

FOR THE LADIES.

DRESSING PRETTY NECKS.

It is frequently noticeable that the slender woman covers her neck with illusion when wearing a low-cut dress, but even a beautiful neck is often more lovely if fitted over with a seamless yoke of transparent or semi-transparent material. A tiny edge of ruff may finish the yoke at the neck, or it may be drawn full with a dainty narrow ribbon, or, again, it may simply disappear under a necklace.—[St. Louis Star Sayings.]

PANNIERS COMING.

Scarcely has the panic created by the erminette subsided, than we are threatened with panniers. In these days of exaggeration who shall say whether they may not develop into farthingales? At present the sole indication is a slight fullness on the hips; but it is whispered by those in authority that these folds will be increased in the near future to unmistakable panniers. As a rule, the latter are singularly ungraceful, more especially if the wearer thereof is short and not particularly slender. Short women, be it observed, are generally addicted to a bunched style of dress.—[Chicago Herald.]

A FRONTIER MOTHER.

Not far from Oak Bar, Oregon, a woman lately made a heroine of herself with her little gun in front of a child-seeking panther that her dog had treed. On hearing the growling and the row she dropped her stitches, picked up a rifle, took a good aim and at the first fire brought down the brute. Then she hurried with her children to the mining camp where her husband worked, fearing that the panther had a mate prowling not far away. It is believed that she saved the children from the terrible fate that befell another child over a year ago near the same place.—[New York World.]

DRESSING THE HAIR.

Plain parted hair can be worn only by women who have a calm serenity of countenance and a gracious dignity of figure, for somehow it makes every line and wrinkle plainly visible and makes a short woman look dumpty. But a slight fringe with the hair parted behind is generally becoming and very bewitching. Fortunately, most women have a wholesome horror of the pompadour, for it is a fashion very few faces can stand. If you wear a bang keep it in soft, light curls. There is nothing more ridiculous than a riotous brush of frizzes, involuntarily reminding one of hastily screwed-up curl papers. There is only one way of managing a fringe, and that is the curling-iron, unless you have gray hair. Heat spoils the color of gray hair. If you will only make the best of your hair you are bound to make the best of your face.

HORSES FOND OF WOMEN.

Not long ago a muscular, 200-pound man, with his wife beside him, was driving a fast, high-spirited horse, harnessed to a light wagon. The horse pulled very hard, and at last, tired out, the driver handed over the reins to his companion, saying, "Hold on to this beast for a minute, if you possibly can, so that I may rest my arms." Accordingly, the woman took the reins, and no sooner had she done so than the horse stopped pulling, slackened his pace, and became calm and obedient. But when the man resumed control the animal immediately began to pull and to fight against the bit as hard as ever. A second time the woman took the horse in hand; as before, she submitted at once, and under her guidance he trotted gently along till their destination was reached. Another case that fell under my observation is the following: A gentleman who is a good shot and an expert tennis player, but who has no "faculty" for horses, drove out with his daughter, a delicate girl of fourteen. Their steed, a very strong, mettlesome animal, soon began to plunge and pull. Unable to control him otherwise, the driver, in a moment of exasperation, struck the horse with a whip, the result being that he nearly ran away. At this the child began to cry, for she loved the animal and could not bear to see him abused. "Here, take him, then," said her father, handing her the reins. At once the horse detected the new driver, his anger and fear began to subside, and a few soothing words from the girl-driver completed the conquest.

COIFFURE CLUBS.

Girls who cannot afford maids or frequent trips to the hairdresser are forming "coiffure clubs," writes Dorothy Maddox in the St. Louis Republic. Whimsical as the idea may appear to outsiders, the young women are themselves in thorough earnest. Every member when initiated pledges herself to contribute at the monthly meeting of the club at least one coiffure hint. This she may beg, borrow or steal from whatever source she pleases, but the idea must be forthcoming when fellowmembers meet to compare notes. Each girl hands in to the secretary her written suggestions for dressing the hair, which is read aloud and commented upon by the club critics. The most feasible idea, or the one at least which seems to be the most popular, is selected and given into the hands of the girl whose turn it is to play the role of hairdresser, while another volunteers to submit her tresses to the "new styles." Members gather around the fair amateur, and carefully scan the work as it proceeds.

