For the Fair Sex.

BOYS AND GIRLS.—"If I had a dozen children I would want them all boys," said Mrs. Thrifty. "Boys can take care of themselves, they are energetic, enjoyable, and it doesn't take half so much sewing to keep a family of boys along." "Now, if I should have my choice," said Mrs. Workhard, "I should rather have my children all girls. Girls are so gentle, so helpful, have so much more refinement than boys; and then it is such a pleasure to sew for them, they look so prettily in the garments made for them." "Very well, ladies," said Mrs. Sensible, "you are both right and wrong. I believe in a mixed family—part boys, part girls. The boys influence the girls to self-reliance, the girls refine the boys by their gentleness. A boy who is brought up with sisters makes the most manly man, and the girl who is brought up with the brothers makes the most womanly woman."

SWEET-MINDED WOMEN.—So great is the influence of a sweet-minded woman on those around her that it is almost boundless. It is to her that friends come in seasons of sorrow and sickness for help and comfort, one soothing touch of her kindly hand works wonders in the feverish child, a few words let fall from her lips into the ear of a sorrowing sister do much to raise the load of grief that is bowing its victim down to the dust in anguish. The husband comes home worn out with the pressure of business, and irritable with the world in general, but when he enters the cosy sitting room, and sees the blaze of the bright fire, and meets his wife's smiling face, he succumbs in a moment to the soothing influences which act as a balm of Gilead to his wounded spirits that are wearied with combatting with the stern realities of life. The rough schoolboy flies in a rage from the taunts of his companions to find solace in his mother's smile; the little one, full of grief with his own large trouble, finds a haven of rest on its mother's breast; and so one might go with instances of the influence that a sweet-minded woman has in the social life with which she is connected. Beauty is an insignificant power when compared with hers.

A BEAUTIFUL INDIAN LEGEND.—The legend of the Cherokee rose is as pretty as the flower itself. An Indian chief of the Seminole tribe was taken prisoner by his enemies, the Cherokees, and doomed to torture, but became so seriously ill that it became necessary to wait for the restoration to health before committing him to the fire. And as he lay prostrated by disease in the cabin of Cherokee warrior, the daughter of the latter, a young, dark-faced maid was his nurse. She fell in love with the young chieftain, and, wishing to save his life, urged him to escape; but he would not do so unless she would flee with him. Yet before she had gone far, impelled by soft regret at leaving home, she asked permission of her lover to return for the purpose of bearing away some memento of it. So retracing her footsteps, she broke a sprig from the white rose which climbed up the poles of her father's tent, and preserving it during her flight through the wilderness, planted it by the door of her new home in the land of the Seminole. And from that day this beautiful flower has always been known between the capes of Florida and throughout the southern states, by the name of Cherokee rose.—*Christian Advocate.*

Science.

A new fabric, recently patented, is paper woven into matting for floors, rugs, borders, window shades, chair seats, table covers, etc. These goods are much admired, and it is claimed that they are much more durabel than straw matting, and can be supplied at prices that will insure their sale.

The Lay torpedo was lately subjected to a severe test by its inventor in the Bosphorus. It was discharged over a course a mile long at a target only sixty feet in length. In going to the mark the torpedo had to pass through three distinct currents and a very lumpy sea, but the trial proved very successful.

By vaporizing two quarts of tobacco juice over a slow fire, Baron Rothchild's gardener, at Paris, Monsieur Bozard, destroys all the troublesome insects that may be contained in the hot-house in which the operation is performed. He considers the remedy infallible, and says it rarely injures the tenderest plants.

Abercromby and Marriott, in a paper on meteorology, say that prognostics will never be superseded for use at sea and isolated and remote places on land. Prognostics can also be usefully combined with charts in synoptic forecasting, especially in certain classes of showers and thunder-storms, which do not affect the reading of the barometer.

The following simple test for ascertaining the presence of cottonseed oil in olive oil is given by the *Druggists' Circular*: An aqueous solution of acetate of lead is stirred up with the oil and the mixture put aside for twelve hours. If there be present even so small a quantity as 5 per cent. of cottonseed oil the mixture will have a reddish color. This reaction is said to be peculiar to cottonseed oil.

As to the preservation of wood, M. Fayol finds that treatment with tar increases and sometimes doubles the duration of oak timber used in collieries but has little influence upon that o pine. Oak wood prepared with ferrous sulphate lasts longer—ten times—than in its unprepared state, after it has immersed for twenty-four hours in a solution of 200 grammes of ferrous sulphate per litre.

