##  <br>  <br>  <br>  <br>  <br> Sity in bent.

The Distance of the Stars.
As webenold the heavens on a clear
mionlight night, glowing with stars,
is natural to infer that the briftrest the shining orbs are nearer to us tha
their fainter companions. Until re centily, however, the distance of
stars was a matter of conjecture. change coulu be detected for fom oppo
tion of a star when viewed from
site points of the earth's orbit, a dis tance of one hundred and eighty-six mil
lioe miles ; no shadow of a parallax, a the chainge
be found.
Astronomers did not cease to wor
upon the prober, though during the
last century and the first part of the present they reached no reliable re
sult. At length a discovery was made that proved to be an entering wedge.
Several stars were found to
 thesestars must $t$ e pearest to the earth
A star of the sixth magnitude in the Swan, sixty-one Cymi, was found to have a proper Motion of six second
in a year. Besel, therefore, selected
asa subject for inesti asa a subject for investigation and in 1833
succeeded in measuring its parallex
. This, translated into ifgures, means
that sixtythousand times as far away as the
earth is from the sun. Figures fail to give an idea of $u$ distance so immense
and therefore, years are used. It take light about seven years to reach u us fron
sixty-opec Cymnt, our reazest neighbor
and Alpha Centauri, a bright star in Southern constellation, is nearly at the
same distance. There are about a dozee stars whose distance have been measured
tin the same way, put the farther of
they are the more uncertain is the measurement. Vega, or Alpha Lyrie
The briliant Ven
is severteen years distant, the bright Capella is ten years, the glowing sirius
is variousiy estimated from fourteen to
yeara.
thlo ther yisible stars are farther away
than those whose distances have been than those whose distances have been
approximately measured, while e estar ed from us by vast intervals of space
which light rehuites thousands of years wo traverse. .
If they were bloted from the sky they Would continue to shine for thousand the firmament, were this day animibilat ed, he would beam just as brightly to itwenty years to come.
If we were transported to his beam-
ing disis, and endowed with visual powpacee, we sbould events on the earth that were passing
twenty yearss ako, for the lightit that reached us would be twenty years old.-

## The English Sparrow.

In all the long list of papers we pick up, searceone hasa word to say for
this ittte feethered immigrant. The Reading Tinie is isquite alopein befriend
ing the little stranger. ig the entile strange to 1 V and feel stronigly inelined to to range The weight of the exidence against the sparrow may be summarized thus:
1st. It drives out the home birds. 1st. . It dives out the home birds.
2 d . Itdestroys vast quantities of fruit

## nd grain. 3 d . It doe

th. It dioes not destroy the worm.
tithy
tionable
tionable.
So far our observation goes, the
so fas and generally objec first is iot true this locailty, whatever
it be may elsewhere. We have now as many of the native birds as we haveever
had, and sparrows are thick around us. On cross questioning we should have to
wrens go.
The blue bird, the robin, the blackbird, catbird, etc., whilst not comming-
ling with the sparrows, are nevertheless ling with the sparrows, are nevertheless
on friendly terms. The pewee, and the re as friendly as can be, or as birds usually are.

## (2)

The scond point here is daily dis
proved. We have had a goud deal o
fruit, cherries, currants, strawberries
taileter within eighty feet of pelenty of sparrows
nd we can affirm very positively the have not touched either. way. The sparrows devour a great
nany worms on our Linden and other
trees. liould have to admit they spend a great
in of the time in the public roads deal of the time in the public roads,
say oene hundred feet off, apparently
gathering food from road droppings. for the other side ; they are filthy, and when they ca
are a nuisanc At some expense, however, we ha
now expelled them fom our house
self, and henceforth take our place disciple of the Reading Times - the
friend and apologist

## Topping Tobacco.

 The good jadggent of the growemust be carefully exercised as to tim
and manner of toppit.s, as he alone ca deeide when his crop is ready, and mis
takes will be found expensive. One portion of a tield may be ready to top
and the remainer may come in a weel
later ; this is what is plamned for in planting, so that all will not ripen
once. The plant itself will show yo
when to top. Top when it is bud, not waiting for the blossom
appear, for strength and nourishment
that sho Iraves of the plant will be spent in the grossom. By judicious topping th
grower holds for the top leaves all nour
ishing power of the roots, thus driving to maturity the more backward por
tion of the plaut, giving even quality to upper and lower leaves. How to top is to be determined
the probability for maturing, whic
depends upon the condition of depends upon the condition of th
plant, fertility of the soil and the sea
son. The temptation to top high come from the hope of gaining weight, bu this is where the greater number
mistakes are made. If the season ha early, then more leaves will mature
than if the season were backward. field may properly mature sixteen o another field eight or ten leaves ma duces larger leaves, more body an
firmness, more weight, with less labo and ripening earily escapes the frost.
A grower urges that to give the plaut
proper "spread" close attention be give to topping; that it be done when the
seed buds show, and that as many leave seed buds show, and that as many leave
should be left on the stalk as the growe dition of the plant will mature. Proper topping throws the strength of the plant
to the leaves, developing the top leave to ripen with the lower ones, giving
even quality and merit to the crop.
After topping, he says, look out for After topping, he says, look out fo
suckers, pluck them off at first sight,
give all beneft to the top leaves. give an bent this kind will show great
tention of immediately after the crop is
results hung in the shed. He thinks the qual
ity of all leaf is improved after tcpping in proportion to nourishment given.
Therefore, no strength must be wasted in buds or suckers. The life of the
upper leaves is cut off by the stalk apperring below, but if the plant has
meen topped in time all will ripen
been