At one meeting fluffy effects are sought after; at the next only smooth and satiny locks are given attention. In this way chic coiffure modes are developed for the morning negligee, the tailor-made costume and the evening frock. It is said that the "coiffure club" is going to have a great run as a morning diversion at summer resorts.

FATE OF WOMEN IN CHINA.

Women of position in China are allowed no social intercourse with any men except those who are nearly related to them, writes A. T'ung How. They may, however, receive and return the visits of female friends, going out in light-colored sedan chairs borne by "coolies." Tea and little cakes are al-

ways offered to visitors, a good deal of gossip is indulged in, and new clothes and jewels are displayed. Diamonds are not worn, but most rich women own large numbers of beautiful pearls and many jade ornaments. Their ordinary daily occupations consist of the direction of household matters, spinning flax, and embroidering their dainty little shoes. In the evening they tell stories (a favorite diversion of all Chinese, both old and young), sing ballads, and play dominoes. In every rich man's house the family circle is a very large one, for not only do his sons bring home their wives, but a number of poor relations are sure to form part of the group. If a man has no son of his own, he adopts at least one; poor relations are always plenty, and in China public opinion forces wealthy men to take care of them; the larger their fortunes, the more relatives must they support. It is not uncommon to pay the expenses of two hundred, but some of these would be pensioned off, and invited to remain—at a distance.

Among the very poor people, women do the roughest and hardest kinds of work, laboring in the fields, and even breaking stones on the roads. China tries to make of their mere beasts of burden, and of their richer sisters help-less puppets. In theory they are all most inferior beings, scarcely possessed of reasoning powers, but practically, as I have tried to show, their influence in the country is, though unacknowledged, very great, while they win the love and command the respect of all those who really learn to know them.—[New York Post.]

FASHION NOTES.

Black Bourdon laces come in widths from three to fifteen inches. Dressy suits are made of nun's veiling trimmed with ribbons and lace. Black bonnets are composed of fancy horse-hair and straw balls or buttons. Shaded velvets are quite as popular for summer as they were during the winter. As millinery trimmings, when judiciously used, nothing can be more elegant and desirable. A popular combination is very fine French cloth with sleeves, belt and shoulder-ruffles of shaded velvet. Sleeves have reached their limit and the most approved models are less balloon-like than heretofore. A simple and stylish traveling costume is of Harris tweed made with a Russian blouse, a flared Empire skirt, very full sleeves and a belt embroidered in mohair braid. The same braid ornaments the foot of the skirt. Kid belts are of many designs in the round and bodice shapes, and this promises to be a splendid season for them. Pretty straw hats in pale violet are trimmed with gold lace, green velvet and a single pink rose. Snow-flake woollens, sackings, gingham, lawn and aspen fabrics for summer are everywhere exhibited. It is an anachronism, at least, to pattern tulips with snow-flakes. Sleeves are running to extremes. The wider they are and the further they can project from the shoulders the better the wearer seems to like it. Black Bengaline, Ottoman faille and other shining lusterless corded silks are greatly used for church, reception and visiting dresses. The pretty fashion of wearing dainty bodices of colored silk both in the day time and in the evening seems likely to be in vogue this season. Some of the prettiest new bodices possible to imagine or describe are being shown. They are delightful in color and arrangement and novel in shape and style.

What is called "white wool grenadine" is a new material that has appeared for evening dresses. The newest handles for sunshades break forth into blossoms of various kinds. One will have violets, another blush roses, or, perhaps, buttercups. The flowers are made of some substance which gives them firmness and a natural effect. It would be most interesting reading if some of the writers, who profess to know of economical young women who get up entire costumes of the most attractive sort for six dollars and twenty-five cents, would give information on the ways and means for doing this. Such articles will not, as a rule, bear very close investigation.

