

## HUMAN HAIR.

Sources From Which Various Colors and Qualities Are Obtained.

In a tour of investigation a Philadelphia Times reporter dropped in at a Mrs. Buch's. That lady was deftly plaiting a wig on a wooden block or dummy. She was a little alarmed at first, but when the scribe explained the object of his visit proceeded to describe the manner of obtaining hair in Europe and America.

"You see, in Germany," said the lady, "there are men going around the time among the country girls to buy up their hair. They pay a silk handkerchief, or apron, and sometimes a couple of dollars. As a rule a girl's hair grows again every three years, but that varies considerably much with the person. Now my brother-in-law's mother, who died here aged ninety years of age a couple of years ago, used to have her hair cut twice a year. It was silver-gray and very valuable."

"What is done with the hair after the girls sell it?"

"There are big factories in the large towns. The hair is cleaned and sorted and then sold at prices varying with its color and quality. A good deal of it comes to this country. The most valuable shades are gray, blonde, and white. Ashen blonde is very dear. The true shade will bring \$20 an ounce. The most expensive of all is gray. It is worth \$10 to \$50 an ounce, according to its length. A lady bought a gray switch in New York the other day and paid \$800 for it. Black hair is the cheapest. Any hair can be dyed black."

"Don't some of the hair used in the business come from the dead?"

"Very little of it. It can always be known by the touch. It seems to be dead and dry, just like straw."

"Do American women sell their hair?"

"No; the people are not poor enough. Now and then you see a woman with a superb head of hair, worth \$50 or \$100, but she will not part with it. The convents supply us with a good deal of hair. The sisters sell it twice a year. Occasionally a little girl comes and sells her hair, but a grown woman never."

"What is this beautiful blonde hair?" asked the reporter turning over some in a box.

"Why, that's Chinese hair bleached. Some of it is imported from China, and then the Chinamen here in the city sell us their hair. Theatrical people use it. A Chinese hair switch can be bought for \$1 or \$1.50. There is a Chinese laundry a few doors from here. The laundry men sell us their hair very cheaply—only seventy-two cents a pound. It is so short it isn't worth much. When they sell us long hair we pay \$3 to \$5 a pound. The blonde-bleached Chinese hair goes through a refining process; it is soft as silk—just feel it."

"How about the hair of colored people?"

"Their hair is too short. Can't do anything with it in our line, unless it be to make up wigs and beards for the negro minstrels. It would be useful then, because it always stays in curl. The hair of negro women doesn't grow long; ten inches would be quite out of the ordinary."

"Where else do you get hair from besides Germany?"

"From Naples. This is the poorest hair in the trade. It is coarse and has roots growing on it. It is dyed a dark brown, but fades to reddish gray or black in a short time. It is dirty and unpleasant to handle. I have been told that it is hair taken from bodies that have lain in the ground many years. That accounts for the long roots. The Swedes send us beautiful long hair. We pay \$3 to \$20 an ounce for it."

"Where does the best hair come from?"

"From Paris, prepared by a man named Pelleray. His hair is always live, healthy hair, and every box is marked with his name."

## A Phenomenal Atmosphere.

The strangest feature of Monterey to Northern eyes, says a correspondent in Mexico, is the clearness of the air, such as that which made me, as I stood on the Mount of Olives, think the Dead Sea within an hour's walk, though I found it a day's ride. Among the strange aerial phenomena here I class the foot hills standing out so prominently that you think you can see round their corners and into the interspaces between them and the secondary ranges. The most distant peaks, too, seem pressing forward to peep over the shoulders of those nearer. Everywhere the lights and shades contrast no less than those of electric illuminators. On a whole, the atmospheric brilliancy surpasses whatever is known in the North as much as our Northern sky surpasses the London fogs, where men are forever doubtful whether their celestial luminary is the sun or the moon.

## SCIENTIFIC SCRAPS.

A Chinese lawyer has hung out his shingle in Colusa county, Cal. He is the pioneer "John" in the law line.

The oldest system of shorthand extant was written about 1412, but the art is said to have been practiced by the Greeks, and by Ennius the Latin poet.

The Corcoran monument to John Howard Payne at Oak Hill cemetery in Washington will be a fifteen foot shaft of Carrara marble, surmounted with a bust of heroic size showing Payne as he appeared in middle life.

