## FOR THE YOUNG FOLKS.

### RAIN AND THE ROBIN.

A robin in the morning,
In the morning early,
Sang a song of warning—
"There 'll be rain! There 'll be rain!"
Very, very clearly
From the orchard
Came the gentle horning,
"There 'll be rain!"
But the hasty farmer
Cut his hay down—
Did not heed the charmer
From the orchard—
And the mower's clatter
Ceased at noontide,
For with drip and spatter
Down came the rain.
Then the prophet robin,
Hidden in the crab-tree,
Railed upon the farmer:
"I told you so! I told you so!"
As the rain grew stronger,
And his heart grew prouder,
Notes so full and slow
Coming blither, louder—
"I told you so! I told you so!
I told you so!"
—[Duncan Campbell Scott, in St. Nicholas.

### ELEPHANTS IN EUROPE.

Away back in the age when men's weapons and implements of labor were of flint or stone, mammoth elephants were plentiful in Europe. They lived under the most prosperous condition and their enemies were comparatively few. Inexhaustible supplies of food were furnished them by the forests and swamps of the European continent and they multiplied and throve exceedingly.

Thick-hided animals, with tusks and trunks, attained a larger size, ranged over a wider area of the earth's surface and existed more numerously and in greater variety than ever before or since.

They were found in Ireland and Scotland; they tramped by the score through the thickets of England; they roamed in great herds along the flats and valleys of Central Europe and across the boundless oak-clad plains of Russia and Siberia.

Italy reared elephants of its own; Malta swarmed with pygmy elephants of two if not three separate kinds; while the huge mastodon was the chief representative of the species in North and South America. Why the great northern elephant should have perished as a species in the prime of life, when everything was favorable to its continued existence, has long puzzled naturalists and is likely to always remain a mystery.

### ZOTOF, DWARF OF PETER THE GREAT.

About the time of the marriage of the dwarfs, the Czar, in a fit of after-dinner jollity, had conferred the title of Count upon his former teacher. Besides, little Zotof received a salary of about two thousand dollars, a considerable sum for those days, and he had taken possession with much ceremony of a fine house in the Tatar quarter of St. Petersburg.

Now it happened that Zotof, feeling himself growing old, proposed one evening, when the Czar was in an especially good humor, to retire to a monastery. Instead of agreeing, Peter, to the great astonishment of the old and infirm dwarf, forbade his thinking of such a thing, and ordered him to marry again.

Zotof was much put out, but Peter's passion for shows was not one whit less. He chose as wife for his favorite buffoon an old lady, a widow of a man named Stremonkof. Preparations were begun in the autumn of 1712, and in the fantastic procession the Empress Catherine and the Czar's daughters, Martha and Prascovia, and even some of the ambassadors were obliged to take part.

Four stammering old men gave out the invitations; infirm and tottering creatures were appointed to conduct the bride, and four of the fattest men in Russia served as runners. The musicians were seated in a car led by bears, and as these novel steeds were always being picked by the points of the steel lances, their low growlings served as fitting accompaniment to the weird airs that arose from the chariot. The service at the cathedral was performed by a very old priest, who was half blind and deaf, and who wore spectacles. The procession, the ceremony, the nuptial-feast, and the jingling of the wedding-bells were all of a piece in this strange diversion.

Zotof's descendants were forbidden to bear the title of Count so strangely acquired, until 1802, when a member of an illustrious and princely family with which one of them had intermarried, obtained permission from the Emperor Alexander I. to bear the title conferred upon the dwarf, his ancestor.—[St. Nicholas.

### THE SQUIRREL FAMILY.

It doesn't seem as if there was anything new to tell boys and girls about squirrels. Even city children see squirrels in the parks and many keep them for pets in cages. The chipmunk or the squirrel, with a big bushy tail, are lively, happy and frolicsome fellows, and they seem to do nothing but play all day long.

But they have plenty of work to do, and perhaps the most sensible way they can manage it is to make a play of it and appear to every one to be only enjoying themselves, when, in reality, they are working for their living.

Some squirrels, the ground squirrels, make their house underground, with long tunnels and little antechambers and a good-sized nursery and storeroom. These two rooms seem to be the most important of the squirrel's establishment. He may omit the parlor, but the nursery and storeroom are commodious and well filled. The flying squirrel, bushy-tailed squirrel and all varieties which live in the trees, have a snug little nest under the bark, or in a convenient hollow where branches meet. Here they have, like the other varieties, a good, spacious storeroom, as well as a nest for the baby squirrels to sleep and grow in. To watch the squirrel carry home his store of food is a funny sight. He has two pouches which open into his mouth, and which he fills with the food he gathers. He stuffs them full with seeds, nuts, roots, or indeed anything good he happens to meet in his ramblings. Then he pokes the store down tight, so as to crowd in a little more. When his pouches are full off he races for home and empties out his supply, using his forepaws to pull the food out and pack it away, just as he used them to fill the pouches up.