The revival that promises decided popularity is the old-time long-skirted basque which is not unlike the Chesterfield jacket of twenty-five or thirty years ago. The lower edge of the jacket is trimmed with a flat fold or may be finished with passementerie or merely left plain and stitched, according to fancy. Lace and embroidery, embroidered lace especially, will be among the leading trimmings for the summer. There seems to be no limit to the ways in which these beautiful garnitures are used, as something new is brought out almost every day. Parasols seem to have become merely forms on which to exhibit the most enormous quantities of lace and other thin materials. The amount of goods that may be put into one of the fashionable parasols of the day is almost past belief.

New jackets have sleeves large enough to accommodate the enormous puffiness of the dress shoulders, and while this, of course, accentuates the size of the arm, that fact seems to be no objection. A curious beast, killed near Weston, Umatilla County, Oregon, was on exhibition at Pendleton the other day. It is about three feet long and a foot and a half in height, and has a shaggy coat of dark and light brown. Its head resembles that of a bear, but its long tail precludes the idea that it might be a cinnamon. It is supposed to be a specimen of the so-called fox-tailed bears which tradition says were once plentiful in the mountains in that vicinity.—[New York Post.]

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SOMEWHAT STRANGE.

ACCIDENTS AND INCIDENTS OF EVERYDAY LIFE.

Queer Facts and Thrilling Adventures Which Show That Truth is Stranger Than Fiction.

A WRECKING gang on the Delaware division of the Erie Railway were clearing up a wreck at Nobody's Block, not far from Cochocton, N. Y., when their attention was called to a curious, shrill, creaking sound which came at short and regular intervals from a cornfield directly across the Delaware River, in Wayne County, Pa. They made an investigation, and found that the sound emanated from the children of a German farmer, who had been stationed around his cornfield to scare away the crows from pulling up the young and tender shoots of corn. The farmer had been unusually well blessed with progeny, his wife having borne him no less than twelve children, including four pairs of twins. He had been yearly bothered with crows in corn-planting time. He had adopted all the scarecrow devices in common usage among farmers, such as placing stuffed straw men in the field, stringing twine over poles with bits of white rags fluttering in the wind, etc., but the crows had become used to these things, and, crow-like, would post their sentinels on lofty tree-tops to give warning of danger while their companions were at work uncovering the hills. A happy thought struck the farmer by which he could protect his corn and utilize his several offspring. Arming two of them with old tinpans each day, he placed them in the field at four o'clock in the morning and told them to call "Cool! cool!" and pound their pans whenever they saw any crows flying near. When the children became tired the father replaced them with two others, and thus by successive relays the crows were kept away until the corn was of a size sufficient to protect itself. It was this strange noise, kept up all day long, from early morning till eve, that made the Erie wreckers marvel. It is said that this is the second year in which the Wayne county farmer has protected his cornfields with living scarecrows.

I WITNESSED a strange duel in Argentine, writes a correspondent. Two rangers were enamored of the same dark-eyed senorita. Now, when your South American is hit by the blind archer, he is hit hard. He is not satisfied to visit his charmer one evening in the week and give up the rest of the time to his rivals. If he catches another admirer hanging about the house of his innamorata, there is apt to be trouble. The two sighing swains in question had agreed to settle by a duel with the lasso which should wed the damsel. A hundred piratical-looking cow punchers assembled to witness the fray. The rivals appeared on two mettlesome mustangs, each with a long powerful lariot of tough bull-hide. They were both experts with the lasso, and their horsemanship was a marvel of this barbaric scene. Within forty or fifty yards of each other, then began to maneuver for a deciding cast. After several feints the lariot of the younger of the rivals went whizzing through the air so swiftly that the eye could scarcely follow it. The other sank his spurs into his mustang. The animal shot forward just in time to save his master from the deadly noose, and as he did so, the second lasso rose into the air and settled round the shoulders of the man who missed, pinning his arms to his side as in a vise. He was jerked headlong out of his saddle. His successful rival drew him along, hand over hand, half-lifted him from the ground by the tenacious thong, and put a bullet squarely between his eyes. He then turned, rode directly to the hacienda, where lived the cause of this barbaric scene. She mounted behind him, and he came galloping back, swinging his sombrero.

