

LADIES' DEPARTMENT.

An Empress' Whims.

The Empress Josephine, the first wife of the first Napoleon, had \$120,000 for her personal expenses, but this sum was not sufficient, and her debts increased to an appalling degree. Notwithstanding the position of her husband, she could never submit to either order or etiquette in her private life. She rose at 9 o'clock. Her toilet consumed much time, and she lavished unwearied efforts on the preservation and embellishment of her person. She changed her linen three times a day, and never wore any stockings that were not new. Huge baskets were brought to her containing different dresses, shawls and hats. From these she selected her costume for the day. She possessed between 300 and 400 shawls, and always wore one in the morning, which she draped about her shoulders with unequalled grace. She purchased all that were brought to her, no matter at what price. The evening toilet was as careful as that of the morning; then she appeared with flowers, pearls or precious stones in her hair. The smallest assembly was always an occasion for her to order a new costume, in spite of the hoards of dresses in the various palaces. Bonaparte was irritated by these expenditures; he would fly into a passion, and his wife would weep and promise to be more prudent, after which she would go on in the same way. It is almost incredible that this passion for dress should never have exhausted itself. After the divorce she arrayed herself with the same care, even when she saw no one. She died covered with ribbons and pale rose-colored satin.

The Clever Women of Mexico.

Spanish tradition respecting the fair sex has not entirely died out in Mexico, and it is with some difficulty that a woman is able to do any work except that of teaching.

The stand taken by Senorita Montoya, of Puebla, is worthy of notice. At the age of twelve years this remarkable girl had finished the course of study at the young ladies' academy where she attended, but she was refused a final examination because it was never given to pupils under sixteen. Resolved to waste no time, she pursued alone the studies of botany, philosophy, chemistry and other subjects preparatory to the study of medicine, upon which her whole mind was bent. Before she was fifteen her father, an officer in the army, died, leaving the family penniless, and she at once, assuming the support of her widowed mother, took up the business of nursing, making a special study of the diseases of her own sex. Under a private tutor she studied Greek, Latin and mathematics, and at length applied for admission to the medical college at Puebla. After much opposition she succeeded in obtaining permission from the government to enter as a special student. While pursuing her studies she has supported herself by teaching and by acting as physician in the women's hospital. She has recently passed an examination with high honors, and will soon receive her degree as doctor of medicine. She is now about twenty-five years old.

Art culture is also well-developed among Mexican women. At the recent exhibition of paintings, held to celebrate the centennial of the academy of fine arts in the city of Mexico, the second prize was awarded to Senorita Elena Barreiro, the first having been given to Felix Parra, a young Mexican artist of remarkable genius, now pursuing his studies in Europe.—*St. Louis Republican*.

Fashion Notes.

Even mantles are made of plaid stuffs. Double faced ribbons are again in style.

Cashmere is a popular early dress fabric.

Rose of Egypt is one of the rarest shades.

China patterns in dress goods are in great favor.

Gay colors in costumes are worn only in the house.

Bottle green velvet trims ecru cashmere admirably.

Poppies or lilies are the accepted corsage bouquets.

Brides' dresses are made with elegant simplicity this season.

Plush boots, foxed with kid, are a not very pretty novelty.

All elegant street dresses are stylish, dark or neutral tinted.

Summer dress goods are exceedingly beautiful in nearly all materials.

Enormous brass candlesticks are now used on fashionable dinner-tables.

Gold thistles and gold burrs are the latest millinery and hair ornaments.

Amber, topaz, and all yellow stones are in vogue for ornamental jewelry.

Chicken down—the color of the newly hatched—is the latest shade of yellow.

Jerseys, composed of both silk and wool, are much worn over skirts of muslin, silk, foulard, sateen and other materials.

The requisite dash of yellow in a white toilet is sometimes given by wearing an amber necklace and amber bracelets, or with yellow topaz jewelry.

New slippers are made in short bead embroidered toes, cut high at the heel with straps around the ankle and tied upon the instep with wide ribbon, in a neat bow.

A quaint little head-dress is of black lace, quite full; two rows, one falling front, one back; full loops of geranium-red ribbon on the top, and two each side, with quillings of the lace.