## Doing the Thing Handsomely

 Pennsylvania state Fair-- $\$ 40,000$to be Dostrisuted by the state Arrangements have been completed for holding the annual State Agricul
tural Fair in Philadelphia in October
next, and annually thereaftur for ten next, and annually thereaftur for ten
years. For the erection of permanen years. For the erection of permanent
buildings the society now has 850,000 at
its disposal. Work on thees $\$$ tryetur its disposal. Work on these structures
will be commenced in a few days, will be commenced in a few days. A1
ready plans have been prepared provid
ing for a main building 350 feet long by ing for a main building 350 feet long by
150 wide, and two adjuncts each 200 by
50 50 feet. These buildings will probably
be finished within two months. In ad be finished within two months. In ad-
dition there will be 200 stalls for cattle dition there will be 200 stalls for cattle
200 stalls for horses and 300 stalls for
sheep and swine. sheep and swine.
The grounds
ed comprike about thirty acres.
Within the inclosure a ing track will be constructed, and traials of speed will hereafter be a part of the attraetions at the State Fair, Although
the schedule has not been arranged the the schedule has not been arranged the
society proposes to ffer $\$ 40,000$ in
premiams. One of the mat brilidings to be erected is a puplic re ception-house larke enough to accom-
modate a great number of persons. It modate a great number of persons. It
will be arranged so that cafe's and various other places of refreshments
will be included within its wails. The wociety has no doubt of the complete sucess of its new departure, and pro
poses to give the laggest and mos
complete agricultural exhibition eve poses to give the largest, and
complete agricultural exhibition
held in Pennyylvania.- Penney held in F
exchange.

| The Dellightful Cactus. |
| :---: |
| Some Uses to Whloh the Arizon |
| Indians Put the Plant. |
| All of the varieties of cacti bear fru |
| which is valued by the Indians for | which is valued by the Indians fon food,

They yalso cook the fleshy leaves of the prickly pear when young, which are
siad to resemble string beans in flavor.
The Indians also vese the hend The Indians also use the head of the
maguey, or century plant, for food. It
It is found everywhere in the territory and is cultivated for revenue in Mexico
It contains a large amount of saccharin
matter. The century hypothesis in re matter. The century hypothesis in re
gard to its blooming is a nyyth, however
long since exploded. Instead of re
quiring a hundred years to attain ma
turity and blossom, the plant blossom in seven years from making its fir It lhen dies, its mission ended. The
eaves, which are flesty and stiff, with
hin edges covered with the trin edges covered with thorns, branch
fom the root in long lances, growing
to the height of three or four feet. The
cente of head, something like a cabbage. From
lhis springs a pole, eight to twelve feet
high, which branches near the top, bearigh, which branches near the top, bear-
ng a yellow flower. The Indians pretre the head for food by roasting in a
oven made of stones sunk in the ground.
We had an opportunity to taste a piec of the maguey so prepared, and found it
Ielicious, sweet and nutritious, tasting
very much like old-fashioned home made molasses candy. If that was
specimen morsel, the Indians deserve
no sympathy on the score of their diet,
as it was really a luxury. The juce of the plant is also con-
verted into syrup and a fermented drink called tizcin by the Indians, and the
Mexicans distill it, making an intoxi
cating liquor called mescal. We als
teated this liqur purpose. In its natural state, un
burnt, it hasa strong smoky taste, resem articles are made from the fibre of th
maguy, ropes and even paper having
been manufactured from it.

## A WET Straw HAT.-If a straw hat has been wet, and the stiffess has departed, rub a little white of egg mixed with cold water over it; put it


 half a pint of new milk; squeeze into it
the juice of a lemon; add half a glase
of guod brandy, a little alum and good
sugar. Boil the whole and skim well
when when cool bottle. Apply to the fac
twice a day.