LIGHTNING played a queer trick the other day out in Montana. A bolt fell on a farmer working in a field on his ranch near Augusta and besides killing him played havoc with the metal that he carried in his clothes. The current struck his silver watch, burned a hole through the edge near the case spring, and passed on entirely through the watch between the outer and inner cases, and thence its exit near the stem. A match could be inserted in the hole. When the body was found the watch had stopped, but when it was taken from the pocket it started ticking again, and has been keeping excellent time since. The blades of the dead man's knife were welded together, and the brass ends were melted.

Among the strange things that strike the eye in Vancouver city is a boat colony. It occupies a strip of beach back of the town on the salt-water "arm" or fjord, and consists of twenty or thirty little floats, few of them over forty feet long, that are built over and supplied with beds and cooking utensils. Some of them are occupied by laborers, but the best appearing ones, that are put together with a good deal of art and are really handsome pieces of wood-working, are the homes of Japanese artisans. The boats float at high tide, but are moored to the shore. The strangeness of the scene is heightened by the tents of dirty Indians on a bluff just above the water.

ONE of the strangest superstitions of Chinamen is the awe with which they regard the cockroach. John holds the ugly black pest as something sacred, claiming that it is specially favored by the gods and a particular favorite of the great Joss. The most unfortunate mishap that can befall a Chinaman is to step on a cockroach. Instantly visions of terrible disasters and calamities arise before him. In some instances the superstition has been known to so prey on the minds of the Celestials as to drive them insane. As a result of this state of affairs, a Chinaman would as soon think of killing himself as of killing one of the insects.

NEBO, I. T., walls because Boyd's oil spring ceased to flow five weeks ago and still remains dry. The spring was about sixty miles northeast of Gainesville, Tex. It has been a resort for invalids since the first settlement of the country. The stream of water feeding the spring was not very strong, and at intervals of but a few

minutes, a drop of oil would rise and float on the surface. During a period of twenty-four hours the surface of the water would become covered with oil. It was taken internally and applied externally for "all the ills that flesh is heir to."

A most remarkable discovery was made by some laborers employed on the farm of County Surveyor W. S. Gholsen near Paducah, Ky. A poplar tree five feet in diameter was sawed down, and in the hollow of it, the remains of a human skeleton were found, in a perfect state of preservation. The tree, to all appearances, was perfectly sound, except about seven feet above the ground was a notch, as if the tree had once been chopped into, but the cavity had grown over. The placing of the skeleton in the tree is supposed to have been the work of Indians.

A CURIOUS operation has been reported to the French Societe d'Ophthalmologie. A boy of thirteen, after an injury to his eyelid, had it so severely contracted that he could no longer close his eye. Accordingly an incision was made in the eyelid by M. Gillet de Grandmont, and tiny fragments of frog skin were inserted in a kind of checker work. It adhered perfectly, and the wound was completely healed over. After about five months the eyelid recovered its power of movement. A tiny transverse line across the lid is the only sign visible of the fragments borrowed from the frog.

"RATTLENAKE PETE," of Oil City, Penn., as his name would indicate, is a man of somewhat gawky build. He is now proudly wearing a double-breasted sack coat and a pair of trousers made of rattlesnake skins so arranged that a pleasing effect; that is, Pete thinks they do. It took him four years to gather the skins for this suit, and he had to kill 125 snakes to do it. The buttons of his coat are rattlesnake heads mounted with gold.

THE phenomenon of double consciousness, so skillfully used in "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde," is by no means uncommon. Many mysterious disappearances are by it accounted for in a manner wholly consistent with the innocence of the missing one, and even with his apparent sanity. A very singular recent case was that of a Western judge who went away from home while deranged from overwork and became a day laborer under another name.

A REMARKABLE character of Bernardston, Mass., is Arnold Scott, a blind letter-carrier, sixty-seven years old, whose eyesight was lost forty-six years ago. He has a long route which he traverses twice a day, and rarely makes a mistake in the delivery of letters. He walks confidently in summer, but the snow troubles him somewhat in winter. Mr. Scott's knowledge of the neighborhood is said to be perfect, and he has never been known to get lost.

