

NEWS FOR THE FAIR SEX

NOTES OF INTEREST ON NUMEROUS FEMININE TOPICS.

Charming Frocks for Little Girls—Unique Card Cases—When One Grows—One Secret of Youth—Punching the Bag a Complexion Tonic, Etc., Etc.

Charming Frocks for Little Girls.
Frocks for little girls have not, in many seasons, been so charming as now. They reproduce the general characteristics of the gowns worn by the children's elders; but, fortunately, these features are at present effective upon the wee women. Empire frocks with rather long skirts and soft rashes are delightful upon small girls, and the inevitable bolero, with its infinite variety in shape and trimming, redeems even the simplest child's dress from the commonplace. The broad collars, floating scarves, shirred skirts, flapping straw and lace picture hats, all are adaptable to childhood, and the gold braid, galloon and buttons brighten up little school and morning frocks that were too serviceable to be pretty. The small girl who doesn't look attractive this season has a stupid or indifferent mother.—New York Sun.

Unique Card Cases.
Two of the newest card cases are, first, an envelope of suede or silk or satin. This is cut square like a letter envelope, with a broad flap folding over a point or in two rounding flaps, each buttoned down to the case itself by a cabochon stone set in gold or silver. Another is the conventional card case form, but of the finest finished leather, richly tooled in empire designs. Numbers of women who profess the full skirts, long shoulder lines and under-sleeves of 1890 and 1895, carry old-style silver card cases of that day. The mid-century card case was made of silver, elaborately chased on in filigree work that, for beauty of pattern and durability, is hard to duplicate to-day.

When One Grows.
The problem of "How to live when one grows old" confronts so many self-supporting women that any suggestion of a practical nature must be welcome. Such a suggestion is found in the colonies of young women of similar tastes, now so frequently found in New York and other cities. Half a dozen women take a flat and live independently and comfortably, but the years pass by, youth departs and one by one they drop out of the happy little colony and disappear into—who knows where?

Why not extend the idea into a larger and permanent arrangement? Eight or ten teachers, newspaper women, artists or otherwise congenial spirits might easily apply their small savings to the purchase of a piece of land in some suburb and build a commodious house thereon, that should be a real home to live and die in.—New York Tribune.

One Secret of Youth.
If you wish to retain your youth to "a good, old age" one of the most important things to remember is not to eat too much meat. Meat once a day in small quantities is sufficient.

Vegetables and fruit should always be eaten freely and drink plenty of water. It is a curious fact that most people drink too little instead of too much water; at least a quart a day is desirable. A pint of hot water sipped slowly before eating is very good when a tendency to rheumatic troubles exists.

Always eat slowly; nothing will age you more quickly than in improper assimilation of food, and this is one of the faults most of us commit.—Pittsburg Dispatch.

Punching the Bag a Complexion Tonic.
The girl who takes her exercise by punching the bag believes that she has at last found the real complexion tonic. Certainly her appearance frequently justifies this belief, and it is probable that in a month or two all of her girl friends will be having punching bags added to their own particular belongings.

A punching bag outfit may cost anywhere from a couple of dollars to twenty, and the girls who have tried it declare that the inexpensive bag, if properly placed, is just as effective as the finer one.

The girl who aims to profit by the punching bag makes use of it just after the morning bath and before assuming anything more calculated to bind her muscles than a loose dressing gown. She then devotes ten or fifteen minutes to scientific punching.

The bag should be placed by an expert, and should hang about on a level with the user's eyes. The striking motion must be upward, and the left hand should be used as much as possible. The immediate effect of this splendid exercise is to develop the muscles of the chest and arms. The advantage of using the left hand even more than the right will be evident at once when it is remembered that dressmakers habitually complain of the difficulty in fitting their clients, the majority of whom have the right shoulder higher than the left. This state of affairs, of course, comes from the habit of using the right hand almost exclusively.—Philadelphia North American.

