

MAKING OF DEMIJOHNS

Some 700,000 Turned Out Yearly in This Country.

LARGE SIZES IMPORTED

New York's One Factory Has Been at It Fifty Years—Young Women Employed to Do Most of the Basket Work—The Handle Maker an Expert—Hand Work.

There is only one demiJohn factory in New York, this one being located in Brooklyn borough. Most of the work is done by young women. There are employed some men, who put on the handles, though there is here at work one blind man, who makes bottoms, but most of the weaving of the basket coverings around the bottles, which includes the bulk of the work, is done by young women, says the New York Sun.

In making the wicker covering of a demiJohn the work begins at the bottom. The weavers sit with their backs to the wall in two lines down the sides of the factory room facing the centre, while down the middle of the room, standing on the floor, are long rows of demiJohn bottles to be covered. At the end of each row of basket weavers sits a bottom maker.

The bottom maker picks up a sufficient number of reeds or sticks of length and size suitable for the bottom of the cover to be made and these sticks he crosses so that their ends radiate like the points of a star and then he proceeds quickly to weave in and out over these radiating sticks reeds to form the bottom, setting the reed snugly in at the centre at the start, and then rapidly running the reed around and around in and out of the radiating sticks until he has brought the bottom thus woven to the required dimensions.

Perhaps he tests this then with a wooden gauge to see that it is just right, as it is more than likely to be, for he becomes adept by long practice and he can tell pretty accurately without measuring, and then he snips off the projecting ends of the sticks and tosses the bottom to a girl, who puts it in the uprights.

The uprights are the reeds that form the vertical framework of the woven basket. They are composed of long reeds, and shorter ones alternating all around. The shorter reeds will go up the side of the bottle and over the shoulder to the bottom of the neck; the long reeds will go up the side and over the shoulder and on up to the top of the neck.

When the uprights have thus been placed another girl takes the bottom and bends the uprights up and weaves around among them at the bend three courses of reed. This fixes all the upright in their relative positions, and the weaving, thus done, makes also a sort of shallow cup of basket work deep enough to hold the bottle in place without shifting when it has been placed within the skeleton framework, and the weaving of the complete basket is begun.

Supporting the bottle in her lap with its neck to the front, the basket weaver now starts making the basket work around it, beginning at the base; the reeds that are to be woven in are all thoroughly soaked before using to make them soft and pliable and easy to work so they can be drawn and fitted snugly. All the uprights stick out around the bottle long and wavy toward the neck, and it might seem that it would be a difficult thing to get round them to get the weaves she weaves among them into place; but the weaver has a way of bending the uprights aside one after another as she comes to them, all the time steadily rotating the bottle as she runs the reed around it, in and out, under and over the uprights, which spring back one after another as she passes on.

With its cover completed, the demiJohn now goes to the handle man to have its handle put on. The woven cover is made of split reeds; the handle is of whole reed.

First the handle maker cuts a short length of reed, one end of which he tucks under the basketwork on one side of the bottle just below the shoulder while he bends and tucks the other end into the top of the basket work around the neck. This reed is called a false bow; it really serves as a core for and form on which he will now build the handle.

He now takes a reed of some length, one end of which with the end of a tool made for the purpose, he puts through the demiJohn covering alongside the lower end of the false bow. Drawing the end of this reed well through from under the covering, the handle maker doubles it up along the other end, and the reed thus doubled he winds with two or three turns around the false bow and, he comes to the neck of the bottle, around which he turns it.

This gives the handle its secure hold there, as running it through the cover does below, and that turn around the neck, with the double reed, also covers the raw edge of the weaving at the top and gives the work a nice finish there.

Some demiJohns of the largest sizes are imported here from Europe. There are produced in this country by all the demiJohn manufacturers put together about 700,000 demiJohns annually.

Bad Symptoms.

The woman who has periodical headaches, backache, sees imaginary dark spots or specks floating or dancing before her eyes, has gnawing distress or heavy full feeling in stomach, faint spells, dragging-down feeling in lower abdominal or pelvic region, easily startled or excited, frequent or painful periods, with or without pelvic catarrh, is suffering from weakness and derangements that should have early attention. Not all of above symptoms are likely to be present in any case at one time.

Neglected or badly treated and such cases often run into maladies which demand the surgeon's knife if they do not result fatally.