TOM ROE, a truck farmer, of Waco, Tex., is not a prize fighter, but if he should run afoul of some of the supposed fighters they would not get off very easy. Several days ago his horse, that had been grazing in the field, became crazy and made a rush for Tom with open mouth, and would probably have seriously injured him had he not leaped aside and struck the horse on the neck with his fist, killing him instantly.

It is said that an unmarried woman's chances of matrimony at from 15 to 20 years of age is 144 per cent.; from 20 to 25, 52 per cent.; from 25 to 30, 18 per cent.; from 30 to 35, 154 per cent.; from 35 to 40, 31 per cent.; from 40 to 45, 24 per cent.; from 45 to 50, 4 per cent.; and from 50 to 55, 2 per cent. A widow's chances at any age are far better than those of a spinster.

Mrs. MERCY JORDAN of Greens, R. I., has celebrated her ninety-third birthday by a family re-union, at which there were present her children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and great, great grandchildren to the number of more than one hundred. She is the mother of thirteen children, of whom six survive, the oldest being seventy-three years old.

LIVE rattlesnakes are sold for \$1 a snake by peddlers in the streets of southern California towns. Buyers are found among persons who want to tan the hides for various uses, and each buyer can kill his snakes in the manner that he regards most conducive to the preservation of the skins' colors.

A CERTAIN Mile, Zelle, in the course of a tour around the world, gave a concert in the Society Islands. When she came to reckon up her share of the proceeds, this is what she found: Three pigs, twenty-three turkeys, forty-four chickens, 5,000 coconuts, besides considerable quantities of bananas, lemons and oranges.

PATRICK BRENNAN of Crawfordville, Ind., received a fifty-cent shinplaster in payment of a debt of ten cents. He neglected to return the change. Recently he hunted up his old creditor and gave him forty cents, saying that the matter had so preyed upon his mind that he could stand it no longer.

Fish in Boiling Water. One of the most remarkable discoveries in the shape of a peculiar species of fish ever made on this continent was that made in Virginia, Nev., in 1876. At that time both the Hale & Norcross and the Savage mines were down to what is known as the 2200-foot level. When at that depth a subterranean lake of boiling water was tapped. The accident flooded both mines to the depth of 400 feet. After the water had all been pumped out except that which had gathered in basins and in the inaccessible portions of the works, and when the water still had a temperature of 123 degrees—nearly scalding hot—many queer-looking little blood-red fish were taken out. In appearance they resembled goldfish.

They seemed lively and sportive enough when they were in their native element—boiling water—notwithstanding the fact that they did not even have rudimentary eyes. When the fish were taken out of the hot water and put into buckets of cold water for the purpose of being transported to the surface, they died as quickly as a perch or bass would if plunged into a kettle of water that was scalding hot; not only this, but the skin peeled off exactly as if they had been boiled.—[Evening Wisconsin.]

Something About Siam. Siam's naval force consists of two screw steamers of 2,000 tons and eight guns each, several gunboats, many of which are in bad condition, and some seagoing steam yachts. These vessels are as a rule officered by Europeans, chiefly Englishmen and Danes. A cruiser of 2,500 tons is now being built and will be added to the navy. There are forts with heavy guns at the mouth of the Bangkok river, and the latter possesses a bar which effectually prevents the entrance of ships much over thirteen feet draught.

Siam has a standing army of about twelve thousand men, and the people generally are liable to be called out as required, though there is no armed militia. Every male inhabitant from the age of twenty-one years upwards is obliged to serve the State for three months each year. The following persons, however, are exempt: Priests, Chinese settlers, who pay a commutation tax; slaves, public officials, the fathers of three sons liable to service, and those who purchase exemption either by paying a fine or by purchasing substitutes. It is said that the government possesses upward of eighty thousand stand of arms, besides a considerable stock of cannon. The army is to some extent officered by Europeans, and has of late years largely increased in numbers and equipments.

