ACCIDENTS AND INCIDENTS OF EVERYDAY LIFE.

Queer Fagts and Thrilling Adven-Stranger Than Fiction.

Nor long ago an advertisement ap- tral pond lay. peared in a New York paper offering \$5,000 for a man who was willing to undergo a surgical operation that might be fatal. It appears that the subject is desired by two surgeons of Guayaquil, Eucador, who are studying the subject of the operation of the gastric juices. They propose to cut a hole into the subject's stomach, through which they can observe what goes on there, and then experiment on him with different sorts of food and drink. The advertisement brought 142 replies, some of them written on the theory that the affair was a hoax, but the large majority were in good | geyser. faith from people who were willing to risk their lives to get \$5,000. It is said that

THE Chinese dragon is still a practical his howling. obstruction in railway building. The Tartar General in command at Monkden, the capital of Manchuria, when the survey was made for a railroad by the town, had the local sages investigate the matter. They reported that the vertebræ of the dragon which encircles the holy city of Monkden would be broken if the long nails of the railway sleepers were driven into the ground. Upon the strength of that the General ordered the engineers to carry the line away from the city and over a very marshy route. When the matter was brought to Li Hong Chang he commended the General | time to the second. for his i terest in the dragon, but still expressed an opinion that the Monkden route was the best for both dragon and country. The affair would have to be reported to the Emperor. Whereupon the General had a line laid down a few hundred feet from the former one, and the sages pronounced it all right.

of the National Line of steamers. He had concealed himself before the steamer left Liverpool, and died of suffocation. Curiously enough in his pocket was found a novel entitled "Doomed on the Deep." Another singular coincidence happened in America. A pleasure party was overturned and drowned in the Hudson River. Just before the accident they had been singing "Lost in the Wreck. More recently a person was charged with abstracting a book from one of Mesers. Smith's bookstalls, and when srrested two volumes were found in his possession, one of which was entitled "Found

all is that he talks away from town as plainly as any man. He runs his farm in an intelligent way, always making as merchants or others are as economically and sensibly made as the average man of his race. For years some people have doubted his statement and thought he could talk if he would, but for more than twelve years no man has ever heard him speak a word in any town or at any public gathering.

IF you wish to talk about absentmindedness you may instance the man in Lewiston, Me., who, the other day, entered an office, transacted some business, and went out leaving a package done up in a piece of newspaper on a desk. The tenant of the office saw it, thought the man would return for it, and let it lie. But the man came not back, and examination showing that the package contained greenbacks, it was placed in the safe and a boy was sent to hunt up the owner. Then the man came back. hastily for the package, and said there was nearly \$1,000 in it. Four thousand do!lars in bills most men would not be she died in great agony. apt to forget in these days.

One of the most curious plants in the White House conservatories is called by the superintendent "vegetable whisky shops," because their pitchers distil in toxicating fluid that attracts all sorts of insects. Half a pint is contained in each of these receptacles, and it is said that the contents of three or four will intoxicate a man. The bugs fall into the fluid and their substance is devoured by the plant. One variety attracts cockroaches, while another actually captures frogs that, once caught, are unable to escape because of the thorns extending downward which pierce them when they attempt to jump out.

MRS. PATTI LYLE COLLINS, of Mississippi, is an invaluable worker in the Dead-Letter Office in Washington, where she is known as "the blind reader"-not fect or incorrect addresses. The Ladies' Home Journal gives fac simile reproductions of many such that she has deciphered. One is "Riekbier Stiejt Kane-Conn.

A STRANGE phenomenon is reported from Sandersville, Georgia. During a thunder storm a bolt of lightning struck a well, shattering the covering over it, and carrying the curbing into the bottom. In an instant dense volumes of steam began to issue from the well, and as soon as the vapor was dissipated sufficiently to make it possible to approach the spot, a bucket of water was drawn up, and found to be boiling. When it had cooled a little a man put his finger into it and received a powerful clactric shock. A bottle of the water has been sent to the State chemist.

home a mud turtle from a pond a quarter | New York Advertiser.

