and loaded on the ships which bring it to this country. The trees vary in size up to three feet in diameter, and the bark is from three inches at the trunk to less than half an inch in the branches. The same tree gives widely-varying qualities of cork, so that there is a sorting for quality as well as for thickness, and yet still more sorting and grading after the corks are fully made. The bark on reaching the factory is cut into long strips, slightly wider than the diameter of the desired cork, by a slicing knife, which is a rapidly-rotating disk something like a circular saw, except that instead of the saw

teeth it bas a razor edge. distinct from the regular manufacture of new cork, and it is the kind of trade which is carried on without any undue All the cork-cutting machinery is built so that the blade slides as well as presses, which is the only way in which the cutting may be done without tearing. The special strips are then fed to the punching machine, which, with hollow punches of the hest steel, cuts out the round cork

them to rotate rapidly, and the punching or "blocking" is done at such a rate that the punches can hardly be distinguished by the eye as they move back and forth. The cork is thrown out of the punch at the same time. Here unles the desired cork is to be tapered, is the end of the operation, and nothing further is required than a careful sorting of the corks for quality. Before its acquaintance with the wine bottle the champagne cork is simply a straight cylinder, like all other untapered corks. It gets its swelled head and otherwise dissipated appearance by heing forced into the hulging neck of the bottle while in a soft and yielding condition and held there by wire laced across its head.

The waste in cutting corks to be used as stoppers is 65 per cent. of the raw material, but, though this is in the shape of small shavings and chips, it is really not wasted, but used after grinding to make linoleum or, in slightly larger chops, to line refrigerators, cover pipes, pack eggs and for similar purposes. Bicycle handles are made out of cork granulated and compressed into sheets or blocks. Another wellknown use of cork chips is to cover the interior ironwork of battleships to prevent the accumulation of moisture upon it. Nine million pounds of cork bark a year goes to one factory in Pennsylvania, yet no manufactured cork is exported. On the contrary, with all that is made in this cork is large.

Chinese Children's Holiday.

Except at the Chinese New Year, which comes in February, it is very hard to catch a glimpse of children in China. Little beggars will run beside you for miles to earn one "cash," a copper coin with a square hole in the middle of it, worth the twentieth of a cent; but children who have parents to care for them seem to be kept indoors all the time, or only allowed to play in walled yards and gardens. We used to say to each other, "Why, where are the children? Haven't they got any?" But at New Year's, says a writer in St. Nicholas Magazine, we found out that they had. This is the great holiday of all the year in China, when everybody hangs out flags and colored lanterns and sets off firecrackers. (We borrowed our enstom of firecrackers for the Fourth of July from Chinese New Year's.) All the people put on their very best clothes and the children the best of all, jackets and trousers of bright blue or green or yellow or purple, the boys and the girls so much alike that you can only tell them apart by their hair. The boy's, of course, is braided in a pigtail, and the girl's is done up on her head with silver pins, or, if she is a very grand little girl, with gold or jade. Thus decked out, the children go walking with their proud papas and mammas, and often go to the theatre, which is a rare treat for them.

Perhaps Chinese children have romping plays together, but they always look as if they were born grown up.

was just in the nick of time? Second Physician-Yes; in another 24 wise desirable. The incident serves to indicate the vast extent of the business of motion is given to the punches by causing without it.—Chicago Journal. Woolless Sheep.

brought to this country by the depart-ment of agriculture, says the "Saturday so mewhat resembling cattle in hue, and quite small, not exceeding 100 pounds in weight. Some sheep weigh over 400

These animals are of a very peculiar breed, which is known nowhere except in Barbados. It was from these that the specimens imported by the government vere obtained. The general belief is that the variety was orginally brought to Bar-

the variety was orginally brought to Barbados from Africa, but nobody knows with certainty. Though lacking wool, they have very superior meat, it is said. The imported specimens have been placed on the Arlington Farm, which is an experimental farm conducted by the department of agriculture, across the Potomac from the city of Washington. An effort will be made to find out what the sheep are good for, and whether their meat is sufficiently superior to ordinary matters. is sufficiently superior to ordinary mutton to make it worth while to introduce the stock for breeding in the United States.

Meanwhile, there have been obtained a couple of "fainting goats," which are now under observation at the departments' ex-perimental farm. To the casual observer they would not seem to be unlike any ordinary goats, but if one approaches them suddenly they fall to the ground and have a sort of fit. In a few moments they get over it, and seem to be as well as ever, but it is noticed that they "throw" one of these fits every time they are startled. The "fainting goats" come from Tenlessee, and are restricted to one small lo-

cality in the State. Their complaint, which appears to be some kind of nervous affection, is so peculiar that the attention of the government experts has been drawn to the matter, and they are trying to find out some-thing about it by making a study of the animals from a scientific standpoint.

- Certain thoughts are prayers. There are moments when the soul is kneeling no matter what the attitude of the body may be. - Victor Hugo.

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