Outlining in fancy work is now very popular for shams, tidies, and bibs, bureau covers and splashes. It is greatly favored because of the rapidity with which it can be executed.

Deep bunting collars wrought in striking designs of lace work, are chosen as a becoming completion to some toilettes. They are worn long enough to answer the purpose of a small cape.

Tennis suits are made of all sorts of gay woolen material, in stripes and plaids. A combined tennis suit of bright blue and red, trimmed with Russian embroidery, and a hat to match, is very effective.

The prediction that satin would go out of use was an error, for while gro-grains are leading for street wear, satins are found as acceptable as ever for the rich and dressy costumes worn indoors.

The natural hues of flowers have never been more admirably depicted than they now are in the new broad-cast silks; at a distance many of these silk designs would be mistaken for hand-painting.

A really pretty style for a long, slender neck is a narrow, stiff, slightly flaring standing collar, in color, covered with lace, with a crape full ruche inside. A pleating of lace falls on the shoulders, and forms a full jabot front.

The bridal veil may be either as long as the train of the dress or as short as the waist line, but it must not be of tulle if the bride is youthful. If she is over twenty-five or thirty it may be of any fine, delicate real lace, and shorter than the youthful bride's veil.

The long gloves worn over tight sleeves are discarded. Loose wristed gloves vie for preference with the buttoned wrists. Some fancy gloves have ribbons inserted at the wrists and half way from the top, with elastic underneath, that holds them to the arm.

A Hard Life.

The average rate of wages received by the laborer in Ireland, says a correspondent, is about nine shillings a week. Out of this sum he has, of course, to keep himself and his family. He often has to pay from thirty shillings to two pounds a year for his little cabin, and perhaps a miserable patch of ground around it, on which he painfully toils when he is lucky enough to have it—to grow potatoes. In many cases a man pays as much as four pounds a year for his cabin. In a considerable number of instances the laborer who is not in constant employment engages to give a day's work each week as the rent of his house. This arrangement sometimes acts harshly against him. The farmer who has let him his hut does not, perhaps, want his labor during a considerable part of the year, and does want it at spring-time, and at harvest, when wages are at their highest. The laborer has to turn out then and give his work without reference to the increased rate of wages, and thus has virtually to pay a genuine rack-rent for his miserable homestead. A very miserable place it truly is. Viewed from the outside, it is a small, lop-sided wigwam, built of stones and mud, with a thatched roof, and with three holes left in the front wall to act the part of door and windows. The traveler who stops to look into one of these huts seems at first to see nothing but darkness visible. When his eyes get used to the lack of light he sees a hovel almost absolutely devoid of furniture, and very often consisting of only one room for the family, however numerous, to live in. A cabin with a second room in it is a somewhat exceptional possession with the Irish laborer of the poorest class. The food of the laborer consists principally of potatoes, or else of Indian meal mixed with flour and soda. Tea of the thinnest and poorest kind, oftener without milk than with it, is the enjoyment of the laborer and his family. It is the drink they would have at all times if they could only get it. I suppose there still are

persons in this country who think of the Irish agricultural laborer as of a man going about perpetually with a bottle of whisky in his hand, and ready at every opportunity to lift the mouth of the bottle to his lips. I wonder whether such persons have ever considered what the price of a bottle of whisky—even of the rawest and vilest whisky—would be, and how many such bottles the Irish peasant could treat himself to in the course of a year out of the surplus of his wages? The truth is that the laborer of this class very seldom drinks spirits or porter unless when somebody better off than himself is generous enough to stand him a treat. Nor can he easily keep himself warm by less dangerous means than the swallowing of strong drinks. For more than half the year in some places he finds it very hard to get fuel for his poor little household fire, and is often dependent on the brush wood or rotten sticks which his wife and his daughter may gather from the roadside or the ditches.

Women as Inventors.