SOMEWHAT STRANGE of a mile away, noticed that whenever set free the turtle set off in a bee-line direction toward the pond. The boy tried to confuse the turtle in every way he could devise, but the turtle was too smart for him and always started off in the right direction as if he knew where he was going and was bound to get there tures which Show That Truth is now the boy has puzzled the whole township by demanding to know how that turtle knew in what direction his ances-

THE abyss Jean Nouveau is one of the most interesting in the world. It occurs in the calcareous plateau of Ventoux, and the mouth is about four and a half miles south-southwest of Sault, France. It is simply a vertical pipe, 3 feet to 12 inches in diameter, running down into the earth for about 500 feet, where it ends in a kind of chamber, from which another abyss, constructed by debris, descends for an unknown distance into the bowels of the earth. It is supposed to be the vent of an ancient

A LE MARS (Iowa) genius has invented and recently obtained letters the subject that has been chosen is a patent on a very useful device. It is a man who has figured as a pugilist for a | dog muzzle so constructed that he cannumber of years. He is a man of fine | not bite and an attachment goes with it physique and vigorous health, and wants the money to start a gymnasium and a saloon. He has no near relatives, and if his mouth to the center of his ears, and he does not recover, of which the chances | whenever he barks or howls the sound is are about even, will not be missed much. | increased by a mechanical arrangement He will go to Guayaquil at once, and af- similar to a phonograph. This multiter being acclimated, will be operated | pled sound strikes on the drum of the dog's ear and frightens him so he ceases

> THE Caliph of Khartoum is in a bad way. He owns 700 watches, and not one of them goes. In 1885, when the Mahdists invaded the town, all the European watchmakers left the place, and none of the natives understand watchmaking. To have 700 tickers and not know the time-awkward, very. The Caliph has sent a special messenger to Suakin to engage a watchmaker, but he has been received very coolly. The ruler of Khartoum is said to be rather quicktempered, and capable of cutting off your head if all his watches don't keep

In a private boarding house in Cincinnati live two small families of three people each, two grown persons and one child in each family, yet these two fami-lies are so connected that there is among them one father, three mothers (two are widows), one mother-in-law, one grandmother, two aunts, one uncle, one Not so long ago a stowaway was nephew, one niece, two cousins, two found dead under the main hatch of one sisters, one sister-in-law, one brother-innephew, one niece, two cousins, two law, one husband and one wife.

On John Kreutzer's forty-acre farm in Portsmouth, Ohio, there was recently a terrible fight between a bull and a staliion. The latter tore "great, quivering chunks of flesh " out of the bull with his teeth and pounded him with his forefeet, and the bull gored the horse to death. Then the bull was shot. Cause of the ruction: A blacksnake wound around the bull's hind leg.

A SPANIEL belonging to a milkman from West Keene, N. H., caught a woodchuck a few days ago which was more than a match for him in a rough-and-PETER PHILIPS, a colored man, lost the tumble fight. So the dog dragged his power of speech in McDade, Texas, some enemy to a ditch a few feet away and fifteen years ago. He says he knows no held his head under the water until he reason for it. The most curious part of was nearly drowned and became so weak that he could be easily handled; then the dog made away with him.

It is positively asserted that mosqui good crops as his neighbors, and even toes were unknown in Atlanta, Ga., bewhen unable to talk his trades with the fore the railroad companies began run ning sleeping cars from Savannah to that city. They avail themselves of the opportunity afforded by them, and are most apt to congregate there in September or October, when they come by the thousand

> A FARMER near Niles, Mich., had seventy-five trout in his fish pond. Wishing to transfer them to another pond he drew off a portion of the water, so as to have free access to the fish. He left for a short time, and upon his return found that a flock of cranes had visited the pond and killed and eaten every one of the trout.

A DEATH from a remarkable cause occurred in Walker county, Georgia, recently. A lady who was riding to church reached out her hand to pluck a sprig from the roadside and was bitten on the finger by a katydid. Her hand and arm soon began to swell, and in a few hours

THE "Rocking Stone," in Sullivan County, New York, weighs forty tons, and is so evenly balanced on a table of rock that it can be easily set in motion by the pressure of a finger, yet so solidly laid the combined strength of 100 men without artificial appliances could not displace it.