Contrary to the opinion of old fishermen, statistics clearly prove that there has been a steady increase of the herring taken annually on the northeast of Scotland. From observations made by Dr. Day the herring of late years seems to take to deeper waters, but at intervals to return to the shallower waters, usually frequented for feeding or for breeding purposes, from which it had been apparently frightened by excessive netting, vast shoals of dogfish, etc.

The bread crumb comprises a multitude of cells of thin walls containing carbonic acid gas, the product of fermentation in the dough. These walls of the cells contain both gluten and starch and traces of dextrine sugar. As a consequence of the treatment with water and the application of heat, the starch grains, which, in their normal condition are little sacs filled with minute granules of starch proper, have been swollen and burst.

A non-conductor of electricity has yet to be found, for all substances hitherto discovered are conductors of the force under certain known conditions; but those which offer a great resistance to it serve the purpose of non-conductors in practice, although they may be all classed as good or bad conductors. The best conductor known at present is silver, the worst conductor is solid paraffine.

Most bronze statues in the open air soon assume an appearance of iron. Very few take on that peculiar delicate green transparent film known as patina. To produce the patina covering an atmosphere free from deleterious vapors, the presence of moisture in the air and a certain composition of the metal are required. White zinc alloys or brass soon turn black. Tin alloys or bronze are less rapidly oxidized. Mr. R. Weber finds that the ancients used very little zinc in their fine statuary, and hence the fine patina formation

A Remarkable Maine Girl.

In the plantation of Oakfield, Aroostook county, Maine, there is a girl who possesses the faculty of spelling difficult words backward without hesitation. Her name is Hattie M. Drew; she is just past her twelfth birthday, and resides with her parents, who are people of modern education, living upon a farm. While this little girl is bright and smart as the average of her mates, she never attracted any particular attention until, a little more than a year ago, it was accidentally discovered that she possessed the singular gift of spelling any word with which she was acquainted backward and without hesitation. At a spelling match recently held in the school which she attends, without any warning, she stood before the audience for some ten minutes, spelling words selected at random, some for their difficulty of combination, but without any previous knowledge of what they were to be, rapidly and correctly, except one or two which she could not spell in the proper way, and when prompted in the correct spelling would immediately reverse it. Among the words which she spelled were these: Galaxy, syzygy, astronomy, robin, ponography, difficulty, attendance, indivisible, etc., and many other words of equal length and difficulty. All of these were spelled as rapidly as the eye could follow, without a single misplacement of a letter. Has any other person without any training been able to do this or similar feats? In addition it may be said, upon the testimony of the girl, that "she can see the words in her mind, and knows no reason why she should not read the letters backward as in the usual way."

Joseph Childs, a resident of Radnor township, has in his possession a copy of the first issue of the Philadelphia *Public Ledger*, which is rendered doubly valuable as a curiosity by reason of having been made highly ornamental by the peculiar skill of Mr. Thomas Kay, of Philadelphia, who by folding and ingeniously operating upon the paper with his fingers produces a piece of work which, by unfolding the paper, presents a strikingly accurate and artistic specimen of skill, resembling a stencil pattern used by decorators of walls and ceilings.

Shall We Fight Them, Play Them or Work Them?

This is the handle of a subject with which we will attempt to flagellate the intelligence of our readers who may take the trouble to step aside from the humdrums of routine and grasp our article by the throat and try and shake something out of it for individual or general edification. Shall we fight them, the people? All policies since time immemorial have used this seemingly cruel factor in the policy of administrative governing as the most direct method of utilizing surplus, fretful, discontented, revolutionary material, arguing that what was lost to national vitality was more than compensated for in the general stimulus given to the interests of those who exist in that economy known as the "Fittest who survive." Is this so? We think it is, but our thought is not the kind of proof wanted, one practical fact is worth a thousand theories, and the fact is that you glut a market with any commodity, and there is danger to the holders. The same rule applies to humanity who suffer as a whole, as does the stalk when there are too many grains in a hill. When a country becomes overstocked with men it is as much glutted as if with too many cottons or too many woolens. And the animal economy feels the plethora or redundancy as much as the financial market would an over-issue of 5-20s or 6-30s. To deplete this condition sluices must be opened as in a choked-up gutter. Most nations go to war, thus opening a drain through the sword or barking cannon, and when this is inexpedient they amuse their people with the pomp and circumstance of mock displays, pageants and paraphernalia of court and camp, music and paintings, carnivals, many and gorgeous feasts and holidays, thus entertaining the fickle populace, who thus amused lose sight of their misery, and accept with grateful acknowledgments the harlequins and the tinsel offerings cast into their laps by power and affluence. So far, so good! The wisest of men, the first Napoleon, deemed the dual workings of war and labor as the necessitous demands of government for relief from political congestion, and his policy relieved the glutted market that the revolution of 1793 had failed to reduce to a normal condition of national health. The citizens he did not maim or kill he put to work, one of his grandest systems being that of hypothecation, which could be profitably adopted in our own country. He did it in this wise: He ordered a canal constructed, we'll say the cost was $10,000,000, upon which he issued first-class bonds, for full amount, which, sold at par, built the work. He then issued second-class bonds based upon the revenues of the canal, interest upon the first-class bonds being added to the expense account of the second-class, these obligations would bring, say, sixty cents upon the dollar.