Some squirrels sleep nearly all winter and do not need any food, but some are much too lively to spend their time dozing. Perhaps they may run out for a little while on sunshiny days, but the most of the long winter is spent in their cosy underground home, with plenty of nuts and herbs to nibble.

The flying squirrel, which is about the prettiest species of squirrel, has a peculiarly formed skin, which reaches from his fore to his hind legs. In taking his immense leaps this skin is stretched out, the increased surface presented to the air holding him up and answering the purpose of wings. So he can scarcely be said to fly, but it looks very much like it when we see what distances he can dart through the air. His tail is very large and broad, and this helps him, too.

## WAR'S NEW TERRORS.

### Extraordinary Devices for Human Slaughter.

Indications are that when two European armies eventually meet on the field, if the war talk ever resolves itself into actual conflict, a good many men will faint away in terror of their adversaries. The "inventions" which have been brought out lately in France, Germany and Austria, and which have been purchased by the governments of those countries, are innumerable, and every one of them is designed to slaughter human life at a rate that appals the imagination. The most intense and theatric secrecy is maintained concerning all these inventions and only a few general facts regarding them have been made public. The German army, it is understood, is armed with rifles which will send a bullet through four men, standing one behind the other, at a distance of two and a half miles from the rifle. Austria has a machine gun which shoots several thousand bullets a minute, which is operated by steam and controlled by a single gentleman with a waxed mustache and a monocle in his left eye, who lightly turns the crank. At least this is the condition of things according to the latest illustrated journals at hand. The man with the eye glass can turn the crank fast enough to sweep thirty or forty thousand men into eternity during the luncheon hour.

Incidentally a German tailor has invented a coat that makes the wearer absolutely indifferent to bullets at any range, and the Italians have machines for throwing very small and almost invisible torpedoes a distance of nearly a quarter of a mile. The torpedoes describe a parabola in the air, drop into the camp of the enemy, and explode with force enough to kill a hundred or more soldiers if they happen to be in the vicinity. Great numbers of them can be thrown at a time, and a pleasing and cheerful feature of it is that there are no disagreeable odors nor any smoke whatever when the explosion occurs.

M. Turpin of France is the latest hero in this direction. He has invented something which is so altogether awful that the taxpayers have requested the Government to give M. Turpin a great amount of money so that he will not turn his machine over to the Germans. This machine is operated by electricity, and, according to its inventor, it is of so terrible a nature that it will do away with all fortifications throughout the civilized world. This is merely a detail of the execution which this machine is expected to accomplish. Forts will be of no use, because M. Turpin's machines would rend them all into atoms, and at a distance of several miles a man can mow down the enemy at the rate of 20,000 at an engagement. The facts are inspiring, but there is a lack of detail about them which is in accordance with much of the literature which has lately been put forth by the various Munchausens among the war officers of Europe. The Turpin invention so far outstrips everything else, according to the critics of modern warfare, that it will insure universal peace. One machine alone is enough to devastate a country.—[New York Sun.

## How Hairpins Are Made.

Hairpins are made by automatic and very complicated machines. The coiled wire is put upon drums, and becomes straightened as it feeds itself to the machine. It passes along until it reaches two cutters, which point the ends at the same time that they cut it to the length required. This piece of wire then slips along the iron plate until it reaches a slot, through which it is pressed into the regular shape. The hairpins are then put into a pan and japanned, after which they are heated in an oven with a temperature of from 300 to 400 degrees.—[New York Dispatch.

## THE PROBLEM SOLVED.

### Little Luella Astonishes Her Puzzled Parents.

"I've been thinking all day about a problem a man gave me this morning," said Mr. Jawber as he and Mrs. Jawber moved up to the centre-table preparatory to an evening of reading, interspersed with debate. "It was one of those things that seem easy enough, but you can't tell where to begin to work it."

"What was it?" asked Mrs. Jawber.

"It's this way: A man goes into a place and says to the store-keeper, 'I have a certain sum of money, less than $10. Now if you will lend me as much money as I have I will spend $10 with you.' The store-keeper agreed and gave the money. After spending the $10 he had some money left, so he went to a second store and made the same proposition, and it was accepted. Then he went to a third store and carried out the same transaction, after which all his money was gone. How much did he have in the first place?"

"Mercy me!" said Mrs. Jawber; "I don't see how anyone could find out except by taking the money and going round with it from one place to another."

