

OR THE YOUNG FOLKS.

OVER AND OVER.

Over and over, little lad,
The same thing over and over;
So sings the robin in his nest,
And buzzes the bee in the clover.
Every spring I build my nest,
Over and over, bringing
Tiny twigs and wee wisps of straw,
Tolling, dreaming and slinging.
Every day I search the flowers,
To find the hidden treasure;
Over and over, home at night,
I bring o'erflowing measure.

Over and over, every day,
The sun bursts forth in glory;
Over and over, soft, warm winds
Whisper the same sweet story.
Over and over mother tells,
And plans for one boy's pleasure,
Over and over bears with him,
And gives love without measure.

So weary not, dear little lad,
But bravely do your duty;
Over and over, then you'll find
The whole may bloom in beauty.

TRICKS WITH EGGS.

Fill a quill with quicksilver, seal it at both ends with good strong wax. Then have an egg boiled, take a small piece of the shell off the pointed end, and thrust in the quill with the quicksilver; lay the egg down, and it will not cease tumbling about as long as there is any heat in it. Or if you put quicksilver into a small bladder, it will jump about as long as it keeps warm.

Another trick is to offer to put an egg into a bottle, and let the neck of the bottle be ever so straight, the trick never fails. Steep the egg, shell and all, in very strong vinegar for some hours, in process of time the vinegar softens it so that the shell will bend and extend lengthways without breaking. Once within the bottle, pour in plenty of cold water, and the egg will recover its original shape and hardness.

THE MONKEY AND THE DITTY BAG.

Every petty officer and sailor in the American navy owns a ditty bag, writes "A. H." in it he keeps his needles and thread, his tapes and buttons, for repairs, and, above all, his treasures; his precious home letters also, and the petty trifles he has picked up for his loved ones as he roams the boundless sea.
The name ditty bag comes from Dittie, a Manchester stuff of which it was originally made. Until within two years each sailor provided his own ditty bag. Since that time the navy serves to all forward what they call a ditty box, which is divided into compartments to hold the haberdashery, and having a little mirror in the inner part of the lid.
The first time I ever heard of a ditty bag was in connection with the antics of a mischievous monkey on board a man-of-war. A sailor lad was one afternoon sewing some buttons on his jacket, his ditty bag lying beside him, crowded with its many treasures. The monkey seized it and ran, the lad giving instant chase. After dodging him at every turn, the monkey sprang out upon the bowsprit, and running to the extreme end, began beating the bag upon it, to the destruction of everything breakable within. Then fixing his eye upon the sailor with an expression of grinning defiance, he took the bag by the two corners at the bottom; after well loosening the string, and deliberately shook all the contents into the sea.

ANTS AS BIG AS DOGS.

In olden times people believed in all manner of fabulous creatures, and the scientists described them in all soberness just as if they really existed. One famous old writer, who was supposed to be very accurate, was telling about ants. After relating several stories about the common ants he says:
"There is another kind of ant up in Ethiopia which is the shape and size of a dog. They have strange habits, for they scratch into the ground and extract therefrom great quantities of fine gold. If any one wishes to take this gold from them he soon repents of his undertaking, for the ants run upon him, and if they catch him they devour him instantly."
"The people who live near them know that they are fierce and savage, and that they possess a great quantity of gold, and so they have invented a cunning trick. They take mares which have unweaned colts, and give them no food for three days. On the fourth the mares are saddled and to the saddles are fastened boxes that shine like gold. Between these people and the ants flows a very swift river. The famished mares are driven across the river, while the colts are kept on the hither side. On the other side of the river the grass is rich and thick. Here the mares graze, and the ants, seeing the shining boxes, think they have found a good place to hide their gold, and so all day long they fill and load the boxes with their precious gold, till night comes on and the mares have eaten their fill. When they hear the neighing of their colts they hasten to return to the other side of the river. There their masters take the gold from the boxes and become rich and powerful, but the ants grieve over their loss."

How is that for a traveler's story?

THE ELEPHANT'S TOOTHACHE.