Denver Girl's Work in Paris.
Miss Jane Ward, called by all her friends "Janey," the sixteen-year-old daughter of William Shaw Ward, holds an official position under her father at

the Paris Exposition upon a government salary. She acts in the full capacity of interpreter to the distinguished gentlemen who have charge of the department of mines and metallurgy in the United States exhibit.

Of this department her father is assistant director and has full charge of all the technical work. Not speaking French himself, and being in actual contact with Frenchmen more than any others of that department, his daughter is almost constantly with him. Upon her fall all the conversational duties in the preparation of the exhibit, even to the hiring and discharging of the workmen in the department's employ. She was with her father constantly while the building in the department space, which for a time was but a shed furnished with a gas stove, was going on, and had even to direct the workmen in the details of its building and furnishing, as well as the arrangement of the exhibits.

As her father's protegee the little lady has seen much of the social side of Paris, and has been included in the invitations to all the great social affairs attendant upon the exposition. Miss Ward lived in France with her parents for three years, and was educated under a French governess until ten years of age, so that, although her father never spoke the language, she learned it almost as well as her native tongue.—Denver Post.

Work of a "Book Surgeon."
Miss Mabel Cook, who pursues the occupation of "book surgeon," says that this is a comparatively unexplored field of activity for self-supporting women, and one which can be made profitable.

The work of the "book surgeon" consists of mending and renovating books, and her discovery of this as a profession was the outcome of the knowledge that a certain private library needed repairing. Miss Cook was spending the winter in Paris, where the owner of the library resided, and it was suggested that if she were proficient in this line of work she could easily obtain the order. Miss Cook, who is a lover of books, immediately began to fit herself for the place by studying bookbinding with one of the most expert binders in Paris.

"In order to repair books you must know how to bind them," said Miss Cook yesterday. "I devoted the winter to the study of bookbinding and gilding, or tooling, as it is called. The lessons cost a small sum, and I found the work delightful. The man from whom I took lessons lived in what had at one time evidently been a sort of palace. His wife was an expert binder, and helped him. In France they do not have the prejudice against letting women learn trades in shops as in New York, where, if a woman attempts to learn the trade in a regular bindery, the men refuse to work with her."

A specimen of Miss Cook's workmanship which lay on the table was a book bound in white parchment, decorated with a finely executed design of trailing grapevines, with clusters of grapes. The design was originated by Miss Cook, who stated that the book entire, with its rich binding, had cost in materials just 14 cents.

"In the course of binding you take up the book sixty times," said Miss Cook, "and in the finest kind of binding, the book has to be in the press for two weeks in all during the different processes."

For three years Miss Cook has been the binder for the old Astor Library on Lafayette Place, where her workroom is situated on the ground floor. When the library books get torn or in need of repair they are sent down to Miss Cook, who repairs about three books a day. When the bindings are old and valuable, every effort is made to preserve them. Some come down with one "board" or cover off, and others with the strings which bind the pages to the cover broken. The books that are most often in need of repair are the genealogical books and "pedigrees."

"When a book comes down I judge of the condition of the 'invalid,' and give it the necessary 'treatment,'" said Miss Cook. "There is always plenty of work to be done, and it is surprising to note how viciously some people will treat the books. The other day one of the finest and rarest books of reference came down with four pages cut clean out close to the binding. In order to get those four pages out, the person had pressed hard with the knife and cut away sixty other pages, which, however, had not been taken away. The loose pages had to be bound in again, but the four missing ones were never seen. I received the appointment here when I had completed my studies in Paris, so I never applied for the position to repair the private library which had been the cause of my undertaking the work. There are few women who can do binding and repairing, and, if more would take the work up, I am sure they would be kept busy all the time at private libraries, and find it remunerative, too."—New York Tribune.

Esquias for Rheumatism.
The ordinary esquia is about two feet long and two and one-half inches wide. But the use to which it is put is the strange part of it.

These skins are purchased as a remedy for rheumatism. If an ankle, knee or other joint is subject to rheumatic pain the skin is wrapped about the joint and the pain is stopped at once. The skins are thoroughly dried and seem to retain their properties for any length of time.