JOHN BONNER, a Georgia farmer, who died the other day at the age of 87 years, was the father of twenty-three children, all by one mother, and as they grew up and married all cettled on farms adjoining his own.

## The Evil of Fretting.

There is one sin which seems to me is everywhere and by everybody underestimated and quite too much overlooked in valuation of character. It is the sin of that she is blind by any means, for she is fretting; so common that unless it rises wonderfully keen sighted. She has a above its usual monotone, we do not obremarkable facility in ascertaining the serve it. Watch any ordinary coming intended destination of letters that are together of people, and see how many blind" because of incomplete or imperminutes it will be before somebody frets -that is, makes more or less complaining statement of something or other, which most probably every one in the room, or in the car, or on the street cordika," which she correctly read Roxbury, ner, it may be, knew before, and which probably nobody can help. Why say anything about it? It is cold, it is hot, it is wet, it is dry; somebody has broken an appointment; ill cooked a meal; stupidity or bad faith somewhere has resulted in discomfort. There are plenty of things to fret about. It is simply astonishing how much annoyance may be found in the course of every day's living, even at the simplest, if one only keeps a sharp eye out on that side of things. Even Holy Writ says we are prone to trouble as sparks to fly upward. But even to the sparks flying upward in the blackest of smoke there is a blue sky above, and the less time they waste on A MALL boy in Maine, who brought the road the sooner they will reach it.

FOR THE FAIR SEX.

AUTUMN JACKETS.

English tailors are making autumn jackets double-breasted and straight in front, with the back slightly flaring below the waist. The back is cut in bell shape, consisting of a single seam gradually widening on each side to the end. Forty inches is the average length of these jackets, though many are shorter. They are made of black serge or sacking with revers and collar faced with white or cream bengaline edged with rows of jet gimp. - [Atlanta Constitution.

TRUNKS FOR THE LUXURIOUS.

A young woman of luxurious tastes has the trays of her trunks lined with | call them by name .- [Courier-Journal. silk, under which is a layer of cotton sprinkled plentifully with orris root, The trunk in which stockings, gloves, veils, and underclothing are carried has not only a lid that will open and turn back as in the ordinary trunk, but opens also down the front. The various trays can then be drawn out without unpacking the entire contents. Young women who have many fine gowns usually have those in a long, wide trunk by themselves, one gown in each of the many trays. A convenient article that should go into the trunk of every one who journeys away from civilization is a rubber bathtub .- [New York Post.

SILLY, BUT FASHIONABLE.

Fashions change very quickly nowadays. Scarcely has the rank and file adopted the whim of the high-lifted elbow in shaking hands, when suddenly it becomes good form to give a handswing, rather, in this form of salutation, special to English-speaking races. The hand is dropped low, as if you were trailing it through the water in a rowboat. It sweeps into the greeting hand of the friend, which is also not lifted but carried in the same way, and the two joined hands are loosely swung from side to side. The pump handle shake of the very old style, up and down, is entirely avoided, the palms are not closed or pressed, the fingers interlace, that is all .- [St. Louis Republic.

CAPES, BONNETS AND PARASOLS.

Lace capes have this season very generally the parasol and bonnet or hat to correspond, and bewitching rose trimmed French bonnets of lace, with cape and parasol en suite, have been placed in wise juxtaposition in many importers' showrooms, and the purchase of one without the other shows a power to withstand temptation beyond the capabilities of any woman of fine taste and a long purse. For example is shown a sunshade of cream silk lace lined with silk of the same soft tint and finished with a mother-of-pearl handle, associated tiful withal, and held by a sparkling wavy appearance. jeweled ornament. It is this charming The latest thing in bonnets is a bit the sum large or small, to have the toilet harmonious as to detail than it does to make it up of haphazard purchases .-New York Advertiser.

A DRIVING-VEIL.

The small lace mask veils have quite entirely cover the chin, and is worn much more loosely than has been the fastened at the back of the head. Tissue and grenadine veils will be much worn this spring in colors to match the hats.