The common reproach with which ambitious women are met, that they possess no inventive or mechanical genius—and the reproach was certainly once more common than it is now—is answered in the North American Review by Matilda J. Gage, who brings forth facts from ancient history and modern records. Starting with the proposition that ancient tradition accords to women the invention of "those arts most necessary to comfort, most conducive to wealth, most promotive of civilization," she cites famous women of Egypt, Greece, China and Peru, who have been worshipped because of their powers of invention. Spinning, by the most ancient of Chinese writers, is admitted to have been invented by Yao, the wife of the fourth emperor, and the discovery of silk to have been made by Si-ling-chi, the wife of an emperor who lived 4000 years B. C. For a long period the Chinese country was known under the name of Ser or Serica (the land of silk), while its later name of China was derived from Si-en Tshan, under which designation, as the goddess of silk worms, Si-ling-chi is still worshipped. Various devices for the making of lace were also constructed by women, as that for Venetian lace by Mme. Bessani, and that for pillow-lace by Barbara Uttmann. Cashmere shawls were invented by Mheural Nisa, of whom Moore has sung, and to the same woman are we indebted for the perfume, attar of roses. In her own country Mheural has been duly honored for these services, her name and title, "Light of the World," having been struck on the coins of India by her husband, the conqueror Jerunzebe. Another woman of the east—Semiramis—is credited by the east with the discovery of cotton as a textile fiber, while in the west the same discovery is credited to the mother of the Incas, who taught its manufacture to the Peruvians. The first straw bonnet ever made in this country was made by Miss Betsey Metcalf in 1798, while the cotton-gin—an invention which "heads the list of sixteen remarkable American inventions that have been adopted by the world"—owes its origin to the widow of General Nathaniel Greene. Among other inventions which were made by women are mentioned the Burden horse-shoe machine, the baby carriage, and the paper pail. Miss Hosmer produced marble from limestone, after the Italian government had long sought in vain for a process by which it could be done. Mrs. Walton planned an invention for deadening the noise of elevated railroads. To Mrs. Manning the mower and reaper is indebted for its early perfection. The aquarium was originally the device of a woman. That woman's claims in these matters would be far greater than they are, had the expression of her inventive genius not been hampered in various ways well-known. Mrs. Gage believes. She adds further that a married woman is not recognized by law as possessing full right to the use and control of her own powers. Should she obtain a patent she would not be free to do as she pleased with it—would "possess no legal right to contract with or to license any one to use her inventions." Moreover, should her right be infringed she could not sue the offender.

A Cool Proposition.

An indigent woman came to a prominent Austin physician and asked a remedy for her husband's rheumatism. The doctor gave her a prescription, and told her: "Get that prepared at the drug-store, and rub it well over your husband's back. If it does any good come and let me know. I've got a touch of rheumatism myself." She was an indigent woman, when she came, but was an indignant woman when she left.—*St. Louis*.

TOPICS OF THE DAY.

Mr. J. K. Parkinson, of Cincinnati, who was recently admitted to practice in the supreme court of the United States, is probably the only deaf and dumb lawyer ever admitted to that court. He has had an extensive practice as a patent lawyer, and is said to be both accurate and ready.

A few years ago a chimney made of paper would have seemed a preposterous absurdity. Yet a chimney of paper pulp, fifty feet high, has lately been put up at Breslau, in Germany. Compressed paper pulp is one of the least inflammable of substances, and is now generally recognized as superior to iron as a material for fire-proof doors.

The combined efforts of four policemen were recently required to carry into the House of Commons a petition in favor of closing public houses on Sunday—one of the largest documents of the kind ever presented to Parliament. It contained 590,332 signatures upon a continuous roll of paper, which was 4832 yards long and weighed 350 pounds.

One Robert Griffin, of London, is afraid that the earth will not be large enough to hold the inhabitants it will have some years hence. The New Orleans *Picayune* suggests that Robert is living in a very crowded part of the world. Set him down on an American prairie and he will not feel so bunched up in his mind as he does at the present moment.

Oleomargarine, it seems, is not the only or the most disagreeable imitation of butter which finds a place in the market. There is an abomination called "sucine," made from the fat of hogs, which was the cause, not long since, of prostrating an entire family at Cleveland with trichinosis. The proper punishment for the vender of such an article would be to compel him to eat it.

It is estimated that nine-tenths of all the mercantile failures of the United States are due to speculations in affairs outside the particular lines of business in which those who failed were engaged. This looks like an exaggeration, yet the percentage is known to be very large. In the haste to be rich, men make hazardous adventures, and, if unsuccessful, find themselves so crippled that assignment is inevitable.