No medicine extant has such a long and numerous record of cures in such cases as Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription. No medicine has such a strong professional endorsement of each of its ingredients as this. It is stronger than any other medicine known to professional physicians. The very best ingredients known to medical science for the cure of woman's peculiar ailments enter into its composition. No alcohol, harmful, or habit-forming drug is to be found in the list of its ingredients printed on each bottle-wrapper and attested under oath. In any condition of the female system, Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription can do only good—never harm. Its whole effect is to strengthen, invigorate and regulate the whole female system and especially the pelvic organs. When these are deranged in function or affected by disease, the stomach and other organs of digestion become sympathetically deranged, the nerves are weakened, and a long list of bad, unpleasant symptoms follow. Too much must not be expected of this "Favorite Prescription." It will not perform miracles; will not cure tumors—no medicine will. It will cure prevent them, if taken in time, and thus the operating table and the surgeon's knife may be avoided.

Women suffering from diseases of long standing, are invited to consult Doctor Pierce by letter, free. All correspondence is held as strictly private and sacredly confidential. Address Dr. R. V. Pierce, Buffalo, N. Y.

Dr. Pierce's Medical Adviser (1000 pages) is sent free on receipt of 21 one-cent stamps for paper-covered, or 31 stamps for cloth-bound copy. Address as above.

CULTIVATING THE THROAT.

Yawning and Deep Breathing Are Important Factors.

A little book recently published in Vienna is devoted to a method of vocal culture and also health culture that has stood the test of practical experience in numerous cases but is not as well known as it deserves to be. It is based upon the vocal method of the concert singer, Josephine Richter, the mother of the celebrated orchestra leader Hans Richter and consists essentially of peculiar movement of the jaws which ultimately give the pupil an astonishing command over the soft palate, besides strengthening the muscles of the face, neck and chest.

Herr Lanz, the author of the book, I can readily understand from which that famous physician says: quotes a letter written to Mme. Richter by the late Prof. Helmholtz in theoretical considerations, that the flabbiness of the soft palate and the back of the mouth must act as a damper upon the voice and an obstacle to precision of attack and utterance. Hence, if the command of the palate, tongue and larynx which you possess can be acquired by your method of exercising the muscles of the face and throat, as your example appears to prove, the fact is clearly of great importance. It is physiologically probable that such exercises would have that effect.

That the exercises do have that effect is proved by an examination of an average untrained throat and the throat of a singer trained by the new method. In the former the soft palate and its conical extension, the uvula, hang limp and constrict the vocal passage, which is further narrowed by the prominent tonsil at each side. In a mouth so encumbered, as in a room filled with furniture, it is impossible for the voice to ring loud and clear. The tonsils and soft palate of the trained singer, on the other hand, are retracted and hardened and the pendant uvula has entirely disappeared, giving the voice a clear and wide passage with firm walls, and consequently increasing its volume and improving its quality.

The method is recommended for the cultivation of the speaking as well as the singing voice and for the prevention and alleviation of various diseases of the throat. "It gives astonishing relief in catarrh of the throat and suggests new possibilities in the treatment of enlarged tonsils."

Now these exercises consist essentially of yawning, which has recently been recommended, independently, as a valuable exercise for the respiratory organs. According to Dr. Naegeli of the University of Luettich yawning brings all the respiratory muscles of the chest and throat into action and is therefore the best and most natural means of strengthening them. He advises everybody to yawn as deeply as possible, with arms outstretched, in order to change completely the air in the lungs and stimulate respiration. In many cases he has found the practice to relieve the difficulty in swallowing and disturbance of the sense of hearing that accompany catarrh of the throat. The patient is induced to yawn through suggestion, imitation or a preliminary exercise in deep breathing. Each treatment consists of from six to eight yawns, each followed by the operation of swallowing.

It should be added, however, that it is quite possible for deep breathing to be overdone, particularly by persons with weak hearts, and it is at least open to question whether the obstacles to free respiration which the yawning cure is alleged to remove are not useful in preventing the entrance of germs and other foreign bodies.—Scientific American.

OUR GREAT BATTLESHIPS.

The Connecticut Is the Most Powerful Ever Built in This Country.

As the newest, largest and most formidable engine of destruction in our navy, and, save one, the heaviest armed vessel in the world, much interest will attach to a description of some of her leading features.

Her keel was laid on March 10, 1903, and she was launched on September 29, 1904. She is 450 feet long by 76 feet 10 inches in extreme width. About 2,200 tons of coal can be carried in her bunkers. Her speed will be eighteen knots, and she draws 24 1/2 feet of water. Nearly 7,500 tons of steel plates have been used in the construction of the hull. Her total cost reaches \$8,000,000.

It is said by one of the chief naval constructors that at the time the Connecticut was laid down she was admitted by European naval experts to be the best designed and most powerful warship of her class in existence, and she is only exceeded at present by the English Dreadnought, of 18,000 tons, whose gunfire range is somewhat greater.