Recent experiments with stringed instruments have shown that a much more sonorous tone can be obtained with metal strings than those now in use, although the labor of playing upon them is correspondingly increased. Steel wires plated with copper or silver gave the best results.

M. C. Grand'ury has published a paper on the formation of coal, the result of his own investigations. He refers the formation of coal to the decomposition of the woody matter of plants, forming an organic paste, which subsided in deep water, and became gradually consolidated under vast pressure.

## Colleges in Colonial Times.

Prof. Moses Coit Tyler, of Cornell university, lectured before the General theological seminary, in New York on "The American Colleges of the Colonial Times."

There were established in America, said the lecturer, before the Declaration of Independence, nine colleges—Harvard, William and Mary, Yale, Princeton, King's or Columbia, the University of Pennsylvania, Brown, Dartmouth and Queen's or Rutgers. The church element entered largely into them all. A wonderful fact was the establishment of Harvard when the wolf was still at the doors. The founders of those colonial colleges were animated with the desire to provide learned ministers, learned laymen, and to educate the Indians, and with a love of higher education for its own sake. The methods attending their establishment were typified in the building of Harvard, the patrons of which were not the wealthy few, but the mass of the poor. Gifts of money and of utensils—even to a silver beer-bowl and a jug tipped with silver—were contributed; and to these were added offerings of the peck of corn annually, of meat and ewe lambs, and of everything that could be turned into money. Thus the colonial colleges grew up "out of the sacrificial generosity of the heart of the people."

The colonial college, the lecturer continued, was a religious and educational garrison, founded on English modes and governed by right rules. Punch and "flip" were forbidden, and any student out after 9 p. m. was "adjudged guilty of whatsoever disorder might occur in the town that night." At Harvard Mrs. Foster was made stocking-mender at a salary of £12. Students were allowed a pound of meat and a pint of beer at dinner, and a half-pint of beer at night. For supper they could choose between a half-pint of milk and a biscuit. They were given clean table-cloths twice a week, and finally could indulge in the luxury of plates. Pudding was a delicacy three times a week.

Until 1734 corporal punishment was inflicted at Harvard. The president of tutors could administer public whipping in the hall, and overseers were called in on special occasions to witness the proceedings. This form of punishment degenerated into ear-boxing in 1754, and then to a tariff of college sins, when profane swearing was valued at 2s. 6d.; sending for liquor, 6d., and fetching the same, 1s. 6d. The marking system was introduced in 1761.

The studies were largely in divinity, theology and the languages. Latin was the speech of the recitation-room and the language of scholars. "Probably," said Prof. Tyler, "not a college president of to-day would have been capable of presiding at a college commencement of colonial days."

The results of these educational undertakings, said the lecturer in conclusion, were a class of superior men, whose influence was wholesome and conservative, and which especially was an education for political independence. Cornwallis said that the early establishment of Harvard college hastened American independence half a century, and Pitt gave testimony to "the solidity of reason, the force of argument and the wisdom" displayed by American statesmen at the time, who were graduates of American colonial colleges.

Italy and China divide three-fourths of the silk production of the world. India and Japan divide one-seventh, Spain, Persia and the Levant have the rest.

## "THE MAGDALENA."

A Wonderful Formation of Nature in New Mexico.

A New Mexico correspondent writes: Did you ever hear of the "Sphinx" of the Sierras, "The Magdalena." About five miles below here one of the range separates itself from the chain, and stands out boldly and alone, rising from the valley abruptly and grandly. On one side, formed partly by the shape of the rocky ledge and partly by lichens and shrubs, is the most remarkable profile of a woman's head and bust that I ever saw. Gigantic in size, perfect in outline, wonderful in expression, is "The Magdalena," the eye, the brow, even the eyelashes, not a feature is lacking, even to the arrangement of the hair and the turn of the neck, as with head slightly inclined she gazes down into the lovely valley below. Think of the ages that have passed and the everchanging panorama of human events gazed upon by this wonderful face. The remarkable band of adventurers under Cortez passed in review before her, followed in turn by the Jesuit priests, who took up the unfinished work of their predecessors and carried it to a conclusion by establishing their mission through all this broad frontier. Next came the valorous band of American troops who made their way on foot from the Missouri river across mountain range and plain until they knocked at the gates of the Montezumas. Then comes the equally valiant prospector, who in spite of Apaches, in spite of all the necessities even, of life, which he has had to leave behind him, with a pick in one hand and a Winchester rifle in the other, searches for the hidden wealth of the country; as a result come railroads, towns, schools, churches and a host of people, who finally complete the task begun centuries ago, and the wilderness blossoms with all that makes life worth living. All these events has the "Magdalena" seen, and still looks down calmly and serene, waiting for the future. This is a wonderful country, the air is mild and balmy, like your best April weather—the sky is blue overhead, and the grass under foot golden, sprinkled here and there with clumps of the evergreen Spanish dagger, with its long, straight blades and sharp points, which the horses won't touch with their feet if they can help it, as they know by experience how keenly they penetrate. The solitude is grand, but oppressive, and the valleys almost level, miles in breadth, but hemmed in by mountain peaks on every hand of enormous size and height. If it were not for the treacherous Apaches it would be a paradise on earth.

