EDWARD K. RHOADS

Bellefonte, Pa., April 14, 1905.

THE DIVINING ROD.

Its First Recorded Use Was For Locating Mineral Lodes.

Professor W. F. Barrett, F. R. S., says that the birthplace of the modern divining rod, whether used to locate minerals or water, was in the mining districts of Germany, probably the Harz mountains. Its first recorded use was in prospecting for mineral lodes. The first mention of the use of the modern rod was in the latter part of the fifteenth century. Books published in the sixteenth century have pictures of miners searching for mineral veins BUILDERS' and PLASTERERS' SAND in a very businesslike way by noting the dipping of a hazel or willow rod, the forked ends of which are held in the hands of an expert.

German miners brought the forked rod into England toward the end of the sixteenth century for the exploitation of the Cornish mines. Professor Barrett points out that the drooping character of the willow was probably believed to have something to do with the minerals concealed in the ground and that "it was but natural to cut a light branch from one of the trees and to see if it drooped in prospecting for ores." Thus the "dowsing rod" came into universal use among the miners of Europe, although it was soon believed that only certain persons had the gift of using the rod.

son's archives by nearly a hundred years. However, the Dutch and English liaison in the matter is close. Hudson is appropriated by Dutch minds and has a Holland tradition round him. He came in a Dutch yacht called the Half Moon in 1609. His sailors were Hollanders and Englishmen. He represented a Dutch East India company on its way to find the much sought for northeast passage to India. He explored the Hudson, going as far as the little town that bears his name, and he himself has been transmitted to posterity with such blended and

The Hudson River.

No Dutch or English man can affirm

the discovery of the Hudson river.

Verrazzano must have distanced Hud-

minds. The names of the river are varied. It has been called Manhattan, the North river, the Great river, the Mauritas and in the year 1616 bore legally for some length of time the name Riviere Van den Vorst Moritias. -Marie Van Vorst in Harper's Maga-

mixed traditions as to constitute him

well nigh a half breed in people's

The Licorice Plant. The licorice plant resembles a rose with a single green stem, reaches a height of about three feet and bears a small purple star shaped flower. The first year's root growth resembles a loosely twisted string of tow and may run to twenty feet in length. The second year it assumes a woody substance when dry, and the third year it acquires its commercial value. The time for digging the root is the winter, when it is dried and crushed under heavy stones drawn round on it by mules, much as olives are crushed to extract their oil.

A Witness' Retort. Curran once so far forgot himself as to tell a witness whose evidence he wished to discredit that there was scoundrelism reflected in his face. "I was never before aware that my face made such a good mirror," retorted the other. The answer was all the more pointed from the fact that Curran, despite his unrivaled forensic qualities, had a somewhat evil visage

Modern Mother-Why, child alive what are you taking off that dolly's clothes for? Modern Child-I'm goin' to zamine her to see if she's been vaccinated. I can't have 'er spreadin 'tagion among my other dollies .- Baltimore American.

A Reasonable Hypothesis. Johnny-Pa? Father-Well? Johnny-Do you laugh in your sleeve 'cause that's where your funny bone is?-Town and Country.

THE BURMESE WOMAN.

In High Esteem.

"Burma, as in many other things," writes V. C. Scott in his book "The Silken East," "is in advance of more reputedly civilized countries in the status it accords to its women. The infant marriage and shutting up in walled houses, the polygamy, the harems, the social punishment of widows, the denial of spiritual rights which prevail in India are unknown in Burma. Here women marry when they are of age and after they have seen somewhat of the world. They marry, for the most part, whomsoever they will and from love. They are not handed over as chattels to a man whom they know not, but are courted and won. The married women's property act has in effect been established for centuries in Burma. In this country, where the women earn so much, the woman's earnings are her own. Divorce is easily obtained, but seldom asked for. The lightness of the marriage laws, the readiness of the Burmese women to enter into an easy alliance, shock the virtue of the strenuous foreigner, but within her ideals she is a perfectly proper, modest and well mannered wo-

"She has failings. Who has not? Her practice of chewing betel is inelegant and destructive to her teeth; her voice is apt under the pressure of adversity to be shrill; her keen business faculties detract a trifle from the romance in which, as in a halo, all women are enveloped; in old age she is very ugly, and even in youth her nose is stumpy, her lips a little thick, her cheek bones high and heavy-but these are Caucasian objections.

"In the eyes of the young men of the land the Burmese girl is a peerless creature, and her influence over their hearts and their passions is immense. What is more, few men in Burma ever undertake anything of magnitude without first seeking the able counsel of

Very Likely. Friend--How do you suppose your baby caught the whooping cough? He hasn't been near any other children. Mother-He probably inherited it from me. I had it when I was just his age. -Detroit Free Press.

Most Unfortunate. Mother (who wants to be very nice to bachelor uncle, understood to have made his pile in Australia)-Now, Charlie, you've never seen uncle be fore. Go and shake hands. Charlie-Oh, yes, mother, I have seen him be fore, I'm sure-at last year's pantomime!-Punch.

A Bit of Sicily.

"There is no Italian town more picturesque than the Sicilian capital, Paermo." writes a traveler. "In its port lie crowded the queerest coasting craft I have ever set eyes on. Sailing ships of all rigs, their hulls painted all the colors of the rainbow, nose up against the quay, where mule carts, whose drivers are shouting at the top of their voices, wait to take away the merchandise. The narrow street where the custom house officers examine the goods brought ashore is a place of terrific noise. When a driver, two clerks and two custom house officers are discussing the contents of a bale or a cask It seems as though murder must be committed within the next few seconds. But somebody signs something, the cart moves on, and everybody laughs."

The Palindrome. A palindrome is a line or phrase that reads the same backward as forward. The Latin language is full of such linguistic freaks; the English has but few. One at least is inimitable. It represents our first parent politely introducing himself to Eve in these words: "Madam, I'm Adam."

From the Latin we have, "Roma tibi subito motibus ibit amor" (Rome, love will come to you suddenly with vio-

Medical.

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