

FLIRTING IN PERSIA.

WITH THE PERSIAN YOU MUST NOT DISCUSS HIS WOMENFOLK.

The Most You Can Do Is to Ask About the "Mother of His Son"— If He Has Only Daughters He Will Not Mention Them.

With the Persian one cannot discuss his womenfolk. To ask a Persian about his wife is a grave breach of etiquette. The most you can do is to ask about the "mother of his son." If he has only daughters he does not mention them; they are a misfortune to be suffered in silence.

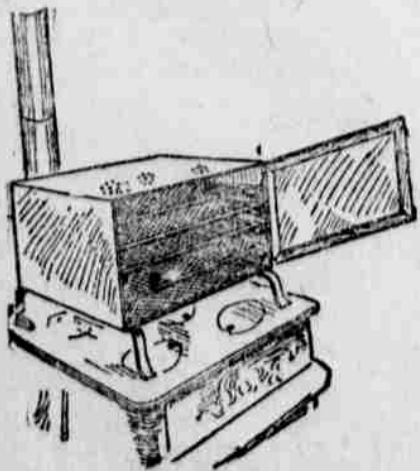
While the sexes remain separated as at present there can be but little real advance. The man does not see his wife after the marriage ceremony; the woman still lives the secluded stupefying life of the harem. "She grows up like a wild flower; nothing which Europeans generally keep out of their children's sight is concealed from her; she is left to the dictates of her instincts, which as she sees very little society but that of servants and slaves, are not very elevating. Her religion is drowned in the lowest superstitions, and as she is seldom taught to read and write, the only means she has of learning is from tales which would hardly have any meaning for us because they are so stupid.

She is kept secluded that she may remain faithful, and the inevitable result is that intrigue forms half the life of Persia. M. de Lorey relates an adventure he had with a well guarded lady of high rank in a jeweler's shop. He attracted her attention, she lowered her veil, he gazed—she dropped her jasmine, he picked it up. The next day they met again in the same shop. We could have wished for the conclusion of that story, but the author tantalizes us by breaking off in the middle. If it had no conclusion—the sad state of too many love affairs—we would almost have forgiven him, says the London Globe, had he done what a Persian surely would have done and invented the rest.

It will come as a surprise to many that divorce is as easy in the unchanging East as it is in the strenuous West. It depends entirely on the will of the husband, who, under the pretext that his wife is bad tempered, barren, extravagant, excessively lean, invalid or blind, can repudiate her. The only drawback for the husband is that he must pay the dowry if the action is his. For this reason husbands are found who in order to avoid this nuisance ill-treat and beat their wives till they themselves move for divorce—since in that case there is no necessity to pay anything.

In another way Persia reminds one dimly of the West, for there are such things as difficulties with servants, even in Teheran. The author dismissed one of his servants who, as he had been a tailor, was incompetent to do anything but sew on buttons. The man protested: "What will become of me now that I have been eating your salt for such a long time and am driven out into the streets?" He was reminded that he had only been employed for a fortnight; he answered that he felt it had been for years. He was told that he was no good; but his volubility only increased. "How can I be no good after having stayed with you? Can you forget what Sa'di said: 'A piece of clay having fallen in the Hammam from my beloved's hand into mine, I said to it, Art thou musk or ambergris that I am drunk with thy perfume, which catches at the heart?' It answered: 'I was but a worthless piece of clay, but I was in the company of the rose for a moment.'

A Practical Fruit Dryer.
To form the legs of the fruit dryer shown in the accompanying cut, I had the blacksmith cut two pieces of an old wagon tire the desired length and then bend each end to form legs eight inches high. The outside of the dryer frame was covered with tin from kerosene cans, and the top was perforated



PRACTICAL FRUIT DRYER.

with numerous nail holes cut out, over which were placed a couple of small inner lids from lard pails. The dimensions can be changed to suit any size range or cook stove. On dull and rainy days it can be set on the stove utilizing the fire with which the cooking is done, as the dryer stands high enough to permit the use of any cooking utensils underneath.

DOCTORS MISTAKES

Are said often to be buried six feet under ground. But many times women call on their family physicians, suffering, as they imagine, one from dyspepsia, another from heart disease, another from liver or kidney disease, another from nervous prostration, another with pain here and there, and in this way they present alike to themselves and their easy-going or over-busy doctor, separate diseases, for which he, assuming them to be such, prescribes his pills and potions. In reality, they are all only symptoms caused by some uterine disease. The physician, ignorant of the cause of suffering, keeps up his treatment until large bills are made. The suffering patient gets no better. The doctor, the wrong treatment, but probably worse. A proper medicine like Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription, directed to the cause would have entirely removed the disease, thereby dispelling all those distressing symptoms, and insulating comfort instead of prolonged misery. It has been well said, that "a disease known is half cured."

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In Quest of Sensation.

Those spirits upon the hunt for "sensations" in Constantinople will wish to "take in" the dervishes. The whirling clan have a convenient convent on the Grande Rue where their circumnavigations may be witnessed at 7:30 o'clock on Friday evening for the admission of 10 cents. This weird performance personifies the solar system and is exactly ordered in all its phases. After preliminary circuits of the ring in single file to the discordant accompaniment of flute and tambourine, the robed and turbaned dervishes commence their turning. With arms outstretched, the right palm upward to beseech blessings, the left depressed to signify mercy bestowed, the head is bent upon the right shoulder. The rapid revolving upon the right heel is effected by employing the left toes as motive power. As the circling accelerates, the long white skirts dilate until they stand out stiff after the manner of the attenuated garment of the premiere danseuse. Very little space is allotted to each priest, and it seems strange that there are no collisions. The dance ceases in an hour or so with the men exhausted.—Travel Magazine.

The Way the Czar Proposed.

It is a pretty story which surrounds the betrothal of the present Czar Nicholas and the Czarina, for, although the great question had been planned and thought out for them by their respective parents, they both were determined to have a say in the matter. That they were in love with each other every one knew, and between themselves a mutual understanding had been arrived at in the summer house of York cottage; but as Czarewitch the future Czar had to make the formal and old fashioned offer of his hand.

"The Emperor, my father," he said, addressing the blushing bride to be, has commanded me to make you the offer of my hand and heart. "My grandmother, the Queen," replied the present Czarina, "has commanded me to accept the offer of your hand"—she broke into a rippling laugh—"and your heart! I take of my own free will."—Tit-Bits.

Traveling Telephones.

The Civil and Military Gazette reports that Lord Kitchener has accepted for use in India a form of movable telephone, which can be employed with great facility in the field. The cable weighs only seven pounds per mile, but is so well insulated that it can be stretched across a stream of water without loss of current. It withstands a strain of 120 pounds. An apparatus for placing and removing the cable, working automatically, and capable of being attached to a saddle, is employed. Recently in the Punjab a horseman, proceeding at a gallop, placed the cable over a distance of two miles in seven minutes. To remove it 18 minutes were required.

Niagara and the Falls of Lodore.

Having seen Niagara Falls, and having read Southey's poem descriptive of the manner in which the water comes down at Lodore it is alleged that an American became convinced that the Lodore cataract was the greater. So he went to England to hunt up the falls of Lodore. He set out the moment he reached Keswick and walked and toiled over rocks and boulders. He could not find the falls. He rested and asked a native: "Can you direct me to the falls of Lodore?" "Why, you're a-settlin' on 'em," was the heart-breaking answer. The falls of all the adjectives were dry!

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