## Serenaders Sold.

Up Second avenue the other night five young men softly entered a yard, arranged themselves in a semi-circle on the grass, and suddenly began to sing, while a guitar and a banjo added their sugary notes to the general sweetness. As the song was finished a sash went up and a masculine voice called out:

"Splendid! Beautiful! Gentlemen, please repeat!"

The band on the grass was only too happy to accommodate, and "Only a Pansy Blossom" went floating again on the night breeze.

"Entrancing! entrancing!" exclaimed the voice at the window. "Gentlemen, I don't want to put you to trouble, but if you would only sing that over once more!"

The song dragged a little this time, and the alto voice seemed to have swallowed a trochee down the wrong pipe, but it ended at last, and the old man called out:

"That's what I call singing, that is! Gentlemen, I'm no hog, but if I could prevail upon you to render that delightful poem once more, it would be a kindness I never could forget!"

There was a great deal of growling in undertones, but the leader gave the key, and for the fourth time the neighborhood was filled with dreadfully faded pansy blossoms. When the last note died away the old man clapped his hands and exclaimed:

"Better and better! You have my heartfelt thanks. The old woman is deaf, my darter is in Pontiac, and the hired gal quit yesterday, or I'd have them all stick their heads out to thank you in person! Good night, gentlemen—good night, and if you see fit to come to-morrow evening I'll have the old woman set up with a bed quilt wrapped around her."—Free Press.

## A Use for Dudes.

"I suppose you have heard of our dudes, Miss Clara?" observed a New York swell to a Jacksonville girl.

"Oh, yes," she answered, "they are becoming very popular in Florida. We use them for alligator bait."—Brooklyn Eagle.

## LADIES' DEPARTMENT.

### For the Complexion.

Whatever the internal application of hot water may effect, girls desirous of having a good complexion would do well to apply it to their faces. They should either dip their faces into a basin of very hot water or apply the water with a sponge. At first they are like lobsters, but in a few moments this is replaced by the tints of peaches and lilies.—London Times.

### Running to Buttons.

The fashionable people are running to buttons. A New York correspondent describes a dress finished for a Fifth avenue lady which carries 1800 buttons, and required the constant labor of a seamstress for ten days to sew them on. On each sleeve there are 100 buttons, on the body, basque and collar 350, and on the skirt 1350. Those on the skirt are arranged in triangles, squares, crosses, stars and other curious shapes on a foundation of black satin. The dress has a satiny appearance, and is very weighty—so much so that it will require a lady of considerable strength to wear it.

### Wedding Presents.

A young married couple went into raptures over a couple of superb cake-baskets, one the gift of the bridegroom's father and the other the gift of the bride's aunt. They finally concluded it would be safe to keep only one of such superb articles in the house, and accordingly they took the other to a dealer in duplicate wedding gifts. Imagine their consternation when he told them it was plated ware and worth about \$1.25. They kept it to put tacks in, but are awfully anxious to see how the other one wears. The worst of it is, they don't know which is the aunt's basket.

### A Female Dentist's Card.

A female dentist in Philadelphia, being annoyed by having her sign pulled down, published a card, saying: I'm no woman's rights agitator, but I believe in the right of a woman to defend herself. I am the pioneer among the female dentists, and the two-cent creatures, in the guise of men, who have crept into the profession, are eating their hearts out with envy because I live in spite of them. They can feast in that way as long as they like, but if they don't leave my signs alone I'll make them think they're haunted. I'm on the lookout for them, and when I catch one, there will be fun.

### Fashion Notes.

All dressy mantles are short. Cotton fabrics will be much worn. Red in all shades will be much worn. Shoes to match dresses grow in favor.