NOTES AND COMMENTS

No doubt two people can live cheaper than one, but nobody ever saw an instance where they did.

Only one Chinaman has been regularly ordained a minister of the Gospel. His name is Jam Jee, and he lives in San Francisco.

The municipal control of the gas-works at Rochdale, England, is so successful that a profit of \$65,000 has been turned over toward reducing the rates.

The most characteristic feature of Siberian farm life is that the farmers live, not scattered all over the country, remote from neighbors, but in villages as near as possible to land they are cultivating.

Notwithstanding the great enlargement of the city of Liverpool in 1895, when out-districts all around the city were added to the municipality, bringing the population up to the estimated total of 700,000, a movement is on foot to extend the city boundaries seven miles to the south, following the river line.—London Globe.

There are no pillows in Chinese beds. They have instead hollow square frames of rattan or bamboo, or blocks of wood fashioned so that they fit the nape of the neck and support the head when lying on the side. People who have used these substitutes for pillows say they are much more comfortable than soft, hot feather or hair pillows, especially in warm weather.

The Philadelphia Times, querying as to the necessity for the continuance of the Grand Jury system, says: "We would regard the abolishment of the Grand Jury as a mistake, as we do not see how many of its duties could be performed as well as the grand juries now render that service, but there certainly should be a very material modification of the old common law secrecy, conceived centuries ago, regulating preliminary proceedings in criminal cases."

In the Rangeley Lake region of Maine deer are so troublesome to the farmers this season that it is a question of whether a man shall give up farming altogether or shoot the deer and thus get into jail. The animals invade the gardens and dig up potatoes and carrots with their hoofs faster than a man could throw them out with a hoe, and scarcely any crop escapes their ravages. As between bears and deer, the farmers say that bruin is far the less destructive.

A fruit tree propagator has at last produced a seedling apple, and the fruits have been seen by many interested in pomology, so that in a few years' time a good supply of these plect apples will be found upon the market. It is said, too, that these new apples are superior in flavor to the ordinary kinds. Already high prices are being paid for the trees, which for some time yet will be bought up by rich amateurs.

General Greely has received a dispatch informing him that the signal corps' wireless telegraph stations had been established and were in successful operation between Alcatraz Island, San Francisco Harbor and Fort Mason. It has been impossible to maintain cable communication between these points owing to interruptions by shipping, incoming vessels dragging their anchors and injuring the misplacing the cables continually. This is the first system of wireless telegraphy established as a practical working system where other means have failed.

Lupo Salvatore, an Italian, passed himself off as a solicitor, and so committed sixty-three separate acts of fraud. He forged the signatures of the President and Judges of the High Court and the Chancellor. For the latter splendid piece of fraud he actually stole the seal of the Chancery. To this bold and thorough-paced scoundrel English law would probably have given a sentence of ten—possibly fifteen—years' penal servitude. But the Italian Judges, by way of vindicating the majesty of the law, pronounced one of three years for each offence—189 in all.

It is not generally appreciated that ice is a factor in transporting animals of various kinds long distances from their habitats. A large iceberg that had floated out into the Atlantic some years ago was boarded by a sealer for the purpose of taking the seals that had clung to it. To their surprise the men found embedded in the ice a large polar bear. The assumption is that years before the bear in crossing a crevasse of a glacier had fallen in and had been caught and frozen in. Finally, this section of the glacier reached the sea, broke off and drifted away, the bear being finally taken out as perfect as when it died. It was skinned, and some of the flesh eaten.

According to German statisticians, there are nine cities with more than 400,000 German inhabitants, though the term German seems to be rather elastic. They are: Berlin, 1,650,000; Vienna, 1,146,000; Hamburg, 628,000; New York 583,000; Amsterdam, 513,000; Brussels, 458,000; Munich, 411,000; Chicago, 407,000; Leipzig, 400,000. Forty-four others have over 100,000,

including, in the United States, Philadelphia, St. Louis, Milwaukee, Cincinnati, Buffalo, Cleveland and Baltimore. The percentage of Germans is given as 39 in New York, 37 in Chicago and St. Louis and 18 in Philadelphia.—Pall Mall Gazette.