"I will give you a wrinkle for a driving-veil, or one to wear in windy weather," said a fashionable young woman, "one which is the most comfortable thing going, as It is impossible hanging behind, and two in front. Then full rosettes in back and front. take the two front ends and tie them around the neck under the hair at the buttons being heavy keep the whole thing in place, and tving the two front ends back prevents all the unbecoming folds over the face, which are so ugly

THE SPIEL-TEPPICH.

majority of families in towns live in a small way in flats and keep one raw re- trimmed with white braid. The blouse while they keep the children, help with the cooking, do the sewing and nurse the last baby. The life is not easy, but the German woman knows how to help herself. When a baby begins to crawl and learn the use of his legs, he is twice as troublesome as he ever was before now the time has arrived to use the spielteppich, the play carpet, which is really a picture-book in bright colors painted, as it seems to the baby, on the floor. The diversion carpet which I saw was made of a piece of gray felting one and Kate Greenaway children in scarlet red and yellow; a roaring lion in vivid is as great a piece of work as can be orange; old Father Christmas and a singled out in this country. This work chimney sweep carrying the emblems of has been done so quietly and with so

The selection of figures for such a carpet depends on what material is et hand and what strikes individual taste as preferable. German women spend many hours of labor to create a handsome spiel-teppich, cutting out the figures in bright satins to embroider a pile of money.—[Detroit Free Press.

them on; or knitting an entire figure such as the clown, to stitch it on afterward. The main thing is to have a diversity of figures, and to keep them in gay colors always, with the exception of the chimney-sweep, who should be entirely black if he is to be a good German, as the gentlemen of his trade all wear velvet coats and cork their face and hands. I saw a practical demonstration of the usefulness of the diversion carpet when I took tea one afternoon with a busy German frau whose baby boy nearly eighteen months of age occupied himself during the entire period of my visit, sitting very contentedly in the middle of his picture-book rug and pointing out to himself the various animals and dancing figures and trying to

FASHION NOTES.

Yellow straw hats are trimmed with white satin rosettes and blackbirds or

Ombre surah gowns have a plain or accordion-plaited silk muslin vest. New sailors are trimmed with a large

ow of changeable ribbon holding tiny black wings.

Pink straw bonnets combine with white guipure, black wings and velvet ribbon strings.

Some of the French evening dresses now have trained skirts. Some are only a little long. The sleeves have been growing smaller and the puff falls instead of rising on the shoulder. A brunette wears yellow satin with gold net flounces; a blonde appears in black and white satin and magnificent diamonds, with two large black wings in her fair hair. A picturesque wrap for a small child

is a full red cape. Over a white frock it is very effective and suggests Red Riding Hood. Red cloth capes are greatly in favor with grown-up people as well, and there is no prettier extra garment for the carriage, at the seashore or mountains than one of these brilliant bits of color.

Spangled brocades are among the new silks. Gray, showered with steel or silver, is especially pretty for light

New rings have three rows of stones covering the tops of the finger.

The latest thing in fabrics for tailormade dresses is a variety of homespun of pure wool, woven as thin and as light as grenadine in quarter-inch stripes of white and a color. This goods is made up over a rustling taffeta silk.

Beautiful black serge reefers are to be seen with gigantic sleeves of black satin and full bretelles of lace. They are exquisitely stylish and cost a pretty penny if bought ready made.

During warm weather much vexation past severance with a cape and lovely is caused by the speed with which artifilittle French dress bonnet of the same cial curl disappears from one's bangs. lace, between the filmy plaitings of It is well to remember that fanning the which peep out phenomenal pale blue hair till it is quite dry tends to keep it blossoms of unknown species, but beau- in position and helps to preserve its

connection of one portion of the dress unique. The low, close-fitting crown is with another that is so pretty and yet in made of vari-colored beads. This is set so many cases an inexpensive feature of in a frame of small flowers. Then two present fashion. It costs no more, be feather wings sprinkled with fine beads expected places.

The crown of one of the late bonnets is of silver braid and can be bought ready made. It is rather long in shape and toward the front divides in two parts. Between these parts the bang may be gone out of fashion. A veil now must arranged. A bow of ribbon, with full loops and pointed ends, is fastened to the silver frame in front by a jeweled hat custom for the past few years. Instead pin. It should be placed right back of of fitting smoothly over the face it is the wavy hair. These si'ver bonnetgathered up in folds at the side and crowns sell for \$4. They are an economical purchase, because they can appear as the foundation for many different bonnets.