White ki are revived for evening dress.

The simpler the hair-dressing the better.

When false hair is worn it must not be perceptible.

The ugly fashion of red veils has not yet gone by.

Bangs and crimps are worn further from the eyebrows.

Summer and washing silks will be in high vogue this year.

Lace and embroidery are equally fashionable for trimming.

Gloves and mitts contrast with, instead of matching costumes.

Faceted pearls are much used upon upright collars of silk evening toilets.

Heavy Spanish guipure in all the new colors come as trimmings for the ottoman silks.

Flounces and ribbons with ragged jagged edges called cock's-combs are coming in vogue.

New fancy grenadines are heavily brocaded, and closely resemble brocaded silks and satins.

Jersey basques will be much worn with plaid skirts of wool, and wool and silk mixtures.

Black silk stockings are more worn at present than they have been for thirty years or more.

In straw hats and bonnets the color of crushed raspberry is produced in delicate shades closely resembling periwinkle pink.

Sultan is the name of a new dark red; pensee rouge an odd shade of purple; and vert clair is another peculiar tint added to the long list of greens.

The prettiest way of using velvet ribbon is to arrange loops of it that lap in the shape of a pointed vest, and edge the basque, neck and sleeves with three rows of loops, or two rows of loops with an end of notched velvet ribbons.

Charming ball dresses for young ladies are made of white India gauze

trimmed with embroidery on gold cloth and filigree of gold lace. There are also dresses of brilliant red Surah with flounces of leather lace, with gold meshes holding the design of leather leaves and flowers.

### Their Feet Washed by a King.

The Hofburg, the chief palace of the Austrian sovereigns, has been, says the London Standard, the scene of an ecclesiastical ceremony or act of devotion which is a curious relic of mediæval customs. In accordance with a usage observed from time immemorial on Maundy-Thursdays the ceremony of "Washing the Feet of the Poor" was performed as usual by their majesties at the imperial residence. In the Middle Ages the custom prevailed at many other Catholic courts, but in the present day to find a parallel would be impossible, except at the Vatican and the palace of the king of Spain. The proceedings opened at 9 o'clock, when twelve old men, of whom the oldest is in his ninety-third year and the youngest eighty-seven, and twelve old women, the oldest ninety-six, and the youngest ninety, dressed, as usual, in the old German costume, presented to them by the emperor and empress, entered the court chapel, in order to receive the sacrament, and were then brought into the hall of ceremonies at Hofburg. On each side of the hall was a table with twelve covers, the one table for the old men and the other for the old women. They are all citizens of Vienna, and many among them showed by their behavior that they have taken part in the ceremony more than once. With the appearance of the clergymen, at 11 a. m., the ceremony began. The emperor, who was followed by all the archdukes in Vienna, served the old men, and the empress, followed by all the archduchesses and court ladies, served the old women at their respective tables. The corps diplomatique was, as usual, in attendance, but this year the British, French and Turkish ambassadors did not appear. All the ministers were present, as well as court dignitaries and privy councillors, the chamberlains, the grand masters and the highest representatives of the army. The tables being removed, the emperor and empress knelt down in front of the old people, took off a shoe and stocking from each, washed the foot with towels moistened from a golden ewer, held by a chamberlain. After the feet of the old people had been wiped, the archdukes and archduchesses replaced the shoe and stocking, and their majesties concluded the ceremony by hanging round the neck of each of the old people a purse with thirty silver florins. The old folks were then sent home in cabs, each with a well-filled box of provisions and wine.

### Killing Tenderly.

Science is about to take some of the pain and terror of death away from animals which it is necessary for man to slaughter. Mr. St. George Lane-Fox, a well known English electrician, has devised an apparatus for killing animals which is absolutely painless. Worn-out horses which are to be deprived of life under this process, have their heads and feet wetted with salt water; they are then led into a stall and made to stand on an iron plate connected with a negative pole of a condenser of a capacity of about 100 microfarads. The animal's head is then touched with the top of the pole, whereupon it falls dead. There is no pain, for there is no sensation, or possibility of any. It requires one-fifth of a second after the infliction of the injury before pain can be felt; but in this case the animal is killed in about the thousandth part of a second. Unfortunately, animals slaughtered for food cannot be treated in this way, as the flesh is uncatable. This new process, therefore, can only be used for horses, dogs, and cats, not intended for food supply. It is well-known that animals killed by lightning cannot be eaten and must be burned or buried. But here again science has taken a step forward. An English society for providing a sanitary and humane method of killing animals for food have raised a fund for erecting a model abattoir in London. Everything that skill and experience can suggest for minimizing the pain of the infliction will be employed. For sheep the arrangement includes a stupefying chamber, through which each animal will pass on its way to the knife. The anesthetic used can be produced for a trifling cost. The quality of the flesh is by no means deteriorated by these humane devices. In view of the revolting scenes which take place at our public executions, why should not capital punishment be inflicted by an electric machine, such as that used by Mr. St. George Lane-Fox for making away with useless and disabled animals?—Demorest.