It must be terrible for an elephant to have the toothache, particularly so if the ache is in proportion to his size. A dentist tells the following story of an elephant that belonged to a circus:
He was very good-natured, but one day when his keeper went near him he made a vicious snarl at him with his trunk. The keeper knew the elephant so well that he said at once that he was sick; something was the matter with him. He sat a safe distance and watched him. The elephant trumpeted loudly, and acted as though he was angry, but no one could decide what was the cause of the change in this good elephant's disposition. This continued for three days. At the end of that time one of the men said: "Why, when Jack (that was the elephant's name) lies down, he keeps rubbing one side of his head; I think he has got the toothache," and everybody immediately said: "Yes, that's what's the matter."
The elephant was chained safely to posts and iron rings, so that he could not move, and the dentist was sent for. The dentist looked in his mouth and saw that one tooth was badly decayed. He touched

it, and the elephant trumpeted as though in great pain. Then the dentist went to work and filled the tooth. After a time the elephant seemed to understand that the dentist was trying to do something for his pain, and he gave every evidence of appreciating the attention. Some weeks later the dentist visited the winter quarters of the elephant and the elephant recognized him. It was rather an expensive operation, for it cost \$100 to fill that one tooth.
Doubtless, then, the elephant's toothache is a larger ache than either you or I ever know when our teeth ache.

FISHING BY HAND.

Boys are sure to discover all manner of ways in which to have sport; and they are marvelously ingenious in finding new modes of capturing game, and in all of these they are apt to be reckless as to danger and consequences in regard to their clothing. This is well illustrated by the boyish practice of catching fish with the hands.

This mode of fishing can be practiced only in narrow streams; and the best sort of stream is such a one as is frequently found flowing through meadow lands. We will suppose that it is ten or fifteen feet wide, and from six inches to three feet in depth its banks are mainly low and over-hanging, and along this we will follow a group of boys for a mile or two.

The boys are equipped with a bag to contain their spoils; and the one who is to do the fishing is provided with a pair of rubber boots. The method of procedure is for him to stretch himself at full length on the bank, with head and arms over the edge; then he stretches his hands as far apart as possible, thrusts them deep into the water, close to the banks, and then brings them slowly toward each other, feeling carefully for the fish. The fish may be frightened by one hand, and swim direct toward the other, which being pressed against the bank will be enabled to clasp it firmly. If the bank slopes considerably, some of the other boys will find it necessary to hold onto the feet of the fisherman, to prevent his falling in. When a fish is secured it is thrown out upon the bank, on the grass, and then deposited in the sack.

In the course of a mile of this sort of work, one is likely to secure several dozens of chubs, and mullets, and such common fishes as are usually found in meadow streams. In some cases, the boy with the boots on will find it advisable to wade into the water, and use his hands from that side; it will be to prepare for both methods of work.

The mere taking of fish would not afford quite spice enough to satisfy the average boy, were it not for the fact that there is always a possibility of putting the hands upon some creature not so gentle. We have followed this sport, sometimes, when in the course of a few hours several snapping turtles were flung out by a daring boy, with as much sang froid as the minnows themselves. We have also had a muskrat whirled through the air past our heads, while an occasional snake was taken for granted.

When the fishes in small streams are not disposed to bite, it is not a bad plan for the boys to thus go after them under the banks with their hands.

Elephant Cutlets for Dinner.

The greatest luxury at dinner in Central Africa is elephant steaks. Any big native feast without elephant's flesh is as rare as an English society dinner without venison.

In dressing the carcass of an elephant the rough outer skin is first removed in large sheets. Beneath this is a sub-cuticle—a pliable membrane, from which the natives make water-skins. The rib bones are cut out and stewed, but all the other bones are destroyed.

The most delicate part, very strangely, is the first joint of the leg below the knee, which one would suppose to be the toughest portion of the animal. This joint is cooked by being buried in a hole in the ground, a huge fire over the top supplying the heat.—Answers.

Human Density.

A French scientific writer points out that a mere gain in weight should not, in itself, be taken as an indication of improved bodily condition. It is, according to him, rather a question of the density than of the quantity of tissue that covers the bones. When increase of weight results from increased density, then the health is really improved. In order that this principle may be practically applied, he suggests the use of baths containing a known quantity of water, and supplied with appliances for measurement whereby the density of the immersed body may be calculated, in the manner in which Archimedes ascertained the density of King Hiero's crown of adulterated gold.

How the Guinea Got Its Name.