"Laugh and grow fat" is a proverb that is worthy of being made a part of one's creed for daily living. Proverbs are merely epitomes of human experience, and that particular saying commends itself to the observant mind. A laugh is complex in its workings, but direct in its result. It has a physical movement, causing the arteries to dilate and the flow of blood to hasten, thus promoting an increase of vital processes and a mental action through stimulating the blood vessels of the brain. A nervous invalid was induced to try a "laughter treatment" a year ago. She read all the funny books she could find, laboriously conned even the comic weeklies, and when she could find nothing else to laugh at laughed at herself for the effort. Every one knows how inevitably a forced laugh, if continued, will merge into a genuine burst of hilarity, and the invalid found herself shrieking with laughter over the absurdity of it. In a month she began to feel stronger and in less than a year wholly recovered.

The New York World says: "As a lawyer, Mr. Stanley, of Kansas, defended a negro murderer, and after his sentence wrote to the Governor a strong indorsement of the negro's application for a pardon. Now, as Governor Stanley of Kansas, he has had to pass upon a new application for his old client's pardon, and his own letter, written as a lawyer, has been laid before him. But he refuses to grant the pardon and says that as Governor it is his right and duty to view the matter 'in an entirely different light.' This raises the very interesting though by no means new question: In the code of legal ethics what does a client's fee buy and what does it leave unbought?"

It is pertinent to the present passion for professional and amateur pugilism to note that life insurance companies, which make a systematic study of vital statistics, regard pugilists and professional athletes of all classes as extremely bad "risks"; regard ministers, the least muscular class of all, as the very best risks. There are many preachers in the pulpit of eighty. A prize-fighter, like Fitzsimmons, who can enter the ring at thirty-eight is a rarity. The average minister earns about \$350 a year. The average prize-fighter earns about that much for a single appearance in the ring. But the prize of longevity is not for him, but for the man of only enough muscle to carry his frame about.

It is extremely difficult to get anything but approximate figures concerning the number of deaths resulting from forest fires, but isolated paragraphs tell something of the story. During the terrible fires of 1894, when millions of feet of lumber burned, the town of Hineckle lost over 200 souls of its population. In 1871, a year made so memorable by its great conflagrations, the loss of life from the towns on the west shore of Lake Huron was over 5,000, and this territory was a mere title of the burned-over country. In the Minnesota fires of four years ago the villages lying on a line between Carlton and Pine City, where the flames took their course, in 130 miles of territory over twenty towns were wiped out and in Carlton and Pine counties alone the loss of life was over 1,000 persons. If one considers the fact that these figures come from small tracts and that they are from but one fire, while millions of acres are burned over every year, and the fires have been doing their work since America has been in existence some idea of the awful loss of life may be approximated. It is safe to say that fire in the forests has been responsible for the deaths of millions of people.

There has long been a legend that there is a lost Spanish gold mine in Mohave County, Arizona. It is reported that this mine has just been rediscovered, and that a sample of the ore has been taken out and assayed. It runs \$240 to the ton. This mine was certainly worked by the Spaniards seventy-five years ago. Its abandonment was caused by the Halpli Indians, who massacred all the miners and filled up the shaft. The rediscovery of this mine was made by F. B. Johnson, of El Paso, who came into the possession of the plot and description of the property while in the city of Mexico a few years ago. An old Spanish gold mine is located in San Diego County, Cal., and is alleged to be haunted. It was discovered about five years ago by two Mexicans. The two Mexicans went to work to clear the shaft of its rubbish, and had only got down a short distance when a terrifying manifestation took place in the shaft where they were working. They fled for their lives, leaving their picks and shovels behind them. They never went back. Several different persons to whom they related their experiences have tried to open up the mine since, but in every case they have been frightened off. The mine will remain abandoned until some one with courage undertakes to open it.

Japan got its first telegraph line in 1859. To-day it has 144,570 miles of line in service, with 1,267 offices

FARM AND GARDEN NOTES.