The limits of Siam have varied much at different periods in its history, but as nearly as can be calculated the country extends at present from the fourth to the twenty-first degree of north latitude, and from the ninety-sixth to the one hundred and sixth degree of east longitude, being a total area of about 250,000 square miles. According to the latest estimates the population consists of 2,000,000 Siamese, 1,000,000 Chinese, 2,000,000 Laosians and 1,000,000 Malays. The legislative power is exercised by the King in conjunction with a Council of Ministers (Senabodi). The Council of State consists of the Ministers, ten to twenty members appointed by the King, and six princes of the royal house. The royal dignity is nominally hereditary, but each sovereign has the privilege of nominating his own successor. The present King's revenue may be estimated at \$10,000,000 a year. There is no public debt, and paper money has only recently been issued.—[New York Herald.]

Some Stupefying Eruptions.

Few people of this country imagine what terrible work a volcano of the regulation size can do when it once gets fully aroused. In 1838 Cotopaxi threw its fiery rockets more than 3,000 feet above the crater and, in 1857, when the blazing mass confined in the same mountain was struggling for an outlet, it roared so loud that the awful noise was heard for a distance of 650 miles. In 1797 the crater of Tunguragua, one of the great peaks of the Andes, flung out torrents of mud and lava which dammed up a great river, opened new lakes, besides making a deposit of scorching mud, ashes and lava, 600 feet deep over the whole area of a valley which was twenty miles long and averaged 1,000 feet in width! The stream of lava which flowed from Vesuvius in 1837 and passed through the Valley of Terra del Greco is estimated to have been 333,000,000 cubic feet of solid matter. In 1769 Aetna poured out a flood of melted stones and ashes which covered eighty-four square miles of fertile country to a depth of from ten to forty feet. On this occasion the sand, scoria, lava, etc., from the burning mountain formed Mt. Rosini, a peak two miles in circumference and over 4,000 feet high.

In the eruption of Vesuvius in the year 79 A. D., the time of the destruction of Pompeii, the scoria, ashes, sand and lava vomited forth far exceeded the size of the volcano itself, while in 1663 Aetna disgorged over twenty times its own mass. Vesuvius has sent its ashes into Syria, Egypt and Turkey. It hurled stones of 500 pounds weight to Pompeii, a distance of six English miles, during the eruption of 79 A. D. Cotopaxi once projected a block of stone containing over 100 cubic yards a distance of nine and half miles.—[Philadelphia Record.]

Ways of the Omish Mennonites. In the township of Lowe, Moultrie county, Ill., there reside a class of people who, while they do not in the usual transaction of business differ from other people, in many respects are so different from the run of the human family that they attract much attention, more particularly from those who do not see them daily. The settlement consists of 350 or more men, women and children, and from one of their number, David Mast, it is learned that this is the one body of this class of people—Omish Mennonites—in the State. The number in this settlement was formerly small, and originally came from Pennsylvania. They are of German descent, and among themselves talk a sort of German dialect or Pennsylvania Dutch.

The Omish Mennonite has for more than a century been a fixture in Pennsylvania, but there he has not so closely remained true to the established customs of his sect as have the members of the Illinois colony. The latter, the entire 350 of them, wear nothing in the shape of outer clothing that is not in color black, including among the men broad-brimmed black hats, and among the women plain black calico dresses and black shaker bonnets. They are all American born, have two churches in the community, and educate their children in the public schools of the village of Arthur and the township in which they live. The settlement is kept free from intrusion of blood other than that of the forefathers, because no member of any family is permitted to unite in marriage with any one outside the church to which all belong.

He and Kittens. We are not in the habit of placing much credence in strange stories, but here is one that, from demonstration we have had, we can but believe it, and those of our readers who think this a snake yarn may have its utter truthfulness demonstrated beyond a doubt by calling at the Merchant ranch, between this city and Guerneville. Several days since on the aforesaid ranch a cat gave birth to four kittens. The cat and kittens were housed in the barn on a stack of hay near where an old hen was setting on a nest of eggs. The foreman of the ranch, William Ingalls, desired to break the hen from setting and to that end took the eggs away from her. Since the time that the eggs were taken away the hen has been hovering over the brood of kittens and caring for them as she would the eggs. The kittens are healthy and well fed and beyond a doubt the mother cat suckles the kittens at times when the would-be-mother hen is absent from her live. This may seem strange and savor somewhat of the fishy, but nevertheless it is a fact.—[Sonoma County, Cal. Tribune.]