The guinea got its name from the coast of Guinea in Africa, whence the gold for it was first brought. It was first 20 shillings; than 21 shillings 6 pence, and finally 21 shillings. "Shilling" and "penny" are both Saxon words, and the penny was first coined in silver. Farthing is a corruption of "fourthing," or the fourth of a penny.

The Sicilian Love Potion.

A Sicilian love potion is made of the lover's own blood as follows: A few drops of blood are placed in an egg-shell, exposed to the sun for three days and to the dew for three nights, and then placed on hot ashes until the whole is reduced to a fine powder. This powder is administered surreptitiously to the object of affection in a cup of coffee.

Smallest Inhabited Island.

The island on which the Eddystone Lighthouse stands lies nine miles off the Cornish coast, and is supposed to be the smallest inhabited island on the globe. At low water it is thirty feet in diameter; at high water the lighthouse, whose diameter at the base is 28 3/4 feet, completely covers it. It is inhabited by three persons.

HOW MEAT IS SLICED.

The People of the World Can Be Classified by the Way They Do It.

A member of the Professional Woman's League, who has traveled extensively in foreign lands, said the other evening that you can classify the peoples of the world by the way they cut their meat. The powerful physical nature of the Anglo-Saxon is well illustrated by the huge rib roasts and the immense shoulders of mutton. The more artistic nature of the Frenchman is shown by his cutting his meat into thin slices of fillet, into epigram and into the flimsy affairs he calls "rosbif."

The Arab cuts his meat into a thin ribbon, wraps it around an iron skewer, broils it over a charcoal fire, and, lo and behold! there is the famous kabob. Strange to say, it is very rare for the Anglo-Saxon to cut his meat thin, just as it is rare for the eastern races to serve it in massive portions. Yet we could improve our daily bill of fare, especially in the summer season, by adopting many of the dishes and methods of these other races.

Thus the kabob system may be applied to any kind of flesh or fowl, and produces a crisp, palatable and nourishing culinary creation. Another series of very pleasant dishes are made by cutting meat into long strips about the size of a lead pencil and frying them, after they have been salted and peppered, in either their own fat or in olive oil. The liquid should be very hot before the meat is put in, so as to close up all the pores and keep the juice within the fiber. These pencils, when cooked properly, are clean, delicious, brittle and very appetizing. Still another system comes from Italy and Spain in that very attractive preparation known as fritas. These consist of little pieces of meat about the size of a hickory nut. One will be made of beef, another of lamb, a third of chicken, a fourth of duck, a fifth of corned beef, a sixth of cold beefsteak. The greater the variety the more successful the dish. These pieces are very well seasoned, they being rubbed with a clove of garlic, salted, peppered, and usually touched with a drop or two of onion juice. They are then dipped in batter and fried over a very hot fire. When they come out all look alike, so that the guest has the additional attraction of novelty, variety and surprise.—New Orleans Picayune.

Has a Sparrow for a Pet.

At Carbondale, Penn., W. E. Frisbie, a jeweler, has a little English sparrow as a pet. The other morn'g when Mr. Frisbie was unlocking his shop door the bird flew upon his arm. Looking around, he saw an excited cat coming toward him which had evidently been trying to catch the bird. Mr. Frisbie scared the cat away, and then gave his arm a little toss to start the bird on its flight.

It flew up about thirty feet, and then, circling down again, returned to its former perch. He noticed this time that the bird's wing was broken, and took the little thing into the shop. The sparrow seems perfectly contented in its new quarters. When Mr. Frisbie is alone it perches itself on his shoulder or on a chair opposite, and watches him at work, occasionally giving a few lively chirps to show how happy he is. The moment the bird hears the outer door open it hides away, and stays hidden until the visitor departs.—New York Press.

An Historic Church.

The history of the First Parish of Dorchester, now a part of Boston, is the history of one of the oldest churches in New England. The parish was organized June 23, 1636, and the first church was built in 1641. The second church was built in 1646, and the third in 1677. In 1743 they erected their fourth church, and on May 16, 1816, the corner-stone of the church burned a year ago was laid. Now a beautiful reproduction of the old church is ready for dedication.

The old bell which has been recast and hung in its old position in the belfry, will continue to call parishioners to service, as it has done for over 145 years. This bell has been a part of the civil as well as of the religious history of the town, for not only has it called the settlers to meeting, aroused them to attend fires, called them to town meetings and tolled at deaths, but it announced the birth of liberty in 1776 and called the troops for the Civil War in 1861.