This amount of $6,000,000 was then invested in the second system of canal or other internal improvements, and so on *ad infinitum*, until each laborer in France found employment. Even under the Third Napoleon the same wise management was observed. If the manufacture of silk languished it was at at once found necessary that each company, regiment, brigade, and division of the Grand Army should have a new silk flag; at once the silk industry revived. Had we power we should knew what he was saying, "The more the body politic perspires the healthier it becomes." We must sweat society, and it can't be done with blankets; it requires heroic treatment. It must be through the brow or the sword, or the jumping jack, we'll take the latter horn of the dilemma. Some may prefer to "seek the bubble reputation at the cannon's mouth." But be it labor, amusement—a felicitous blending of the two—or be it war, one or the other is the destiny of all nations. War is man's normal condition, as it is the greatest of all incentives to action, hence nothing so popular. We prefer some other method of employing our masses, but gentlemen who are always ready "to die with their boots on" will never be happy without excitement, and this family is a numerous one in the "Land of the free and the home of the brave."—*Phila. Thoroughbred Stock Journal.*

The Dispensary.

How to Stand Cold.

Professor Raymond Lee Newcombe who was the naturalist of the Jeannette expedition, has formulated some hints on the best methods to endure cold. He advises no fire in a room where a half dozen or more men sleep. He advises ample exercise, and to remove the cold feeling in the stomach after exercising, hot tea he recommends as the best remedy. He advises not to bathe frequently. He bathed his feet often, took a dry rub and kept clean underclothes, and did not suffer so much cold as others who bathed oftener than he. He gained flesh while in the frozen regions and slept excellently well.

He found woolen underclothes to answer well, but he would advise undergarments of cotton and wool mixed. They shrink less and are more durable. Cotton and wool stockings are the best. Exterior fur clothing he found indispensible, reindeer being the warmest, but sealskin the strongest and will stand more wetting. He used deerskin or young hairseal stockings or foot nips inside his boots and over his stockings. His mittens were made gauntlet fashion, with woolen linings, fur seal backs and buckskin palms. He lined the palms with mink-skin. He advises an opening in front, below the palm. By this means one can readily uncover the thumb and fingers without exposing the whole hand.

A properly filled stomach he advises by all means. Soups should not be substituted for meat.

For frostbite he declares cold water to be the best remedy. He found a mixture of glycerine and burnt cork on exposed parts of the face and nose to prevent frostbite. It looked dirty, but it was most beneficial. He also rubbed some of this on the eyelids to relieve the glare of the snow and the light.

Domesticity and Madness.

No class of people furnish more inmates to the insane asylum than domestics and farmers' wives. Such a woman, aged forty-four, the mother of eight children, was recently brought to the hospital retreat for the insane, suffering from acute mania. The husband when asked if he could suggest any cause for her illness, exclaimed with much animation that he could not conceive any reason. "She is a most domestic woman; is always doing something for her children, is always at work for us all; never goes out of the house, even to church on Sabbath; never goes gadding about at the neighbors' houses, or talking from one to another; has been one of the best wives and mothers, and was always at home." The superintendent, in commenting on this case, says: "This appreciative husband could hardly have furnished a more graphic delineation of the causes of his wife's insanity had he understood them ever so thoroughly."

How It Feels to Fall 1000 Feet.

With regard to the recent sad suicide of a girl by leaping from one of the towers of Notre Dame, Paris, Dr. Bronardeli's expressed view that asphyxiation in the rapid fall may have been the cause of death, has given rise to some correspondence in *Nature*. M. Bontempts points out that the depth of fall having been about sixty-six metres, the velocity acquired in the time (less than four seconds) cannot have been so great as that sometimes attained on railways, *e. g.* thirty-three meters per second on the line between Chalons and Paris, where the effect should be the same; yet we never hear of asphyxiation of engine drivers and stokers. He considers it desirable that the idea in question should be exploded, as unhappy persons may be led to choose suicide by the fall from a height, under the notion that they will die before reaching the ground. Again, M. Gossin mentions that a few years ago a man threw himself from the top of the Column of July, and fell on an awning which sheltered workmen at the pedestal; he suffered only a few slight contusions. M. Remy says he has often seen an Englishman leap from a height of thirty-one meters (say 103 feet) into a deep river; and he was shown in 1852, in the island of Ohau, by missionaries, a native who had fallen from a verified height of more than 300 meters (say one thousand feet). His fall was broken near the end by a growth of low ferns and other plants, and he had only a few wounds. Asked as to his sensations in falling, he said he only felt dazzled.