An investigator into the influence of climate upon consumptives, says that, in choosing places of residence for such patients, too little attention is given to the character of the soil. It is shown that, other things being equal, the prevalence of the disease is in proportion to the habitual dampness of the earth. The atmospheric conditions to be sought for are "rarity, calmness, purity and sun warmth."

The French do not seem to be troubled with scruples against vivisection. In Paris, not long ago, a professor of natural history announced that he intended to make some experiments on quivering flesh. For this purpose he procured a rabbit, skinned it alive, nailed it on a board by the paws, and proceeded to cut holes in the wretched animal by way of illustrating his theories. This sickening exhibition took place before a class of young girls.

The *American Cultivator* asserts that "the tendency of population toward the cities, where thousands vainly expect to get rich without work, contains elements of danger. In 1790 one-thirtieth of the population of the United States lived in cities; 1880, less than a century later, nearly one-fourth of the population was found in cities. Business panics and commercial revolutions alone seem to turn the tide countryward. It would seem that the comfort and comparative independence of rural life would attract many from the sham and glitter of metropolitan existence."

An experimental barn has been completed at Amherst college, Massachusetts. The large stables have cement floors and sides, in which cattle are to be kept while experiments in feeding are going on. The cement is to prevent any loss in manure. Space is reserved for a capacious silo, and in an annex are an engine and machinery for cutting and cooking feed. In a wing is a pigery consisting of twenty apartments, each with a door opening into the alley, and the porkers who are being tried with various kinds of food will be invited to stand upon a portable platform scale every day.

A somewhat remarkable dwelling is to be constructed for an eccentric personage of Penn. It is to be entirely of iron, even to the doors and window-sashes. The mantels are to be of polished steel and the floors of polished

cast-iron tiles or stout iron plates bolted to the iron joists. The hollow walls are to be arranged to act as chimneys, ventilators and conductors of heat to various parts of the house. Expansion and contraction from the effects of heat and cold are to be obviated by having breaks in the iron at intervals which will be filled in with rubber. Fire risks on that house ought to be light.

The crayfish is receiving scientific and editorial attention in the South. When he burrows in back yards and gutters he affords much diversion to the small boy, who laboriously fishes for him by dangling a string baited with gristle down the hole and jerking him out when he clinches a morsel. He is also employed in bisque soup, to the delight of gourmands, and he is really a valuable crustacean when thus served. In return for these courtesies the crayfish makes the spring-time warm for planters by honeycombing their levees as fast as they build them. One crayfish burrow may be the starting point of a leak which will in an hour widen to a crevasse and let a flood pour over miles of cultivated land. There seems to be no means of suppressing either him or his subterranean industry, and he has now grown to be a terror. Hot water, paris green, and other death-dealing agents have been employed in vain, and the afflicted landowners, whose levees and revetments are the sole barriers between them and destruction, are appealing to science for a bane which will effectually prevent crayfish engineering. In California the gopher, a species of marmot, has long been the plague of farmers and gardeners. In portions of Texas the buffalo gnat and redbug have destroyed herds, or compelled their removal from tracks otherwise favorable. Against these there is neither remedy nor satisfaction. The southern planter, whom the crayfish has drowned out, has at least one recourse. He can eat him.

SUNSTROKE.

Prevention and Treatment of this Summer Evil.

Sunstroke, says the New York board of health, is caused by excessive heat, and especially if the weather is "muggy." It is more apt to occur on the second, third or fourth day of a heated term than on the first. Loss of sleep, worry, excitement, close sleeping rooms, debility, abuse of stimulants, predispose to it. It is more apt to attack those working in the sun, and especially between the hours of eleven o'clock in the forenoon and four o'clock in the afternoon. On hot days wear thin clothing. Have as cool sleeping rooms as possible. Avoid loss of sleep, and all unnecessary fatigue. If working indoors, and where there is artificial heat—laundries, etc.—see that the room is well ventilated.