Balks Telegraph Operators.

Chinese cannot be telegraphed, and to meet this difficulty a cipher system has been invented by which messages in that language can be transmitted over the wires. The sender of the message has no need to trouble himself about the meaning, and, in fact, may be telegraphing all day without the slightest idea of the information he is sending, for he transmits only numerals. It is very different, however, with the receiver of the message at the other end, as he must have a code dictionary, and after each message is received must translate it, writing such literary character in the place of the numeral that stands for it. Only about an eighth of the words in the written language of China appear in the code, but that has been found sufficient for all practical purposes.

Three-fourths of the \$50,000 bequeathed to the Hunt Library fund in Nashua, N. H., has been tied up by the successive closing of three banks in that city.

Capital punishment is to be abolished in Nicaragua.

GOSSIP FOR THE FAIR SEX.

Some Items of Interest on Feminine Topics.

Du Maurier's Daughter—An Unconventional Queen. A Deep Ribbon Girdle, Etc., Etc.

In the pre-Tribbian days, when George Du Maurier was a struggling, half-blinded artist, his daughter Sylvia apprenticed herself to a prominent London dressmaker and served her time in all the tedious details. She has since married a young barrister who has his way to make in the world, and the young bride designs and makes her own dresses with the satisfaction of being considered one of the best dressed women in London.

AN UNCONVENTIONAL QUEEN.

Next to Carmen Sylva, the Queen of Roumania, Queen Olga of Greece is considered one of the most unconventional of reigning queens. She walks about a great deal alone, and has climbed to the top of Mount Lycabettos without a companion. One of her most intimate friends is an American, Mme. Bakmaetieff, wife of the first secretary of the Russian legation, formerly Miss Beale, of Washington. For several years after Queen Olga's coronation she frequently appeared in Greek costume, and it is said that she has lately been considering the possibility of making the ancient Greek dress the court costume.—San Francisco Chronicle.

A DEEP RIBBON GIRDLLE.

A girdle that begins at the hips and reaches to the belt line should be made of satin ribbon three inches wide. There is a foundation of black crinoline, upon which the ribbon is sewed; it is lightly folded and carried around the figure nine or ten times, fastening with two large bows, which can be drawn through jeweled buckles. A very pretty finish for the girdle is an embroidered lapel. This is a piece of the cloth, upon which iridescent beads and mock gems are sewed in patterns. In the back of the revers have two points, each finished with the jeweled trimming.

The girdle and revers are, of course, adjustable, and can be worn with shirt waists or old gowns of any kind or color.

THE WOMAN DECORATOR.

The word decorator has come to stay. There are good reasons for her success, the first of which is her intuitive sense of color and quick appreciation of what is good. With her aptitude for details and with her ability to manage several lines of work at one and the same time, she is enabled to combine utility with beauty. Counting the cost at the start is another of her recommendations. You do not need to give her carte blanche, but you can give her the highest figure beyond which you will not go, and she will be just as painstaking in her efforts. Show her the room of which you have despaired, and, with her knowledge of materials and furnishings, she will soon accomplish a wonderful transformation. It is the woman decorator who looks at the old-fashioned brick mantel and makes it a thing of beauty by the addition of wrought-iron trimmings, which are really very inexpensive. This is much better than tearing down the old mantel and replacing it with a modern cabinet affair, for the result is more unique. It is the woman decorator who helps popularize the stuffs of homely origin and furniture of simple design. Above all, it is the woman decorator who contrives an air of cosy comfort even in the midst of grand surroundings.—New Orleans Picayune.

OLD SHOES.

The Chinese value a pair of old boots which have been worn by an upright magistrate, and the custom of wishing a friend a "happy foot" is still observed all through Europe. The casual putting on the left shoe on the right foot, putting it on uneven and crosswise, bursting the latch or tie, lacing it wrong and losing a button are all bad signs. English girls have been known to hang their boots outside the window on St. Valentine's night for love luck. Professor Black tells us of a singular superstition existing in England, which insists that if the younger daughter of a family marries first her sisters must dance at her wedding without shoes, so as to insure husbands for themselves. Old shoe throwing is done for many purposes. The gypsies say:

Hurl after an old shoe,
I'll be merry what here I do.
In the Isle of Man an old shoe is all ways thrown after the bride, as well as the groom, when leaving their homes, and in the south the oldest person on the plantation, white or black, always throws a shoe after any one starting on a long journey. It is said that Mme. Patti and other women of high standing on the stage preserve most carefully the boots which they wore at their debut, which they consider lucky to wear on the first nights of engagements forever after.