A Monster Ray Fish. Pensacola (Fla.) fishermen are agitated about an enormous "rale" or "eagle ray" that has just been taken on the bar near there. Few of these fish are ever caught, as they are much dreaded by the men of the sea. They are sometimes erroneously called a devil fish, and also a blanket fish, and have been known to destroy human life. They feed on shell fish, which they draw in by means of the large cephalic fins which protrude from the corners of the huge mouth. The teeth of this fish, which were not visible from the outside, are very large and powerful, being used for grinding its food. There is great danger in attempting to capture one of these fish with a small boat, as it could easily capsize any boat of ordinary size. They grow very large, and there is an instance of one being captured in West Indian waters which weighed 1,250 pounds. The tails are not as long in proportion to the size of their bodies as those of the sting-rays, or "stingares," as they are commonly called.—[New York Recorder.]

The "Hair Ball." The ball which is frequently found in the stomachs of ruminating animals is called by writers on veterinary subjects a "hair ball." It is occasioned by the hairs getting into the cow's stomach, either by licking herself or other animals (her calf, etc.). These hairs form around some nucleus of food or other matter and grow by deposit of matter around them after they are once formed. The balls are composed of hair, earthy matter and food; sometimes they are partly composed of some calcareous substance. They are classed by some writers among the "calculi" similar to those found in human beings. These "concretions," as they are sometimes called, are found in many parts of the human body. In lower animals their composition is very variable, some consisting of the same ingredients as are found in those of men. No use can be assigned to their formation, and they are surely more harmful than useful.—[Courier-Journal.]

Vegetable Whisky Shops. In the green houses attached to the White House are many of the curious plants which Superintendent Smith of the Botanic Garden calls "vegetable whisky shops," because their pitchers distill intoxicating fluids that attract all sorts of insects. The bugs fall into the drink and the plant devours their substance, as the veritable gin mill eats up that of its human customers. One variety catches cockroaches, while another actually preys upon frogs, who are unable to escape from the pitchers on account of two downward projecting thorns which impale them when they would leap out. These receptacles hold as much as half a pint each and the contents of three or four will intoxicate a man. They are admirably adapted to the uses of the tropical tramp, who, while pursuing his leisurely travels, can literally pluck his drinks by the wayside.

A DELICIOUS DISH.—When the cold boiled ham has appeared so often that you are getting a little tired of seeing it, try the following: Cut the remains in slices. Place in a stewpan a can of tomatoes, a few stalks of celery and two onions. Boil these until the product is sufficiently soft; then pass it through a sieve. Thicken to a proper consistency with a generous lump of butter rubbed in some cornstarch. When this now clear starch is boiling put in the slices of ham, being careful not to break them. When they are thoroughly heated, serve with the sauce in the same dish.

Different Degrees of Brightness. Professor E. S. Holden says that if the brightness of a star seen with the eye alone is designated by one, with a two-inch telescope it is 100 times as bright, with a four-inch telescope it is 400 times as bright, eight-inch telescope it is 1,600 times as bright, sixteen-inch telescope it is 6,400 times as bright, thirty-two-inch telescope it is 25,600 times as bright, thirty-six-inch telescope it is 32,400 times as bright. That is, stars can be seen with a thirty-six-inch telescope that are 30,000 times fainter than the faintest stars visible to the naked eye.—[New York Tribune.]

The Monastery Mine. A visit to the Monastery Mine, a few miles from Kimberley, is an interesting experience. The mine is surrounded by a reef of rotten stone, and encircles about four hundred claims which have evidently been worked at some prehistoric period to a depth of about forty feet—when water must have overpowered the miners—and then abandoned. It is difficult to judge whether the ground was washed or only dry-sorted at that date, but more likely the latter. The debris must have deposited round the edge of the mine. The rains of centuries have washed this debris back into the mine, which was again worked at a more recent period, as several shafts and tunnels have been discovered by the present workers, and skeletons, ostrich egg-shells and pieces of iron have been unearthed. The virgin blue shows indications of being rich in diamonds.—[The Jewelers' Circular.]

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