

A DOLL FACTORY.

HOW SOME CHRISTMAS PRESENTS ARE MADE.

Winter Employment for Many Country People in Germany—Doll Hospitals in New York.

It is an open secret that Santa Claus brings the greater part of his vast stock of Christmas toys from Europe, Germany being his favorite collecting grounds.

The actual supply of first-class workmen is practically nil, and the artisan is not only unequal to the production of excellence in this special line, but what is worse, does not possess the moral faculty of judgment and enjoying it.

But more important than all other toys are the dolls, and nine dolls out of ten are little German girls.

The legs and arms are dipped in flesh-colored paint, and the painted shoes are put on with brushes.

An expert workman in the factory, holding dolly by the feet, dips her head and shoulders for a moment in melted wax, and she emerges from the bath the compositum wax doll of commerce.

For the real wax doll, a more expensive article, the molds for the head are made in three parts—one back and two fronts.

The wooden stables, kitchens, groceries, butcher shops and the familiar Noah's arks are all made by hand in Saxony.

Phosphorescent Infection.

Portuguese Workmen.

Among Portuguese workmen—and now I allude to those who have learned a handicraft—there is what I may style, without exaggeration, a national want of the perception of accuracy.

and practically. A door may gape at the top or bottom, windows almost invariably rattle in their sashes, but you will never persuade the carpenter that his work is badly done; he will acknowledge the existence of what are pointed out as defects, and answer: "That's no harm—what does it matter?"

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THE SPRUCE-GUM PICKER.

An Industry for Which Vermont is Once Famous.

Genuine spruce gum has almost disappeared, as a regular article of merchandise, from the Bennington, Vt., market.

Gum of the finest grade is either translucent or transparent, of a light-amber color, filled more or less with minute bubbles of air, breaking with a short, scintillating fracture, and having a sweet, peculiar and balsamic odor and taste.

A large portion of the gum offered for sale in Bennington is sent West in small packages by mail.

Perhaps the most famous gum picker in Vermont is Alonzo K. Bishop of Woodford. He is a professional in this peculiar industry.

The curious discovery has been made that the phosphorescence frequently exhibited by many species of the crustacea is infectious.

QUEER ROADS IN CHINA.

Curiosities of Travel and Postal Service in the Flowery Land.

Minister Denby has just sent to the Department of State a very interesting description of roads in China.

China has telegraph lines now, but previous to their introduction intelligence was conveyed to the center of government from outside provinces by an elaborate system of post stations.

Express couriers who carry imperial messages between Garkot and Lhasa, the capital of Tibet, make the entire distance of 800 miles on horseback in eight days without relief, riding night and day.

All private correspondence is transmitted by private post offices, of which there are several rival establishments in each city.

The diet for sick people reaches its highest perfection in the various hospitals where the physicians prescribe certain rules and regulations, and the sufferers are compelled to abide by them.

Preventing Coal Dust Explosions.

A successful method of preventing coal dust explosions has been adopted in various German mines.

A Portable Hospital.

During the recent maneuvers of the French army a thorough test was made by the medical corps of a portable hospital invented by M. Espitalier.

Official R d Tape.

The new extradition treaty with England is said to show by its practical workings one of the finest exemplifications in the world of the red tape process of how not to do it.

London. The Boston police cabled to Scotland Yard a description of the man, with particulars of his crime.

Cause of the Chinese Riots.

There is a deep plot behind these anti-foreign riots in China which goes far beyond the feeling against the missionaries.

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Food for the Sickroom.

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THE LADIES.

THE PRESIDENT'S WIFE IS HIS SECRETARY.

Mme. Carnot, wife of the President of France, acts as secretary to her husband, has the care of his private correspondence always, and when he is over-pressed with business or is desirous of taking some little repose, as well as during his absence, she takes his place and transacts all current affairs with a care and perfect knowledge of business routine which she shows to her early training.

PHYSICAL IMPROVEMENT OF THE SEX.