ITEMS OF INTEREST ON AGRICULTURAL TOPICS.

Feeding Calves—Rich Land Needed for Parsnips—Enemies of the Squash—Balanced Rations for Cows—How to Stack Small Grain, Etc., Etc.

Feeding Calves.
When the calf is a week old commence feeding ground unbolts wheat. Pour enough boiling water over a handful to make it wet. Then add one gallon of sweet skimmed milk. Increase the wheat as the calf becomes older to one-half pint at eight weeks.

Rich Land Needed for Parsnips.
It requires rich land for parsnips, and in early spring when the seed is sown even the rich soil must be supplemented with an active manure to furnish available nitrogen. Good results have been had from an application of well rotted hen manure well mixed with the soil in the rows, and sprinkled with hardwood ashes that had not lost their caustic properties just before the soil was covered over the seed. This application of wood ashes to nitrogenous manure causes a strong smell of ammonia. But as the seed, manure and ashes are at once covered with moist soil all or nearly all of this is imprisoned and absorbed by it, and this gives the young parsnips from the first a vigorous growth, that enables them to be weeded by hand with far less trouble than if planted even in rich soil without the manure fertilization in the rows.

Enemies of the Squash.
The enemies of the squash are, first, weeds, which are very easily subdued by the cultivator and hoe, which should be freely used between the wide rows, until the runners begin to strike, when cultivation should cease; and, second, insects, which, if left to themselves, usually destroy the crop. The chief insects are the small, yellow-striped bug, and the large, black, stinking aphid. The small yellow bug is easily kept at bay by dusting the leaves a few times with plaster and paris green, just as potato vines are treated for the beetle. After the squash vines get three or four leaves they will outgrow this insect, unless it is very numerous. The black bug, however, is far worse in his habits, and harder to destroy. It punctures the squash vine with its suction hose, after the manner of a mosquito, and any vine that it attacks speedily withers and dies. Paris green does not injure this insect's digestion. Perhaps the only remedy is to catch it napping under a piece of shingle, placed close to the squash vines, and to promptly destroy it. This must be done early in the morning before the sun gets high enough to make the insect lively. A man can easily go over an acre of squashes and kill the bugs, in a short time. This must be done every day until the vines begin to run.

Balanced Rations for Cows.
In feeding the cows the loss from feeding a one-sided food is so great that the aggregate for the whole country cannot be estimated. At the least calculation one-third of the cows are not profitable. One-half would be a more accurate estimate. Yet there are comparatively few cows that could not be made to return something of a profit. The cause of loss is not so much in the cows themselves, as it is in the care and feeding. If our farmers could be induced to feed their herds balanced rations, they would be surprised at the results. It cannot be expected, however, that all farmers will ever do this. But why not approximate to a balanced ration? It is not difficult to make a ration of equal parts of corn meal, oats and bran, and such a ration will produce twenty-five per cent. more milk than corn alone will. If it produced much less gain than that, it would pay to feed it, would it not? Then the forage question is an important one. If it is intended to make the dairy, in any degree, profitable, a silo should be built and filled. Silage is cheap feed, and good feed. But if silage is not provided, clover hay or hay from some of the other legumes, should be. Timothy hay is an inferior roughage for dairy cows, nowhere near as good as the legumes. The cow pea is coming more and more into use as a fodder, and is worthy of much wider adoption. It furnishes an abundance of good fodder. The farmer cannot more easily increase his income than to give close study to the question of proper rations for animals.—The Epitomist.

How to Stack Small Grain.
In a wet season only the most carefully constructed stacks will escape without damage to the grain. Select a piece of level ground, and start the bottom by putting up a large round shock. Increase this until it is the size of the bottom of stack, letting the bundles slant outward gradually, but not so much as to permit any of the heads of grain to rest on the ground. The bottom should be perfectly circular. Otherwise a good stack cannot be made. One of the main points is to keep the stack highest in the center and as solid as possible at the bottom. This will settle more than the outer layers of bundles and form a depression. The bundles will slant inward and the stack take water.