## CHILDREN'S COLUMN.

### The Feathered Hero.

An interesting relic is preserved in a glass case in the English Coldstream guards orderly room at Whitehall. It consists of the head and neck of a goose, around which is a golden collar with the inscription, "Jacob 2d Battalion Coldstream Guards." Beneath it are the words, "Died on Duty."

In 1838 a rebellion broke out in Great Britain's Canadian possessions, and two battalions of the guards were sent thither to assist in quelling it the battalion already mentioned being one of them. Both corps occupied the citadel of Quebec, and in their turn supplied the guards which were ordered to be mounted in different parts of the town and neighborhood. Near one of these guards was a farm-yard which had suffered much from the ravages of foxes—animals that were at that time a great pest to the colonists; and as the farm in question had been suspected of being the meeting place of the rebels, a chain of sentries was placed around it. One day the sentry, whose duty it was to watch the entrance to the farm, had his attention attracted to an unusual noise, and on looking toward the spot whence it proceeded he beheld a fine goose fleeing toward him closely pursued by a fox. His first impulse was to have at shot at the latter; but this would have alarmed the guard, and brought condign punishment on himself for giving a false alarm. He was compelled, therefore, to remain a silent spectator to the scene, while every step brought the Reynard nearer to his prey. In the height of its despair the poor bird ran its head and neck between the legs of the soldier, in its frantic endeavor to reach the refuge which the sentry-box could afford, and at the same moment the wily fox made a desperate grab at the goose; but too late, for ere he could get a feather between his teeth, the ready bayonet of the sentinel passed through his body. The poor goose, by way of showing its gratitude to its preserver, rubbed its head against his legs, and made other equally curious demonstrations of joy; nor could it ever be prevailed upon to quit the post, but walked up and down day after day with each successive sentry that was placed there until the battalion left Canada, when the goose was brought away with it as a regimental pet to England.

The most remarkable thing in connection with the story is that the goose in turn actually saved its preserver's life. Whether the former knew that the sentry was the same man or not must, of course, forever remain a problem; but it so happened that he was on that particular post about two months afterward, attended by the goose, when a desperate attempt was made to surprise and kill the unwary sentinel. In these moments of darkness a sharp observer might have noticed the shadows of several men, who unobserved by the somewhat drowsy sentinel, were endeavoring stealthily to approach the post where he stood. Closer and closer they stole up toward the post, the thick snow which lay on the ground completely deadening the sound of their footsteps. But just as two of their number, one on each side of the sentry-box, were preparing with uplifted knives to spring upon the unsuspecting man, the goose made a grand effort, rose suddenly on its wings, and swept around the sentry-box with tremendous force, flapping its wings right in the faces of the would-be assassins. They were astounded, and rushed blindly forward; but the sentry, fully aroused to his danger, bayoneted one and shot at the other as he was running away. Meanwhile, the other conspirators approached quickly to the assistance of their colleagues; but the bird repeated its tactics, and enabled the sentry to keep them at bay until the guard—whom the firing of his musket had alarmed—came upon the scene and made them flee for their lives.

When this incident became known, poor old Jacob was the hero of the garrison, and the officers subscribed for and purchased the golden collar which the bird afterward wore until the day of its death. The feathered hero was well fed and cared for, and a circular bath filled with water was always at his disposal. For many years Jacob seemed to bear a charmed life; but he was at length run over by a van. Every effort which kindness and skill could suggest was made to save the extraordinary bird, but it was of no avail, and he died like a true soldier, at the post of duty, after a "sentry go" of no less than twelve years.

The Minneapolis Tribune says that goats are the best land cleaners known. It says that a herd of 1000 entirely cleared 500 acres of brush land in three years. Not a vestige of undergrowth was left.