Several English medical journals have recently called attention to a fact, sustained by common observation, that the young women of the present day are better developed physically, taller, plumper, stronger and healthier than the young women of 50, 100, 150 or 200 years ago.

THE NEW BODICES.

The new bodices are all made over a fitted lining. The only places where the material of the bodice is united to the lining and on the inside of the waist are at the shoulder seams.

TEACHING FACTORY GIRLS.

The ladies of Elberfeld, Germany, have adopted a practical system for teaching factory girls how to become good wives.

FASHION NOTES.

Short white face veils are of figured or applique lace.

A GREEN BRONZE BOA.

I was told, writes a Paris correspondent, that boaa a la 1830—that is to say, the long ones—would be abandoned this season.

SHE MISSED IT SO.

"It's an old trick of the trade with the novelists to tell how young women, when in love, never fail at a certain juncture to double-lock their room doors."

THE MUFFLER FOR FULL DRESS.

The muffler for full dress is of some solid, deep color, and is in the form of an enlarged handkerchief, to be folded to a width from four to five inches.

THE SEAMS ON THE BODICES AND SKIRTS.

All the time I was engaged I never took any thought for the day on which I was to drop my own nice surname and title, for which I had such a deep affection, and be addressed by my family, my friends and people to whom I was introduced by an entirely different one.

one day there suddenly came over me a curious little lonesome feeling. It seemed so chillily and formal, so unlike myself to be addressed as 'Mrs. at every hand, and never to hear my own dear original name.

"The more I thought over the matter the more despairing I became. Never, never could I hear the old familiar 'Miss' when anybody spoke to me.

"Thenupon I actually locked myself in my room and wept so long and bitterly from pure homesickness that my husband besought me tearfully through the key-hole to tell him what was wrong.

"He was very much hurt when I first explained the cause of my grief, but when I brought him to a realization of my loss, he grew sympathetic, and, do you know, for a long time he called me by my maiden name.

It is very grievous to notice how great and various are the difficulties in the way of making new employments successful.

The first and really important difficulty of men objecting to admit women to new spheres of work, is almost entirely overcome, but there is more fear of women injuring their cause by their own petty hecklings and wranglings than there ever was from the opposition of men.

Why in the world are not a few more enterprising women, with a small capital at their disposal, coming forward as poultry farmers? There are one or two already "in the trade," and doing exceedingly well, and there are hundreds and thousands of women who "make a little money" by selling eggs and poultry in an amateurish way.

Some of the dyed fur rugs are found very disagreeable in a warm house.

Yokes of fur are now applied to cloaks of cloth, or to any of the woolen cloackings.

It is truer now than ever before in the history of fashion that "fine feathers do not make fine birds."

Scarlet waistcoats, embroidered with fine gold braid, are in high favor among the women of fashion.

Women who wear diamond rings outside their gloves are, contrary to hope, not all dead yet by any means.

Purple, heliotrope, sapphire, carnation, apple green, and pinkish browns are fashionable colors for costumes.

New effects in portrait photography are nothing if not startling. The head looks to be in a cloud of "cotton smoke."

Some of the new skirts are made with pocket slits on both sides of the front, and are trimmed with passementerie, gimp, or velvet.

Faille Francis, bengaline, gross-grain, Ottoman, peau-de-soir, and sergo-de-Lyon silks will all continue fashionable through the winter.

The novelty in bodices just now is a perfectly smooth, tight-fitting waist of velvet or satin, without trimming of any kind, and long sleeves made entirely of feathers.

The muffler for full dress is of some solid, deep color, and is in the form of an enlarged handkerchief, to be folded to a width from four to five inches.

The new French skirt, or umbrella skirt, as some call it, on account of its shape, is the very latest skirt for walking costumes and house wear. It molds the figure below the waist and around by means of a few darts, the entire fullness being adjusted at the back.

The seams on the bodices and skirts of silk or velvet evening gowns are being overlaid with a narrow silk gimp or passementerie.