Mixing of Races.

It will be remembered by those who have been familiar with our writings for the last thirty years, that we have counted very much upon an improved race in this country growing out of the mixture of races. Herbert Spencer, in giving his impressions of America, says: "It may, I think, be reasonably held, that both because of its size and the heterogenity of its components, the American nation will be a long time in evolving its ultimate form, but its ultimate form will be high. One result is, I think, tolerably clear. From biological truths it is to be inferred that the eventual mixture of the allied varieties of the Aryan race forming the population, will produce a more powerful type of them than has hitherto existed, and a type of men more plastic, more adaptable, more capable of undergoing the complications needful for social life. I think that, whatever difficulties they may have to surmount, and whatever tribulations they may have to pass through, the Americans may reasonably look forward to a time when they will have produced a civilization grander than any the world has konwn."

Japan Clover.

The Japan clover takes the lead for grazing, fattening stock and improving the land. Japan Clover, Bush Clover (*Lepedeza Striata*) has several qualities in common with clover. It is *trifoleate*; has a deeply penetrating root, and prefers a clay soil, growing and thriving on the naked banks of gullies, and so it brings its supplies from the depths to improve the soil; like clover it is a good grazing plant for all sorts of farm stock, and they seek it. Like clover it also has a notable fattening quality, and resembles it in its composition. Its analysis is as follows:

	Nitgs.	Fat.	Soh.	Lime.	Mag.
Lespedeza,	16.6	.41	5.92	.90	.56
Clover,	1.23	.30	5.56	1.92	.69
	Potash.	Soda.	P. acid.	S. acid.	
Lepedeza,	.88	.51	.39	.20	
Clover,	1.95	.08	.56	.17	

This shows the reason of its fattening capacity, and that it surpasses that of clover. Its utility as an improver of the soil, in comparison with red clover, is shown by its analysis, its ash contributing to that end half as much potash, two-thirds of the phosphoric acid, and more sulphuric acid.

A notable advantage is that it thrives in an exhausted soil where clover will not catch at all, and it requires for its perfection less of the more exhaustible soil constituents—these withdrawn in the cultivation of the common crops—and *seem capable of even of substituting soda for potash*, for its own use, while it restores the latter out of the subsoil. Another valuable quality is, that it it stands well midsummer droughts; grows luxuriantly on the summit of th Blue Ridge at a height of 4000 feet, and flourishes and blooms through heats of August, and on till frost, furnishing pasturage after most other natural forage and volunteer herbage has perished. And it is no small recommendation that it supplants and eradicates that worthless plant, the symbol and the scourge of a declining agriculture, broomsedge. The seed sown over old fields, along roadsides, in fence corners and other waste places, will easily catch and rapidly displace useless and noxious weeds and plants, to the great improvement of the landscape, and at the same time utilizing that large proportion of the surface of most of our farms now presenting to the eye only idle and worse than useless blanks and blotches, mantling them with a beautiful covering of valuable pasturage, and this at a season when it is most needed. It requires no care or cultivation and never runs out, and yet while it is so aggressive it is easily gotten rid of by turning it under with the plow, when it rapidly decomposes, filling the soil with the same chemical elements of fertility as red clover or pea-vines. Another good quality is, that it cannot be destroyed by grazing. There is no doubt but it would work great charms on the sands, and in the old fields and pineries of Florida.—*J. W. Walker (Franklinton, N. C.) in Land of Flowers*

A Hint to Inventors.

It is noteworthy, says *Knowledge*, that some of the most brilliant practical applications of electricity have been simply developement, by experiment and study, of familiar and apparently insignificant effects. Every telegraph operator has been familiar, ever since there has been a telegraph, with the phenomenon of the electric spark, and with the fact that a strong current will heat a conductor of high resistance; yet the electric-fire lamp is simply a development of the former and the incandescent lamp of the latter phenomenon. In the same way the "polarization" of batteries was known to telegraphists for years, and was regarded by them simply as an impediment to be got rid of; but the Plante and Faure accumulators are only developments of the same principle of "polarization."

Starting the Boys.