AMERICAN MANNERS.

In a series of papers on the above subject and published in The Outlook, Jan. MacLaren says of the chivalry of American men toward women:
"The first point of good manners is chivalry, and the test of chivalry is a man's bearing to women. The reason one is suspicious of French breeding is that, though a Parisian—who is a Frenchman raised to the highest degree—may lift his hat on entering a shop, he would show the shopgirl no deference on the street, while French fiction is a standing insult to woman-kind. From end to end of America a woman is respected, protected, served, honored. If she enters an elevator every man uncovers; in a street car she is never allowed to stand if a man can give her a seat; on the railways, conductors, porters and every other kind of official hasten to wait on her; any man daring to annoy a woman would come to grief. The poorest woman can travel with security and comfort in the States, which to an European seems most admirable. Her richer sister has a maid and footman in Europe; she has a nation in attendance. In society she holds a court, with every man listening to her, deferring to her, reflecting her. Perhaps the American woman may be unconsciously exacting at times—it is the penalty of absolute monarchy; perhaps the men exceed in deference when they allow the women to read for them and think for them in everything except politics—this is the drawback of hereditary loyalty. The American queen might complete an almost perfection by granting her subjects an occasional experience of equality, upon which they would never think of trading. Perhaps the American loyalist might do his ruler true service and safeguard her from selfishness by an occasion and quite limited assertion of the rights of man. It remains, however, that it must be good for a strong and restless people to be possessed with noble ideas of woman, and from the poorest to the highest man to be engaged and sworn unto her service. The woman cult in the States is in itself a civilization, and next door to a religion."

Black net spangled in jet or gold, for evening wear.
Short military coats braided in gold and self color.
Jacket suits of serge or flannel for girls of 8 to 12 years.
Fine tan seal belts having a tiny chataleine bag attached.
Mantles having a short fitted back and long stole fronts.
Picture hats of white Leghorn with many half-long plumes.

Hints on Training a Dog.

The first thing to be taught is obedience—to come in when called. Get a strong cord line and fasten one end to the pup's collar, holding the other in the hand. Then call him, and enforce the call with a sharp twitch. Do not yank him, and do not raise your voice or be violent in any way. The chances are that, feeling the cord for the first time, he will struggle violently to escape. If so, sit or stand perfectly still until he is tired and stops, then call him again, enforcing the order as before, the idea being to teach him what the words mean, and of course no punishment is possible until the order is perfectly understood and willfully disobeyed.

When he finally comes to you pet him, make much of him, make him think that he has done a very clever thing by coming. It is not a bad plan to have something which he will like to eat in your pocket with which to reward him when he obeys. Continue this course, first dropping the check cord, and after a while removing it, until he answers the call instantly; then begin gradually to substitute the whistle for the voice, at first whistling and speaking, and then dropping the voice altogether.
You should never use your voice when in the fields to call your dog. In the first place, it is very annoying to your companion to be forced to listen to the noise you will make when the dog is any distance away, but the most important reason is that all game-birds hate the sound of the voice as they hate nothing else, and when they hear it get restless, and will not be well.

MAKING CLOSE CONNECTION.

With the return of the bicycle season comes the shirt waist, and the young maid and matron look forward to the time when the stiff, thick waists of the winter gowns will give place to the cool, comfortable garment of cotton or silk. This year the clever inventor, who "slumbers not, neither does he sleep," has developed from his active brain devices which promise to be a boon to all wearers of the shirt waists. One, and perhaps the most popular just now, takes the form of a narrow, steel belt, three-quarters of an inch in width, and fastening in front with hooks and eyes resembling those of a corset. On the back of the gown are sewed two broad, steel catches through which the belt is run. This simple and almost indestructible device is warranted to hold the skirt in place, and not show either above or below the belt.