Beige-colored crepon trimmed with guipure lace and a girdle of two or three bands of satin ribbon, is a favorite dress this season. It often has a Figaro jacket slightly beaded with jet, and the to blow off, or get out of position. Buy ribbon passes through the back of the a large square of any colored grenadine jacket. More often it is a simple round you like, and fasten at each corner a corsage, the lace forming epaulettes, a small heavy button. Throw the whole fichu or a deep cape collar falling over veil over your hat, leaving two corners the sleeve tops, the ribbon girdle having

Shot effects have been introduced in back, over the two back ends. The feminine attire, and may be found to hosiery as well as into all fabrics for match or contrast harmoniously with the gowns of many colors now popular. The prettiest evening stockings have lace insertion over the top of the foot and when the fulness is all gathered up at the instep. Some have pieces of colored the sides. I got this idea from my baby ribbon to match the dress run in mother, who tells me that when she was and out of the lace, but the prettiest as a young girl they all wore their veils well as the most costly have medallions over their big hats in this way."-[New or insertions of real lace over the instep.

The inevitable navy-blue serge continues to be an important dress in every wardrobe, and here is a model a little All German women are practical; the unusual in style, which may prove an acceptable change. The dress is of serge, cruit by way of a hand maiden, who waist, with the exception of a narrow must wash and scrub and run errands. Joke, is made of alternating rows of red and white checked ribton and white guipure insertion, while the yoke is of serge, striped with braid, and the Bolero jacket and full sleeves are also of serge, trimmed with two rows of braid.

Wonderful Piece of Engineering.

Modern skill and facilities permit wonderful things to be done by great corporations without interrupting daily business. The Frankfort (Ky.) Call says:

"The more one thinks of the undertaa quarter yards square, faced with stout king the more wonderful it looks. The dress lining of corresponding color, and L and N. Railroad spanned the river. there were nearly fifty figures spread all with an entire newbridge eight feet higher over it in energetic action. In the center | than the old structure that has been enstood a white robed angel with a golden tirely removed, without even so much as crown on his head; around him danced retarding any trains over the old or the gowns and mob caps, and sailor boys in time, and without a casualty of a serious blue. A larger set of figures formed the nature happening during the progress of outer ring; there was a clown in brilliant | the entire work. This, in our judgment, his trade-a chimney pot-hat, ladder and little parade that many of our people do not even now know that we have a new railroad bridge that is eight feet higher

She-I will keep those roses you sent me forever. He-Thanks; if you do it will save me THE BODY AND ITS HEALTH.

LESSEN THE NERVE STRAIN. -- Nerve strain may be greatly lessened by very simple means. For instance, by a sandlittle done up, or even when you feel idle it to others becomes apparent. and disinclined to apply to the household duties. Sit down a minute and take a bite to eat, and you will feel lots more like going about your business. A throbbing headache may sometimes be The Amateur Dentists and the Elevenentirely cured by brushing the hair up high and bathing the back of the neck and behind the ears with water as hot as can be borne. When the back is aching and the whole body weary with overexertion, throwing one's self full length on a lounge or bed for half an hour's rest will frequently insure a very comfortable state of both mind and body for the remainder of the day.

OVER EATING .- Half of the people I know have violent attacks of indigestion, because they will persist in eating hearty meals when in an exhausted condition, says a contributor to the Journal of Hygiene. They seem never able or willing to realize that there are times when the system is in no fit state to grapple and hungry, almost ravenous, not thinking that maybe a good deal of what they consider hunger is gastric irritation, then sit down to a table covered with the size of a bandbox. the substantials of life, and deliberately go to work to overtax the already strained vital powers. No person should eat heartily when very tired. The wisest thing to do is to drink a cup of hot water with three tablespoonfuls of milk in it, sit down for five minutes, and then begin slowly to eat, musticating thoroughly. In a little while the vigor of there would not be one case of dyspepsia where now there are a dozen. It seems to be the most difficult of all things and when, hissing like a steam exhaust seems to be their master. It requires will power to get it under co trol. When once mastered, something important has been accomplished in self-dis. couple of days, and Mr. Schmidt decided IS THE BEST THE CHEAPEST?-This