## Various methods for fastening the handles on knives and forks are in use. Twe quite simple ones are here given.

 Mix powdered rosin with a small quantity of powdered chalk or whiting ; fill the handle with this mixture ; heat the
tang of the knife or fork, thrust if, and
when cold it will be firmly fastened. Or, use powoered rosin and brick-dust,
which may be either melted and poured
into the hole in the handle, or powdered into the hole in the handle, or powderec
and put in and the warm tang inserted. Cerrestiva Brits,-An ordinary
cement for leather is wheat flour boiled in oil of turpentine ; but the ends musi
be secured by rivets or it is not reliable The Milling World is our authority for
saying that a better cement is made by soaking six ounces best glue in one pint
of ale, then boil, add one and a half
ounces linseed oil and stir well. Another prescription is to take dissolved
glue in the form that cabinet-makers glue in the form that cabinet-makers
use it, and add tannic acid till creamy to be united rough, apply the cemen hot, let it cool and dry under pressure,
and it will not need riveting. For rubber belting take pure rubber in thin silices, two ounces, dissolve in one pound
bisulphide of carbon; this is a good ce-
ment, but if kept thickens very soon. In order to prevent this, add a solution of pure rubber, resin and oil of turpen-
tine, made thus : Melt one ounce of rubber, ada hair an ounce of powdere
resin ; when melted, add gradually thre or four ounces of turpentine and stir
well. When the two solutions are united, the hardening of the compounc
is prevented, and a cement is prevented, and a cement obtained
especialy adapted for glueing rubber

## Rallway Building

The Chicago Raithoay Age publishe the first half of the present year, showing that 2509 miles of main track were cunstructed, not including switches or sidings, on 114 lines, in 35 states and
Territories. During the Territories. During the corresponding
period of last year 4990 miles were

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you pr
again I dian't wa
room again
an Irishma
you promis
again ?",
why do se
not blind,
aw hi
t t
th
I
see
yer
whim:
: "Didn't I tell you
a police judge of
I would "And didn't
yer honor." "Thee you er honor."
"Because ye