An aged and respected New Yorker, who was on a visit to relatives in the interior the other week, was interviewed by a farmer who wanted advice as to how he should start his two sons in life. "Haven't you got anything in your mind, yet?" "No—nothing." "Do you want them to be rich and respected?" "Of course I do." "Well, I should send one to West Point, and make a great General of him." "You would?" "Yes; and I should start the other in the live stock business. "What for?" "Why, let one lead an army and the other feed it. It is twenty years since the war closed and we are still making up purses for Generals and paying the claims of contractors. You might as well start right, and give your sons a first mortgage on the United States as to turn out a pair of patriots who can't buy courtplaster to hide their scars."

An Illinois court has decided that woman's lie about her age doesn't vitiate her insurance policy.

The Dance of Los Sieses.

The most curious privilege of the Seville Cathedral is the so-called dance of *los sieses*, which takes place every evening at twilight for eight consecutive days after the festival of Corpus Domini. As I happened to be at Seville during those days I went to see it, and I think it worth describing. From what I had heard I thought it must be a scandalous buffoonery, and I entered the church with my mind prepared for a feeling of indignation at the profanation of this sacred place. The church was dark; only the principal chapel was illuminated. A crowd of kneeling women occupied the space between the chapel and the choir. Several priests were seated on the right and left of the altar; before the steps was stretched a broad carpet, and two rows of boys from eight to ten years old, dressed like Spanish cavaliers of the mediæval age, with plumed hats and white stockings, were drawn up opposite each other, in front of the altar. At a signal given by a priest a low music from violins broke the profound silence of the church, and the boys moved forward with the steps of a contra-dance, and began to divide, interlace, separate, and gather again with a thousand graceful turns; then all broke out together into a lovely and harmonious chant, which echoed through the darkness of the vast Cathedral like the voices of a choir of angels, and a moment later they commenced to accompany the dance and chant with castanets. No religious ceremony ever moved me like this one. It is impossible to describe the effect produced by those small voices under that immense vault, the little creatures at the foot of the enormous altar, that grave and almost humble dance, the ancient costumes, prostrate crowd, and all around the darkness. I left the church with my soul as peaceful as if I had been praying.

A curious anecdote was told me, *apropos* of this dance. Two centuries ago an Archbishop of Seville, who thought that the contra-dances and castanets did not worthily praise the Lord, wished to prohibit the ceremony. A great tumult followed in consequence; the people rebelled, the canons raised their voices, and the Archbishop was obliged to call the Pope to his assistance. The Pope, who was curious, desired to see the dance with his own eyes in order to give judgment in the matter. The boys, dressed like cavaliers, were taken to Rome, received at the Vatican, and made to dance and sing before his Holiness. The Pope laughed, did not disapprove of it, and wishing to satisfy the canons without displeasing the Archbishop, decreed that the boys should dance until the clothes they had on were worn out, after which the ceremony might be considered as abolished. The Archbishop smiled, and the canons laughed in their sleeves like people who had already discovered a way of outwitting both Archbishop and Pope. In fact, they renewed one part of the boys' dress every year, so that it could never be said that the costume was worn out, and the Archbishop, who, as a scrupulous man, took the Pope's order as a *au pied de la lettre*, could never make any opposition to the ceremony. So they continued to dance, do dance, and will continue to dance as long as it pleases the canons and the good Lord.

Home Hints.

The best way to hang up a broom is to screw a large picture ring into the top of the handle.

To cure a bruise or sprain bathe it in cold water, and then apply a decoction of wormwood and vinegar.

To prevent the juice of a pie soaking into the under crust, brush the crust with the white of a beaten egg.

To take oil spots out of matting, etc., wet the spot with alcohol, rub it with lard soap, and then wash well cold water.

To renovate black silk, sponge it with spirits of ammonia or alcohol, diluted with warm water, and press on the wrong side.

To remove stains from cups or other articles of tableware or marblesized oil cloths rub them with saleratus, either with the finger or a piece of linen.

To rid a room of the disagreeable smell of fresh paint let a pailful of water in which a handful of hay has been placed stand in the room over night.

To remove ink stains from mahogany apply carefully with a feather a mixture of a teaspoonful of water and a few drops of nitre, and rub quickly with a damp cloth.

IN the *Columbian Journal* for January, 1855, is the following translation from the original Welsh of

THE CYCLE OF THE WORLD AND OF LIFE.

Poverty causes exertion;
Exertion causes success;
Success causes wealth;
Wealth causes pride;
Pride causes contention;
Contention causes war;
War causes poverty;
Poverty causes peace;
Peace causes exertion;
Exertion goes the same round as before