The dominant feature and supreme importance of the Connecticut as a destructive engine of war is centered in her terrific battery of long range guns. Four huge 12-inch breech-loading rifles, navy's latest model, 45



Largest naval searchlight in the world.

feet long, are mounted in two turrets, one forward and one aft. These guns are capable of hurling 850-pound projectiles with sufficient force to penetrate armor and sink a ship six to eight miles away. Besides these, eight 8-inch and twelve 7-inch guns complete the main battery, while twenty 3-inch and 12-pounders are installed, intended principally to ward off torpedo boat attacks.

The hull of the Connecticut is protected at the waterline by a complete belt of armor 9 feet 3 inches in width and 11 inches thick, which runs 200 feet amidships, while the front and back of this, embracing the magazine spaces, is 9 inches until it gradually decreases to 4 inches in thickness at the stem and stern. The casement armor, from the top of the waterline to the edge of the 7-inch gun ports and upper casement, is 6 inches thick throughout.

The work of placing in the turrets the four 12-inch guns, weighing 125,000 pounds each, was a delicate engineering feat. The powerful electric crane Hercules, however, with its strong coils of wire rope, slowly lifted these monster weapons and lowered them safely into their proper positions. To sustain the shock of fire a large 13-ton recoil jacket is slipped over the breech end of each gun. The rebound is about five or six feet.

A belt of armor 12 inches thick forms the front projecting plate of the rotating turrets of these guns.

One of the record breaking equipments is the largest naval searchlight in the world, placed high up on the front of the military mast. The projector is 5 feet in diameter, and on a clear night an object 10 by 20 feet can be picked up at a distance of from four to five miles at sea. This cost \$4,000, and was made in Germany.

Two of the most vital spots on the ship are away below the waterline, in the gunroom, one forward and one aft. Here are the great generator machines. Each plant is capable of operating the ship independently in case the other should be incapacitated and put out of operation by battle. The electrical equipment is the most modern and extensive ever used on a vessel, operating seven hundred and fifty lights in the battle service and about five hundred more in general lighting.

Twenty-five miles of wiring is used, which provides for an elaborate intercommunication between all parts of the ship, directing the firing, range finding of all batteries, submerged torpedo tubes and, in fact, controlling the complete maneuvering operations of the ship in time of action or otherwise.

One of the striking accessories for gun loading is an ingenious electric rammer for driving home the shell and powder charge in the breech of the gun. This is of brass and telescopic in action. Three hundred pounds of smokeless powder are used to fire the projectiles. One charge costs over \$200. The powder is put up in bags and stored in large, round copper cans, 3 feet high, tightly sealed and kept in the magazine holds.

New Salary Bill Takes a Million.

Official Estimate of Minimum Salary Bill' Cost Shows One-fifth the Teachers of the State Will Be Affected.

An estimate made at the Department of Public Instruction is that from half a million to one million dollars will be required annually to pay the increase granted teachers in the public schools by the Snyder bill enacted last winter.

Reports now being received from the 2600 districts of the State form the basis of calculation in making up this estimate. The reports show the number of teachers who will be affected by the act.

The act increases the minimum salary of teachers from the present figure of \$35 a month to \$40 and \$50 a month, and at least one-fifth of the 28,250 teachers in Pennsylvania's public schools will be directly benefited. Those holding provisional certificates will hereafter receive not less than \$40 a month, under the Snyder bill, and those who hold professional, permanent or normal school certificates and have had two years' practical experience will receive not less than \$50.

The act became operative June 1 last, but the first payment of the school appropriations by the State under it cannot be made until next June. The several districts must, however, pay their teachers according to the terms of the law and wait for the State to reimburse them. The last Legislature increased the school appropriation \$2,000,000 per annum and this increase will enable most of the districts to meet the increased salaries without embarrass-

ment, although some districts, which depend practically entirely upon the State's appropriation to run their schools may have to borrow money. Any district which does not pay the increased salary will forfeit its share of the State appropriation entirely, so the teachers are sure of the increase.

The act by the last Legislature, increasing the school appropriation to \$7,500,000 a year will not become operative until next June, and appropriations now being paid are from the total appropriation of \$5,500,000 a year.

Supervisors' Blanks.

We have printed a supply of blanks for Supervisors under the new law, and will keep them in stock. They include order books, tax notices, and daily road reports. Samples sent on application. tf.

An old printer recently died at Des Moines, Iowa neglected by his relatives. After he was dead a will was discovered, bequeathing money and real estate to the amount of about \$100,000 among his brothers and sisters who had left him to die in the poor house. At once there was a great scramble and the relatives got into a quarrel among themselves over the property, and two of them engaged lawyers to break the will so that they could get more. These lawyers began to investigate affairs, and it was disclosed that there was no estate whatever. The old fellow was really the pauper he was supposed to be, and his will was just a huge joke, being his way of getting even with those who neglected him. And now maybe they ain't mad.

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