"But how would you know the amount needed?" asked he triumphantly.

"I never thought of that," she admitted, somewhat crestfallen.

"You say he went to three places?" broke in Luella, who naturally would have been overlooked had she not spoken, as she was in the low chair beside the table and was busy with books and slate.

"Keep to your studies, daughter," said Mr. Jawber. "This doesn't interest little girls."

The ten-year-old bent over her slate once more and Mr. Jawber said thoughtfully, "I think the only way to do would be to take different sums and calculate them through to see how they come out."

"Why, that's easy," exclaimed Luella, again looking up from her work.

"Daughter, do not interrupt," said Mrs. Jawber, who had been doubtfully setting down figures with a lead pencil and then marking them out.

"It was $8.75 he had," persisted the child. "Don't you see, he borrowed another $8.75, making it $17.50. When he spent $10 he went to another place with $7.50 and borrowed that much more. Of course then he had $15, so that when he spent $10 he had only $5 and after borrowing another $5 and spending $10 he had no money."

"Um-m-m," said Mr. Jawber. "How did you get it?"

"By algebra."

"Ah, yes, algebra," he murmured, as he gazed blankly at the x and y marks on her slate.

"We do harder ones than that every day," said Luella.

Mr. and Mrs. Jawber each picked up a book, but not to read. They were hiding from each other the humiliation of being tossed into the air by their ungrateful offspring.—[Chicago Record.

## THE GIANT BAMBOO.

### An Enthusiastic Grower on the Possibilities of the Plant.

I believe there is a fortune in the bamboo. It will grow well on such land as the Cane River Valley, which is alluvial soil; in fact, it will grow wherever the wild cane grows, as far north as Mason and Dixon's line. The cuttings should be planted eight feet apart, flat in the ground, three or four inches deep. It requires very little cultivation, for it will soon grow so thick and fast that it will run ahead of all weeds, says J. L. Normand in Southern Farm.

You can begin to ship the cane five years after the cuttings are set, and obtain from 50 cents to $1 per cane from almost any furniture manufactory in the South. I believe we can grow merchantable canes one very foot of land that is set out with bamboo every season. On a six-year-old plantation you can figure out the profits. The canes are tied in bundles, in ten or twenty, for shipping. I cut them in midwinter, when the canes are thoroughly ripe and hardened.

The third year you can begin to cut them and use them for fishing poles, bean poles, fancy hen coops, etc. The fourth and fifth years for fencing, combined and worked in with wire, grape arbors, pike poles, fancy arbors for climbing vines. The seventh and eight years, telegraph poles, for gutter pipes to run water in, split in four for nailing to post to make fencing, flower pots, summer-houses. Outhouses can be built with less work and quicker with it than with lumber.

It makes a splendid roof for buildings that will not leak. Split in two and cut out the inside joints or nodes and lay them side by side, cupped up, and come in with another layer turned down. It is not necessary to give any pitch or slope to your roof, and do away with laths, rafters and a good deal of work. Large sheds can be built in less time and cheaper than with lumber, which will last as long as our best building material and as a decorative plant the bamboo ought to take the foremost place. Nothing can be more graceful on the lawn than a group of them, towering high above the tallest trees. For wind breaks it cannot be excelled.

A large proportion of the rubies in the world comes from Siam.

Siberia has 5,000,000 square miles of good farm land.

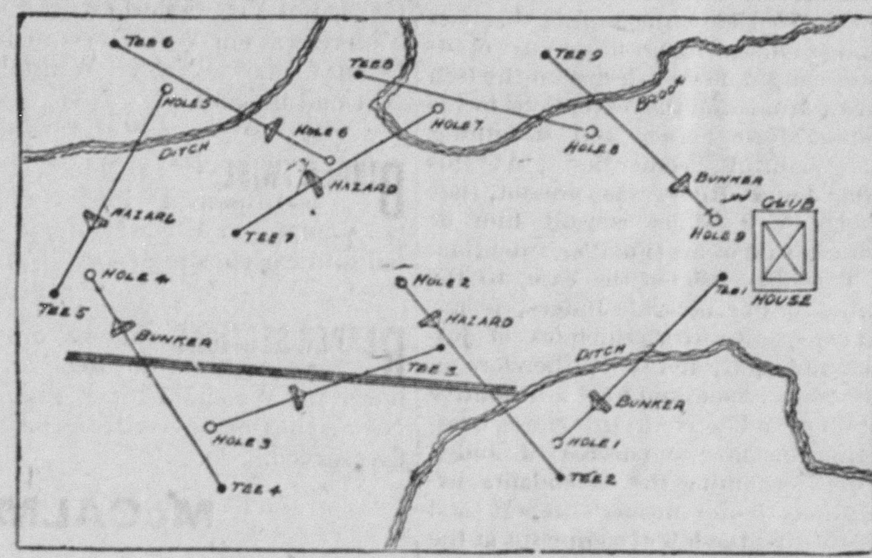
## THEY PLAY SHINNY.