ple, and especially in such depressed less waste in any other department of sults partly from the abundance which largely from the lack of a knowledge of bad judgment in selecting it. The waste cage. of the American people would sustain half the French nation with its thrifty habits. And yet Americans are neither so healthful nor so well fed as the French. and although the workingmen of this country have the larger bank accounts, it results from the higher scale of wages and the greater abundance of work that prevail here. One of the causes for this "fad" that has been strengthened generations of principle and practice. The maxim has passed from the mouth of mother to daughter until it has become one of the popular standards of living. Concerning this practice the Forum article says: "One of the ways in which many people are uneconomical is in the buying of needlessly high priced food. For this error, prejudice, the palate and poor cooking are mainly responsible. There is a prevalent but unfounded idea that costly foods, such as the tenderest meats, the finest fish, the highest priced butter, the choicest flour and the most delicate vegetables possess some peculiar virtue which is lacking in the less expensive materials. Many who have small incomes and really wish to economize, think it beneath them to use the cheaper meat and inexpensive but substantial groceries. People pay for flavor rather than for nutriment, and in many households high prices are depended on to make the table attractive when good cooking and tasteful serving would be far better if they were practiced.' The truth of this passage has been made evident to every observer of the American standard of living. There is a lamentable ignorance as to the nutritive qualities, the muscle producing, life sus-taining elements of different kinds of The analysis of the various food materials shows that, to use scientific terms, the protein grams and energy producing calories, or real life-giving ements, are present in larger proportion in the coarser foods than in the finer. For instance: The sirloin steak that sells at 25 cents a pound contains sixty-eight protein grams and 870 energy calories, while the beef neck which can be bought at 8 cents a pound contains 218 protein grams and 2,793 energy calorics. Chicken has 127 protein grams and 695 energy calorics, and salt cod 259 protein grams and 1,105 energy calories. Comparing wheat flour and corn meal, it is found that the former has 418 protein grams and 13,680 energy calorics and the latter, 518 protein grams and 23,230 energy calorics. Comparing oatmeal with potatoes, the former has 345 protein grams and 9,190 energy cal-orics, while the latter has 163 protein grams and 7,690 energy catorics. These are technical terms, but they are used to show the proportion of muscle-pro-ducing, life-sustaining qualities in the different kinds of popular foods. How can we remedy the evil which is subject in the education of young wo-

of the stomach," and that in the buying and preparing of proper foods "there is the chance of more saving than in any other item of living." With the im-portance of this subject recognized the responsibility of every person, who has wich or a glass of milk when one feels a pertinent knowledge on it, of importing

## PULLING A SNAKE'S TOOTH.

Foot Boa Constrictor.

Edward Schmidt, the proprietor of the bird store on Twelfth street, the other morning enjoyed the usual privilege of playing dentist to an eleven-foot boa constrictor.

His royal pythonic highness weighs just sixty pounds, and is valued at \$1 per pound. One of the most remarkable features of his make-up is his mouth. It is a common phrase to hear of the "dropping of one's lower jaw" in moments of consternation, but Mr. Boa can get up the largest amount of consternation in this line when he gets ready by dropping about six inches of lower jaw, linear measurement. He can raise an equal amount of upper jaw at the same with a full meal. They come in tired time, and his mouth is provided with a convenient lateral hinge arrangement by which it can be spread sidewise and present a total receptive surface of about

It was this mouth, with a good, serviceable set of teeth, but no poison fangs, that got Mr. Snake into trouble soon after his arrival in the national capital. He was lodged in a good strong wire cage and fed a few pigeons. Then, instead of going to sleep gorged with food, as is supposed to be the habit of his family, Mr. Constrictor amused himthe stomach will come back, and all will self by striking at his master, who was be well. If this course were followed, putting a re-enforcement of wire netting

ar und the bars of the cage.
He miscalculated in one of his springs, properly to control the appetite. It pipe, he launched about four feet of his neck across the cage, he hung himself up in the wire netting by his teeth. As a result he had a very sore mouth for a that he would have one of the injured teeth pulled.