The bundles especially in the upper half of the stack must slant outward.

The mistake is often made of keeping the center too high in the lower half of the stack. When the upper part is reached, there will be great danger of the sides slipping out. The center is then permitted to become more flat as the top is approached. At the point where drawing in begins an extra circle of bundles should be laid inside of the outer row, so as to make the center considerably higher than the outside. As a rule, the stack should be smaller at the base than in the middle. The top of the stack need not run to a very high point. Flat tops are, of course, to be avoided, but draw in gradually and do not run up too high. Do not allow one side of the stack to extend further out than the other, or it will lean and take water if there is much rain.

It is best to use a fork with a rather short handle in stacking, as the operator can then avoid stepping on the outer rows of bundles, besides making it possible for him to place them steeper and more slanting on the outer row. The center of stack will also be firmer and settle least. The work will be more easily and quickly accomplished than when the operator simply uses his hands.—Lewis O. Tollo, in New England Homestead.

Success in Market Gardening.
For success in gardening of any kind, one must have a rich soil, a favorable situation either to the market or to cheap transportation lines, and then a clear conception of the best method of raising the right crops both in abundance and in quantity. Assuming that the first two are supplied by nature, it may be worth while to consider the methods of cultivation. Market gardening is essentially intensive farming. No man can make a success at it in any other way. Large expectations are looked for, but to obtain these the soil must be more liberally treated. Not one crop, but two or three a year must be harvested from the land, and no soil can produce more than one crop unless cultivated thoroughly and manured persistently. The man who goes into the work with the idea that if he succeeds in raising a good crop of tomatoes, potatoes, lettuce or other vegetables he will have a successful season makes a great mistake. He must raise one or two crops in addition on the same land. Often the first and earliest crop merely pays for the manure and labor of cultivating and harvesting. The second crop may pay for interest on money invested, taxes, and the owner's time and labor, and the profits rest entirely with the third crop.

There is first the importance of getting a crop of early radishes, lettuce, beets or other vegetables in the ground so that the crop can be harvested in time to transplant from the greenhouse or cold frames the young plants of the next crop—say tomatoes, melons, egg plants or other midsummer vegetables. It is then necessary to consider the third crop, a fall or early winter harvest of the turnips, kale, spinach, pumpkins or late peas. In order to crowd these three crops into one of our short seasons it is not only necessary to enrich and cultivate the soil to the highest point of perfection, but it is essential that one should plan far ahead. The whole year's work must be laid out beforehand, and everything should be done like clock work. Seeds of coming crops must be planted so they will produce crops ready for transplanting at the right time. When one crop is harvested the next must be ready to clap in its place. A delay of a few days make all the difference in the world. It is also necessary that the modern market gardener should have plenty of hot-houses, cold frames or greenhouses. He cannot get along without them, for while one crop is ripening in the garden the next must be sown in the cold frames in order to save time. It is in this way only can we expect to make gardening pay in our Northern and Western States where the seasons are so short.—C. T. Fisher, in American Cultivator.

How British Cavalry Missed Boer Cannon.
We learn with considerable astonishment that, in the movement from Helpmakaar to Laings Nek, Buller's cavalry, under two such capable cavalry officers as Lord Dundonald and Burn-Murdoch, failed, for some reason yet to be explained, to capture nearly the whole of the Boer guns which were in process of removal, and which were so imminently threatened them in a hollow, taking off their ox teams, and leaving the pieces to their fate. General Brocklehurst does not seem to have been in this show, but, as regards the other two, there seems to be no doubt that they missed a great chance, for they were within easy striking distance of the Boer guns, which were abandoned for hours together, one gossip says days, until the enemy brought back their ox teams and removed the artillery under our very noses.—Correspondence London Leader.

Japanese Tea Exports.
During the last season the export of tea from Japan to the United States and Canada amounted to no less than 3,931,239 pounds. Of this amount 25,946,020 pounds were shipped from Yokohama, and the rest from Kobe.

In 1517 A. D. the first Europeans arrived in China. In 1575 Jesuit missionaries were sent to China from Rome.