### MANY CLUBS ORGANIZED IN THIS COUNTRY.

### Society Calling it "Golf" Makes a Big Difference, Though.

Society is as prone to fads as are the sparks to fly upward. And the latest in outdoor fads is golf. Tennis, archery and polo have each had their turn, and golf is now coming in to replace them in the fickle minds of the Four Hundred. At Lenox, Westchester, Yonkers, Tuxedo, Meadowbrook, Southampton, Newport and Morristown, N. J., clubs have sprung up, and the craze for the game threatens to become as great here as it was in England four or five years ago. Without being as violent as tennis or polo, the ancient Scotch game furnishes more exercise than either archery or croquet, and seems to find favor with those lovers of outdoor sports who are too stout, too old or too lazy to enjoy any of the severer games.

Golf is a cross between hockey or "shinny" as it is better known,




A GOLF COURSE.

and croquet. It is played on lawns or fields with hard rubber balls and a great variety of mallets, which differ little from the regular "shinny sticks," or from one another in size or shape. The game is a very old one, and was played in Scotland as far

GOOD STROKE.

back as 1457. It became suddenly popular again in England five or six years ago, after having fallen into disuse for many years. In 1889 it was introduced into this country, and it has slowly but surely been gaining a foothold here ever since. This year, however, it has sprung up with wonderful vigor, and all of the most fashionable country clubs have their grounds, and the "smart set" are enthusing greatly over the game.

At Newport, where society fads are always popular, the new golf club has detracted much from the popularity of the famous Casino. The polo field, the yacht clubs and the tennis matches have all suffered from the transference of interest to the new

ON THE LINKS.

game. One good reason for the change is that the women can play golf as well as the men, while they cannot play polo at all, and in the other sports they take only a small part. Theodore A. Havemeyer is called the father of golf at Newport, and is president of the Newport Golf Club. This organization, although only two or three years old, is in an excellent condition, and its star is still in the ascendant. New grounds have been bought this year, and when they have been put into shape and thrown open for the use of the members they will afford one of the finest golf courses in America. They are very capacious and furnish space for a large number of links. A fine clubhouse is also being built on the new grounds. Among the other enthusiasts who make Newport the headquarters for their matches are Robert Goelet, Center Hitchcock, Lloyd Brice, Buchanan Winthrop, William Eldredge, Lorillard Spencer, William Hunter, Theodore Beach, James L. Kernochan and Mortimer Brooks.

Scotchmen swear by their game of golf, and it is perhaps for that reason that a large majority of those on this side of the water who play the game imitate in point of costume, if not otherwise, the Scotch gentleman. The orthodox dress for the sport is, therefore, plaid knickerbockers very loose at the knee, heavy plaid woolen stockings, and a plaited coat and cap to match. For comfort this costume can hardly be improved upon, and as the game requires a great deal of light exercise the dress described is worn almost universally by the enthusiasts.

The Chinaman's description of tobogganing is somewhat characteristic of golf. On a toboggan it is: "S-s-s-t? Walkee mile back again!" While in a golf match the only difference is that the distance that the player has to walk is broken up by several blows at the little ball. Enthusiastic golf players think nothing of walking four or five miles in an afternoon on the golf course.

A golf course consists of a series of links. The usual number is nine, and each link is about a quarter of a mile long. The teeing ground at the start of each link is simply a piece of level turf from which that part of the game is started. The ball is placed upon the "tee" and driven with one of the biggest clubs in the direction of the hole at the other end of the link. The object of the game is to drive one's ball into the small hole, about five inches in diameter, at the end of the link.

Each player has a ball, as in croquet, and the player who knocks his ball into the hole with the smallest number of shots wins the "hole," and the next link is started. A game generally consists of eighteen holes, or twice over the length of an ordi-

A STROKE FROM THE TEE.

nary golf course. The ground over which the links run should be either naturally or artificially rough. The "hazards" furnish variety to the game, and when a course is laid out, hedges, ditches and other obstructions are put in the way of the players, if nature has not already provided them.