| For the Fair Sex. summer wraps. One of the latest styles of ulster giv | all unnecessary fatigue. If working in-doors, and where there is artificial heat, | Jo |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |
| test sty |  |  |
| improving it in this way ist tomake it |  |  |
| do, for in that case it ceases to be itself |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| and becomes something else. The of jection to it lies in this: That massing more folds above the draperies of the |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| dress increases the weight without adding anything to the use or the beauty ; for an ulster is not intended to |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| be beautiful, and, in summer particularly, requires to be as light as possible. |  |  |
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| The dust cloak in which the cape forms |  |  |
| the sleeves, and which is held in to the back, is perhaps the most desirable summer wrap. It does not crush the |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| summer wrap. It does not crush the sleeves of the dress like the tight-fitting |  |  |
| ulster ; it is easy to put on or take off, and may be made in cloth of light |  |  |
| and may be made in cloth of light |  |  |
| weight, in dark linen, or in summer silk small check or hair stripe. Where a |  |  |
| little warmth and very light weight is required, cost not being so much of an object, the gathered cloaks in fine camel's hair, with lining of twilled silk and facing down the front of striped moire, are very good and useful, either in black or ecru. <br> Shade Hats. |  |  |
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|  |  |  |
| Large garden hats and that class of summer headgear designed specially for pro- |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| seem likely to acquire and retain a character of their own. For one thing, |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| the requirements are always the same, and they are of an informal and unconventional character. So long as a |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| "shade" hat does shade the face and |  |  |
| scape it does not make much difference whether the braid is fine or coarse, the |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| crown high or low. There is a sense of fitness, however, in making it as light. | Col. Snowden on the Trade Dollar. |  |
| fitness, however, in making it as light- |  |  |
|  | A. Louden |  |
| fore, which have been in vogue for several years past, aided by chrysanthemums | delphia, is of the opinion that the |  |
| or yellow field flowers, such as mustard, cowslips or buttercups, have at least |  | THE National Millers' $\frac{\text { Association }}{\text { Tin }}$ |
|  |  |  |
|  |  | state the wheat crop at $106,000,000$ bushels short; but this does not take |
| gested reflnement cost. But the fas |  | into account the stock held over from.last jear. The actual present boidings |
|  |  |  |
|  |  | are, if a.aything, above that of last year by perhaps $80,000,000$ bushels, with a |
|  |  | not very large foreign demand in pros-peet. |
|  |  |  |
|  |  | Pretty nearly every man in the New Hampshire Legislature looks upon himself as a possible United States Sen- |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  | ato in the immediate future. To thishopeful number add every public man |
|  |  |  |
|  |  | large and small, throughout the State, and you have a key to the political posi- |
|  |  |  |
|  |  | tion at this time in that ancient commonwealth. Statesmen in these latter days are frequently made of small timber, and often of soft wood, top. |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  | Catching Flies-and Suckers: <br> A very small boy, with a tattered |
|  |  |  |
|  |  | straw hat ani barefooted, was engeged |
|  |  | in a species of occupation whose naturewas not manifest. In lis left hand he |
|  |  |  |
|  |  | held a tin box, and with his right haved he was making downward sweeps with the earnestness and regularity of the |
| Monarch, yet to the majof |  |  |
|  |  | the earnestness and regularity of the piston rod of a steamboat engine. A |
| jer re | Government, are refused at more than 87 cents. The only loss to the Government in exchanging standards for trades was that it would not make a proff upon | man said : <br> "Say, boy, ;what are you doing there ?" |
|  |  |  |
|  |  | The boy did not look up to see whohis interrogator was, His arm merelj |
| season are small, but rich and exceedingly graceful. The solid styles are | the silver used. <br> Mispronounced Words. |  |
|  |  | his interrogator was. His arm merely went faster in its curving sweeps, as he answered laconically : |
|  |  | "Ketchin' fies," |
|  | Exxeption may be taken that we give | "What do you do with those dies \%", |
|  | that only those theroughly domicied in |  |
|  |  | "Look a here," he eaid, "yous peo.- |
|  | Eider-i-der, not ${ }^{\text {ed -der. }}$ (Eide |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  | you what I does with these flies, what'Il you gi' me ?" |
|  | Webster has it ê-lizz-i-an, but Worcester is the most followed by polite | said the man who asked the question, |
| constitutes the garment proper. In the small summer garments there is an in- |  |  |
|  | ter is the most followed by polite speakers. <br> Embryo-èm'-bry- $\overline{\text {, }}$, not ěm-bry'-ō. | "All right," sald the boy, screwing |
|  |  | the top on his box and shifting |
|  | Though thoroughly Anglicieed this is a |  |
|  | French word, and pronounced öng-plwaw-yà in the original. | go, but yous peoples got to put the sugar up first." |
|  |  |  |
|  | èn'-kōr. <br> Eneid-è-nē-id, not étne-id. Worces- | They "put up "the "sugar" in the boy's hand. There was a quarter, a |
|  |  |  |
|  | ter inclines to sanction both. Webster gives the former. |  |
|  |  | all there he picked up his box and moved about a foot away so as to get a good start on the crowd. The crowd |
|  |  |  |
|  | Enquiry-ěnn-qui'-re, not ẽn'qui-re. <br> Epsom salt-not epsom salts. <br> Equable- $\mathbf{e}^{\prime}-\mathbf{k} w a ̈-b l e$, not ${ }^{\prime} \mathbf{k}^{\prime}-\mathbf{k} w a ̈-b l e$. <br>  | good start en the crowd. The crowd watched his motions, and the man who |
|  |  | asked him what he was doing, when he saw the suspicious action, said : <br> "Hold on, boy, you haven't told mee |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| The New York Board of Health has again issued circulars giving the following directions as to precautions against sunstroke and the treatment of sufferers | Espionage- és -pe-on-ije, or és-pe-onîzh, not és-pi'-ō-nàje, nor ês-pé'-ŏn-iťzh. <br> *Esquimax - ěs'-kē-mō, not ès'-qui- | "All right," setd the boy, steatting |
|  | maw. Plural, Esquimaux-ēs'kè̀-môz, not ©̌s'-kê-mawz, nor ès'-kè-mo. | tween himself and the crowd, "I'll tell you ef you really wants to know why I |
|  |  |  |
| from that cause : <br> Sunstroke is caused by excessive heat, | Etagere-ct-k-zhar, not ex-tazh'-er-y, nor at-tizuht-j- Worcester favors an | "Yees, yes", answered the crowd in a |
| and especially if the weather is "muggy." It is more apt to occur on the second, third or fourth day of a heated term than on the first. Loss of sleep, worry, excitement, close sleeping rooms, debility, abuse of stimulants predispose to it. It is more apt to attack those working in the sun, and especially between the hours of 11 $0^{\prime}$ 'clock in the morning and $40^{\circ}$ clock in the afternoon, Avoid loss of sleep and |  | breath, finally losing patience. <br> "Well," answered the toy, as he prepared to run. "ketehin' tlies is only one part of my business. Ketchin' suckers at forty cents is the other part. I think I does best on the suckers," and he disappeared around the corner. <br> An amateur poetess wails: "Oh where can I find rest "" Get a position asssuleswoman in a store that don't advertise, derling. |
|  | *Note-Eisquimault-A nearly-related word, in sound at least. The port for Vietoria, B. C, (and the seat of the British Navy Yarc, on Vancouvers shand, ced as if spelled squi-mauth, the $e$ slurred or entirely silent. As we shali soon be nearly related to the upperPaific coast by rail, it soems well to Pacific coast by rall, it socen to give this pronuncPa.) Home Necs. |  |
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