The Story of an Invention.

It may not be generally known that an important invention in connection with the manufacture of carpets originated as follows: An operative weaver, in one of the largest establishments in this country, was engaged in weaving a carpet that in its finished stage would appear as a velvet pile. At that period this description of carpet was woven much in the manner of Brussels, the loops being afterward cut by hand—a slow and costly process. These loops are formed by the insertion of wires of the requisite thickness to form the loop; they are then withdrawn. This weaver, whether by cogitation or as the result of a bright thought came to the conclusion that if these wires were so constructed as, on being withdrawn, to cut the loops, thus instantly completing the formation of the pile, it would be a great saving of labor and time, and a great economy. Taking one of the rods, he changed its form to the required shape, ground a knife edge upon it, took it to his looms, and inserted it into the web—all the while maintaining strict secresy—and with some degree of excitement watched its weaving down until the moment for its withdrawal. This came, the rod was drawn out, the loops were cut, and the experiment was a perfect success, the pile being cut with great evenness.

The weaver, with a shrewdness often wanting in inventors, doubled up the rod and hid it away, wove down the line of cut loops upon the roll, then "knocked off," or stopped his loom, and proceeded to the office of the mill, where he demanded to see the principal. The clerk demurred to this, asking if he himself could not do all that was required; but no, the weaver persisted. Then the manager tried, but with the same result; only the principal would suit the weaver. The principal was informed of the operative's persistence in determining to see him, so he at once ordered him to be admitted. This was done and the weaver stepped into the well furnished and handsomely carpeted office of the manufacturer. His employer addressed him: "Well, John," (for so we will call him) "what is it you want?" "Well, maister, I've getten summut yo mun hev," replied John. "Wodn't yo like a way ut makkin t' loom cut th' velvet piles?" continued the weaver. "Yes! that I would!" replied the employer; "and I will reward any man handsomely who brings me a plan of doing it," added he. "Awm yare mon, then," said the operative. "Wod'll yo gi' me?" he further asked. After some further conversation a bargain was struck, and a sum agreed upon, which the weaver should be entitled to claim in the event of his plan for automatically cutting the pile of the carpet being a success. Arrangements were made for the trial; the weaver made his preparations; the master, the manager, and one or two confidential employes gathered around the loom upon which the experiment had to be made, all others being sent out of the range of observation. The new form of wires were inserted, woven down, and withdrawn, leaving a well cut pile upon the face of the carpet. The weaver had won his reward, and it was honorably paid. An annuity of £100 was settled upon him, which he continued to enjoy until within a recent date, and for anything we know to the contrary may be enjoying yet. He retired from the weaving shed, determined to spend the rest of his days in ease and comfort. His employer secured by patent the benefits of his invention, it being one, among several others, which contributed to place that manufacturing establishment in the foremost rank in the trade, while its owners attained wealth and social eminence as the reward of their prudent enterprise.—*Textile Manufacturer.*

JAPANESE FANS.—The qualities of native paper now used are not nearly so good as those of which the old fans were made, and, in consequence, the style of manufacture has had to be changed. Instead of first pasting the two faces of the fan together and then running in pointed ribs, the ribs are square and are pasted in their places in the manner described above. The outside lacquered pieces and the fancy work are all done in Osaka and Kioto, and some of the designs in gold lacquer on bone are really artistic; but the demand for the highly ornamented description of fans is not sufficient to encourage the production of large quantities of first class work. When the insides are dry, the riveting of the pieces together, including the outer covering, is rapidly done, and a dash of varnish quickly finishes the fan.—The highest price that was ever given for a fan in the days of seclusion from the outer world rarely exceeded a sovereign; but since the arrival of foreigners in the country, some few have been made to order at prices varying from £2 to £3. The general prices of ordinary fans range from 2 to 3 shillings to £3 per hundred, though an extraordinarily expensive fan is turned out at £10 per hundred. The sale of fans in olden times seldom exceeded 10,000 a year for the whole country; but in recent years no less than 3,000,000 per annum have been exported from the ports of Osaka and Yokohama alone. In concluding these brief notes it may be interesting to mention that the number of fans ordered in Japan for the centennial exhibition at Philadelphia reached the large figure of 800,000, the estimated cost of which was £10,000, and that these were over and above the ordinary annual export alluded to before.—*Chambers' Journal.*

WHEN bad, rainy weather comes so you can't work out of doors, advises an exchange, cut, split and haul your wood, make your racks, fix your fences or gate, and patch the roof of your barn or house, but how all that is to be done without working out of doors the paper don't state.