question is asked in an article on "Food his snakeship, who, if given his choice It was a delicate operation to handle Waste in American Households," in the of holds, is a good deal more than a September number of the Forum maga- match for a man in a catch-as-catch-can zine, says a writer in the Philadelphia wrestling bout. But the wily bird man Press. The subject is one of vital in- took an unfair advantage of his prisoner, terest to a majority of the American peo- and, diverting his attention in front, executed a flank movement and grabbed times as these. There is no such shame- him by the back of the neck. Then it was a case of pull Richard pull Satan in American life as in the kitchen. It regetting the lengthy southerner out of his cage. He finally came with a slip and a blesses this fruitful country, but more slide, and Mr. French, the assistant dentist, promptly froze on to the last foot how to handle food in cooking and from and a haif of the tail as it slid out of the

Mr. Snake, stretched at full length. with no chance to work his powerful constrictor muscles, was rather at a disadvantage, but watching an opportunity while the doctor was working on his head with a pair of wire nail pullers, he threw a half Nelson lock around Mr. French's legs and proceeded to mix up waste is the popular belief that "the with that gentleman in a way that was best is always the cheapest." This is a no less surprising than inconvenient. "fad" that has been strengthened by The tooth, which was loose, came out easily, looking not unlike a large fishbone, and the two amateur dentists then exerted themselves to let go of the snake and get him back in his cage.

Mr. French was finally got out of the embrace of the python's coils, and the two operators wrestled him back into captivity, where he drew himself up on a shelf in the corner of his cage, and, coiling himself into a large figure 8, lay with his almond shaped head on the top of his coils and swore fluently in an unintelligible South American dialect at every one who came in his neighborhood. - Washington Post.

## A Wife-Choosing Ceremony.

At the far end of Naples lies the little hurch of Santa Maria Annunziata, which, once a year, on the "Day of Our Lady," wakes up into a brief life and excitement. In a silent row before the high altar kneel thirty girls, all in black garments, with folded hands and eyes fixed on the picture of the Madonna before them. These are orphans from the neighboring foundling asylum, and once a year all those who have reached the age of eighteen are brought here to the church, and may be chosen in marriage by any honest man whose papers are in order, and whose character is good. At the door leading to the sacristy leans a gray-headed priest, the head of the asylum. By and by a young man makes his way from the back of the church, and hands him a little packet of papers. These the priest reads carefully and, being evidently satisfied, he gives back the papers and leads the candidate towards the row of girls. All their eyes are fixe I more steadfastly than ever on the altar, all their hands are clasped tighter together, their faces turn a shade paler, their hearts beat quicker as the young man walks slowly along the row. At last he stops. His choice is made. He stretches out his hand with a little smile. The girl rises, casts a long look-half thanks, half entreaty-at the picture of the Madonna, puts her hand into that of the stranger, and together they disappear into the sacristy. The ice being thus broken, other suitors come forward. - New York Mercury.

## Varieties of Woodpeckers.

The imperial woodpecker is an exaggeration of the ordinary red-headed woodpecker. It is nearly two feet long, "born of false pride, carelessness and ig- its plumage black and white, with a norance?" More attention paid to the gorgeous scarlet crest, its bill white. It lives in Mexico and in the Sierra Madre men is one method suggested. Others mountains. These birds are always are frequent discussions in the found in pairs and are destroyers of pulpit and the newspaper press. trees, as they devote their entire energies. Popular lectures and health food to one tree for as long as a fortnight, inexhibitions are also practicable juring it so greatly that the tree dies, remedies. But as this ignorance of In Europe and Asia there is a gray-foods and consequent waste is much headed woodpecker. The largest Eugreater among the poor than any other class, the influence college settlements long, black, with scarlet crest. It is and missions can exact is important, called the great black woodpecker. The The establishment of a medel kitchen little brown woodpecker of Ceylon is not and coffee house in connection with the five inches long. The white-headed Hull House settlement in Chicago is woodpecker is a wise looking little creasignificant in this way. Miss Jane ture that lives in the pine woods of the Addams, the head of that enterprise, said in a recent letter that "it is part of the new philanthrophy to recognize that the social question is largely a question go Herald.

Pacific coast. There are some 250 species of woodpeckers, and they inhabit almost every part of the globe.—[Chica-go Herald.]