The skill in the game lies in the dexterity with which the ball is driven toward the holes, and "put" into them when they are within putting distance. A great variety of mallets or clubs are made for the different kinds of strokes. The list of those, as used in England, comprises eleven wooden and eight iron clubs, as follows: Wooden, driver or play club, grassed driver, long spoon, middle spoon, short spoon, baffing spoon niblick, brassey, bulger, putter and driving putter, iron, iron putter, cleek, driving iron, medium or ordinary iron, lofting iron niblick, president and mashy. Every one of these clubs is shaped like the ordinary "shinny stick," the only difference between them lying in the size and shape of the knobs at their lower ends and the length of their handles.

Few players need or use more than half the mallets listed. On this side of the water, six or eight different clubs are generally used for a complete set. It would be a great annoyance to have to carry any such number of mallets, and a player may be two miles away from the clubhouse in the course of a game, and cannot return each time he wants to change his club.

For this purpose, one of the regular attaches of a golf course is a "caddy." Caddies are boys who follow the players over the links and carry in a case slung over their shoulders, a set of clubs for each player. After each stroke, the club used is returned to the caddy and the player follows his ball to where it has stopped rolling. Then he considers the needs of the next stroke and selects the proper club for it from the caddy. And thus the game goes merrily on from tee to hole, and from tee to hole, over the whole course again and again, until the players are wearied of the sport and return to the clubhouse to put up their clubs and talk over their scores.

The links of the course are generally laid out in irregular lines starting at, or near, the clubhouse, and after a detour of perhaps a mile and a half or two around the surrounding field and meadows, back to the starting point, so at the end of the round the players are generally quite close to their cozy quarters.

It is at this sport that the wearied business man spends his summer afternoons and thanks his Scottish ancestors for the better health and better spirits gained by his day in the open air.—[New York Recorder.

## BREAD.

### A Few Facts About a Somewhat Familiar Article of Food.

Styles change in bread as in everything else, and shapes that were more or less familiar ten years ago are now not made at all. Every baker tries to have something distinctive about his output, and almost every baker thinks his bread is the best. So everybody who buys baker's bread knows there is really a great difference in it in appearance and in taste. The housewife makes wheat bread of one kind of flour; the baker generally makes it of three—two brands of spring wheat flour and one of winter wheat, mixed, with the result of making a finer, whiter, smoother loaf. Bakers do not all agree as to the exact proportions in which these flours should be mixed.

Graham flour is made of the entire grain of the wheat ground up together; gluten flour of that part of the wheat grain which contains the gluten. Rye Graham flour is made of the entire grain of the rye; the rye flour used in the ordinary rye bread is usually mixed with wheat flour in proportions varying from a little wheat up to half wheat. Of the bread sold in American bakeries about 85 per cent. is wheat, the remaining 15 per cent. being divided about equally among Graham, rye and gluten. In Graham bakeries the proportion of rye bread sold is very much greater.

Bakers are all the time getting up new shapes in bread, and there can scarcely be said to be any absolutely standard form, though there are some that are practically so, the oblong, the round, the long round, French stick, Vienna stick, and Vienna loaf; there are now about fifteen shapes that are more or less commonly sold. And these breads are made of about as many different kinds of dough; for instance, there is a New England dough, a Vienna dough, and so on, each being composed of a different blend of materials and mixed and handled differently.

Perhaps as nearly standard as any of these shapes is the one known as New England; this is an oblong loaf with square corners. Almost all of these breads are made in different sizes; the New England is made in at least five, which are sold at 5 cents, 8 cents, 10 cents, 25 cents, and 30 cents; usually the 30-cent loaf is made to weigh a trifle more than three 10-cent loaves would weigh. The smallest sized New England loaf is the one most sold, as is the case with all breads made in sizes, but the 8-cent and 10-cent loaves are in large demand, and there is a steady sale for the loaves at 25 and 30 cents; the larger of the two big loaves is sometimes cut in two and sold in halves. The big loaves are sold to boarding houses, and to private families, also. Some folks like crust, and some like the inside; the big loaves are especially desirable for those who like the inside; they have proportionately to weight less crust than the smaller loaves, and they can be so cut as to be served in almost any form that may be desired, with crust or without.

Breads for hotels and restaurants are generally made in special shapes. They use a shape corresponding to New England, and many restaurants that don't want so much crust take a bread that is made in loaves about eighteen inches in length, and not very wide, baked not separately, but laid close together, so that the loaves have crust on the ends only. Some hotels buy this kind of bread, but hotels generally use more French bread and Vienna sticks. Taking all the people together, old and young, it is probable that about three-quarters like their bread crusty.—[New York Sun.

A new dress material is called "Venetian" and is to take the place of cashmere, and a silk check called "Scotch llama" is very soft and fine in texture. Tiny checks are becoming very popular for walking dresses, bicycling costumes and dressy dinner gowns.