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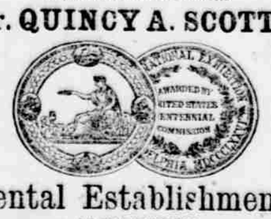

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FEEDING FOR MEAT.—The Boston *Journal of Chemistry* says that poor animals consist of about two-thirds water, while fat ones are only one-half, in the total weight, and compares poor animals to bog meadows. It adds, that when the fattening process begins water commences to disappear, and fat or suet takes its place; and the increase in bulk during the process is largely of adipose matter. It is a curious circumstance that, during the fattening, the proteids or nitrogenous compounds, increase only about 7 per cent., and bone materials, or inorganic substance, only ½ per cent.

The cost to a farmer of fattening an ox is much greater at the close of the process than at the commencement; that is, increase in bulk or dry weight at that period is much more costly. It costs 3 cents a pound for bulk for the first month after a poor animal is put in the fattening stall; it will cost 5 cents the last month. If, then, a farmer consult his money interests, he will not carry the increase in fat beyond a certain point, provided he can turn his partially fattened animals to fair advantage. Farmers have, perhaps, learned this fact from experience and observation, and hence comparatively lean beef abounds in our markets.

While this is of advantage to the farmer, it is very disadvantageous to the consumers of the beef, for the flesh of a fat animal in every case is much richer in fixed nourishing material than that of the lean, and it is never good economy to purchase lean beef. It is better to purchase the poorest part of a fat animal than the best of a lean one. The best piece of a fat ox (the loin) contains from twenty one to twenty eight per cent. more fixed material than the corresponding part of a lean one; and curiously enough the worst piece in the lean animal (the neck) is the richest in nourishing material. The flesh of the neck improves very little in fattening, hence, economy considered, it is the best portion to purchase, as its value in a measure is a fixed one.

THE BEDS OF ANTIQUITY.—About the earliest data that we have concerning beds are of Egyptian origin, and they are very slight. Sir Gardiner Wilkinson thinks that the Egyptians usually slept on their day-couches, which were long and straight, sometimes with a back, sometimes with carving of the heads and feet of animals at the ends, made of bronze, of alabaster, of gold and ivory, of inland wood, and richly cushioned. Where these were not in use, mats replaced them, or low pallets made of palm boughs, with a wooden pillow hollowed out for the head. What Egypt had, the Assyrian and the rest of the world had; and the Greek, whenever he could, improved upon other countries' notions; and the Greek couch, judging from the bas reliefs on many vases, were of great elegance. The Romans, although receiving so many of their customs and so much of their art from Greece, had very simple beds until after their Eastern conquests. Indeed beds which, with their pillows, were merely hollows in a slab of stone, have been found among Roman remains. But from the period when their Asiatic dominion increased, the Romans borrowed fashions from the conquered, and they developed a strong taste for luxury, especially in the matter of beds. Examples of the Roman form of bed were still preserved in the days of Charlemagne. In the meantime, of course, in the barbaric life of Northern and Western Europe, these forms generally being lost, it was an advance in civilization when the bench became the bed, and people were fastidious enough at last to feel above sleeping on bundles of straw or heaps of skin upon flags.

MUSCULAR POWER IN BEETLES.—Mr. Gosse relates the following anecdote of a three horned beetle, which is not larger than the ordinary English stag beetle: "This insect has just astonished me by a proof of its vast strength of body. When it was first brought to me, having no box immediately at hand, I was at a loss where to put it until I could kill it; but a quart bottle full of milk being on the table, I clapped the beetle for the present under that, the hollow at the bottom allowing him room to stand upright. Presently, to my surprise, the bottle began to move slowly, and glide along the smooth table, propelled by the muscular power of the imprisoned insect, and continued for some time to perambulate the surface, to the astonishment of all who witnessed it. The weight of the bottle and its contents could not have been less than three pounds and a half, while that of the beetle was about half an ounce, so that it readily moved a weight one hundred and twelve times exceeding its own. A better notion than figures can convey will be obtained of this feat by supposing a lad of fifteen to be imprisoned under the great bell of St. Paul's, which weighs twelve thousand pounds, and to move it to and fro upon a smooth pavement by pushing within."

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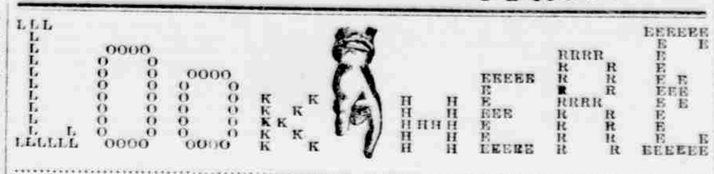

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The celebrated author, in this admirable Essay, clearly demonstrates, from a thirty years' successful practice, that the alarming consequences of self-abuse may be radically cured without the dangerous use of internal medicine or the application of the knife; pointing out a mode of cure at once simple, certain and effectual, by means of which every sufferer, no matter what his condition may be, may cure himself cheaply, privately and radically.