The next device is also a belt, but in this case of strong woven belting. To it is attached, in the movable back, three straps, in both ends of which are fastened strong safety pins. The upper safety pin, to catch the shirt waist, thereby making it impossible to bag or bulge. The pins in the lower end of these straps, which are about three inches long, are fastened in the undershirt. Of course the dress skirt goes over this, and should fit very snugly about the waist.

Other inventions for the same purpose consist of several varieties of buttons, clasps, catches and pins. The most useful of the catches, perhaps, is that which may be had to match any belt. It consists of a piece of steel about two inches long, curved to fit the waist, with a narrower hook which extends over the top of the belt. The lower part is furnished with eyelets, and should be sewn to the dress skirt. The hook is leather covered, and can be had to match the most expensive or cheapest belt. Of course, the covering of this hook regulates the price of the article.

An arrangement which has the advantages of cheapness and simplicity consists of a soft piece of leather about two inches long by a half inch wide, and with two sharp hooks attached. The back of this leather is covered with a strong glue, and is to be pasted in the inner side of each belt. The two sharpened hooks are slipped through the belts of both skirt waist and gown, and as one pulls up and the other pulls down, the necessary result is obtained.

Besides these new devices against the separation of shirts and skirts, the old belt pins and clasps will be used. The only difference between those of this season and last lies in the ornamentation. The new ones are much more ornate, and, as a rule, larger.—Chicago Record.

SHOWN ON DRY GOODS COUNTERS.

Short jackets having blouse fronts.
Shirt waists of striped wool taffeta.
Round silk capes trimmed with lace.

Linen collars having a ruffle on the top.

Hats of all shapes in shirred mouseline.

Standing linen colors with a ruffle at the top.

Bright plaid taffeta for lining black grenadines.

Bright straws trimmed with black and white.

Sailor hats faced with net or bound with velvet.

Small and medium checked silk taffeta for waists.

Many etamine dress materials in light shades.
Fine Valenciennes edging that rivals the real lace.

Egypt's Increasing Population.

The interesting discovery is made by means of the new census that Egypt to-day has probably the largest population it ever contained, according to careful estimates and comparisons. Ancient writers put the maximum population under the Rameses the Great, which was the most flourishing period of old Egyptian history, at less than eight millions. When Bonaparte went there a century ago all Egypt had scarcely two millions, and the next fifty years added only one million. No exact figures are obtainable for a later comparison, for the census of 1882 was notoriously guesstwork; but it is a fact now that an actual count shows about nine millions. The ease and smoothness with which the village authorities took up and facilitated the work of the census surprised and gratified the English officials, who are encouraged now to believe that their recent reforms in the local system have really taken root. There is still a certain amount of unpleasantness in dealing with the Khedive, who lends a furtive ear to a new set of mischief makers as fast as the old ones are cleared out, but he dares attempt nothing overt, and I am told by officers now at home on leave that England is as secure on the Nile as she is on the Ganges.—New York Times.

X Rays Identify a Picture.

The X ray has been put to new uses, aside from surgical diagnosis. It has ascertained the genuineness of jewels, and has also been made use of by French postal officials to investigate the contents of suspicious-looking parcels in the mails. The latest story of the ray comes from Germany, and concerns the identification of a painting by Albrecht Durer. The canvas in question was a head of Christ, and was accredited to the famous Nuremberger. It was on wood, and was believed to have been executed in 1821. It was much discolored and dingy with age, and had been retouched by a "restorer." In order to settle all doubts as to the authenticity of the work, a photograph was taken by means of the rays, and much was revealed that the eye could not see. The features and the drapery appeared much more distinctly than in the painting, and there also came to light a Latin inscription in quaint Gothic characters, the monogram of some grand duke (for whom, perhaps, the picture was painted), the artist's initials, and the date 1524.

A Turtle as a Fox Trap.

C. R. Perry, of Herriek, Penn., has been fattening a twenty pound snapping turtle. One Sunday his turtle-ship was taken out of the barrel and allowed to wander about the yard. Early on Tuesday morning Perry was aroused by the noise of a scuffle in the yard. Repairing there, he found the turtle hanging to the nose of a big fox, which had been stealing from the henries in the vicinity for a month. B'er Fox was near the fence endeavoring to get over but Farmer Perry followed and shot him dead. The turtle all the time retained his hold and refused to let go until the fox's nose was cut off. Then it crawled back to his home, carrying the nose with it as a trophy.—New York Press.