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A DIABETES PATIENT.

CHANGES EFFECTED BY THE SKIMMED MILK CURE.

There is a well-known case of *Diabetes* in Columbia which has been attracting the attention of the medical fraternity for some time, and just now is made the subject of report and discussion of the Lancaster county medical society. The patient is a gentleman who is willing that the public may know the different treatments applied and how the use of skimmed milk affects the disease, that others may profit thereby.

Diabetes is a disease in which the food, liquids, &c., are not assimilated, but are wasted through an excessive and morbid discharge of saccharine urine.

For a long time different remedies were tried. Physicians in Columbia, Sinking Springs, Reading, Lancaster and Philadelphia were consulted, and their remedies, in turn, adopted and directions followed. The treatment frequently showed opposite extremes. One physician consulted, for instance, would not permit the patient to eat anything containing sugar, the next would recommend him to carry loaf sugar in his pocket and eat it at pleasure. Medicines of almost every kind and in large and small quantities were tried.

At one time he was taking from four to nine doses of strong medicine, such as tannic acid, &c., in twenty-four hours. Then he was advised to drink liquor and he drank ale, beer, brandy, German and claret wines in great quantities. At one period he drank large quantities of brandy daily, but never felt well.

A prominent physician of Philadelphia, the last consulted before adopting the skimmed milk cure, told him he could not live more than a year, even if he followed his advice. Upon being asked how long the physician thought he could live if he did not adopt his treatment, he replied nine months. The patient preferred to forego the treatment and shuffle off this mortal coil that much sooner rather than swallow such enormous quantities of medicine.

At one time he drank in fluids, such as coffee, tea, beer, etc., on an average seven gallons a day, and discharged in urine about nine gallons. He ate at one meal as much as three hearty men would eat. He could drink three or four pints of the coldest ice water in succession, or even swallow crushed ice, and in five minutes have parched tongue and lips. He would have to rise every hour during the night, circulation did not extend to the extremities, and the effects of the disease were more and more apparent.

About seven weeks ago he commenced the skimmed milk cure. This consists in absolutely restricting the diet to skimmed milk—eating and drinking nothing else. At first it required two gallons a day to quench his thirst and appease his appetite. Now—this week—he required but *three* quarts a day, one quart at each meal, and this is sufficient to sustain life. His thirst has left, the swelling and soreness of his feet have been reduced, he sleeps all night, rests well, and when he rises he feels refreshed.—*Columbia Spy.*

THE END OF THE RAINBOW.

According to a popular belief, the extremities of a rainbow always touch streams, whence it draws water, by means of two large golden dishes.—That is why it rains for three days after the appearance of a rainbow, because the water must fall again on the earth. Whoever arrives at the right moment at the spot where the rainbow is drinking, can take possession of the golden dish, which reflects all the colors of the rainbow; but if nobody is there the dishes are again drawn up into the clouds. Some say that the rainbow always lets a dish fall. This once happened at Reutlingen, in Swabia. It broke in several pieces, but the finder received a hundred guilders for it. At Tubingen, people used to run to the end of the rainbow, which appeared to be resting over the Neckar or the Steinlach, to secure the golden dish. Usually it is considered wrong to sell the dish, which ought to be kept as an heirloom in the family, for it brings good luck. A shepherd in the Swabian Alps once found such a dish, and he never afterwards lost a sheep. An unfortunate native of Henbach, who sold the treasure at a high price, was struck dumb on the spot. Small round gold coins, marked with a cross or star, are frequently found in Swabia, and the peasants declared that they were manufactured from the rainbow dishes by the Romans when they invaded Germany. In the Black Forest, the rainbow uses a golden goblet, which is afterward dropped. A shoe thrown into a rainbow comes back filled with gold. The Servians have a theory that passing beneath a rainbow changes the sex, men become women and *vice versa.*—*All the Year Round.*

HOW RATS STEAL EGGS.—A correspondent writes us that having had occasion to be up at a late hour a few weeks ago, he witnessed the ingenious manner in which rats carry off eggs without breaking them. Eggs have been frequently missed and the rats have been credited with the larceny, but to sign that an egg had been broken was ever left about the premises, and he had often wondered by what means the rats conveyed their booty to their holes. It was thus done:. One of the rats clapsed an egg tightly between his fore legs and chin and then turned himself over on his back, when the other rat seized him by the tail and dragged rat, egg, and all away to their hole, this proceeding was repeated till eggs enough for a hearty meal was stolen.