If working in the sun, wear a light hat (not black, as it absorbs the heat), straw, etc., and put inside of it on the head a wet cloth or a large green leaf; frequently lift the hat from the head and see that the cloth is wet. Do not check perspiration, but drink what water you need to keep it up, as perspiration prevents the body from being overheated. Have, whenever possible, an additional shade, as a thin umbrella, when walking, a canvas or board-cover when working in the sun. When much fatigued do not go to work, especially after eleven o'clock in the morning on very hot days, if the work is in the sun. If a feeling of fatigue, dizziness, headache or exhaustion occurs, cease work immediately, lie down in a shady and cool place, apply cool cloths to and pour cold water over the head and neck. If any one is overcome by the heat send immediately for the nearest good physician. While waiting for the physician give the person cool drinks of water or cold black tea, or cold coffee, if able to swallow. If the skin is hot and dry, sponge with, or pour cold water over the body and limbs, and apply to the head pounded ice wrapped in a towel or other cloth. If there is no ice at hand keep a cold cloth on the head, and pour cold water on it as on the body. If the person is pale, very faint and pulse feeble, let him inhale ammonia for a few seconds, or give him a tea-spoonful of aromatic spirits of ammonia in two table-spoonfuls of water and a little sugar.

Time, the destroyer of most things, gives to violins an almost indefinite value and importance. The Joan Carlini violin is 320 years old, and is in an almost perfect state of preservation. Two thousand dollars is a common price for a Stradivarius. On one occasion 1500 acres of land was given for a Stainer violin, and, as portions of the city of Pittsburgh are now built upon the land, it may well be said to have been the largest price ever paid for a violin.

SCIENTIFIC SCRAPS.

It has been found that sunlight has a considerable action upon glass. Colorless glass, for example, has become yellow, and light yellow, green and blue have turned to the darker or mellow shades of those colors, while coffee-colored glass has been known to materially change to rose and amber in the short space of five years.

A correspondent of the *Tropica Agriculturist* says regarding the destruction of ants: "Take a white china plate and spread a thin covering of common lard over it. Place it on the shelf or other place infested by the troublesome insects. You will be pleased with the result. Stirring up every morning is all that is needed to set the trap again."

Dr. Cullen, of Kundwa, on examining 439 railway officials for color blindness, in order to determine whether they were physically qualified for the positions that had been assigned to them, found among the half-breeds (Europeans) 1.6 per cent., among Mohammedans 7.32 per cent., and among Hindoos 3.16 per cent., suffering from this defect of Daltonism. Among 471 boys he found 2.54 per cent. incapable of distinguishing color, and among sixty girls none.

At a German ultramarine manufactory, managed by a pupil of Liebig, the director has observed that for forty-four years none of his workmen have ever suffered from consumption. He attributes their immunity to the fact that the process of manufacture involves the constant production of sulphuric acid, by the burning of sulphur. Accordingly he suggests a new method of treatment for consumptive patients, by bringing them into an atmosphere moderately charged with sulphuric acid.

Dr. Genzmer states that the sense of touch is present in infants at birth, although the faculty of feeling pain is slowly developed, and is clearly indicated only after the child has reached the age of four or five weeks; smell and taste are not distinguishable in the first, or, at latest, the second day of life; light is quickly perceived immediately after birth, but evidences of complete visual power do not appear for four or five weeks, and it is only after four or five months that colors are clearly distinguished.

More Old Women than Men.

It is a curious fact that the number of women who reach one hundred years and upward is nearly double that of long-lived men, remarks the *Buffalo Courier*. They lead less exposed, and often more regular lives than their husbands and brothers, and if their constitutions are not broken during their first half century, are likely to attain a good old age. It is only necessary to look around in any community to verify this fact. Certainly *Buffalo* furnishes no exception to the rule. Out of the seven or eight thousand graduates of Harvard college since 1642, only four have actually "risen to par," while a fifth lacked a fortnight of completing his century. So few persons reach one hundred years of age and the stories of great longevity are so exaggerated that Sir George Cornwall Lewis boldly declared a few years ago that no one ever lived one hundred years. Of course this statement was a little piece of counter-extravagance, but it is certain that fewer persons live to reach the age of one hundred than is popularly supposed. Out of the many thousand Revolutionary soldiers and their widows on the government's rolls, two or three entered and even passed the second decade of their second century, and these are the oldest American cases. English seventeenth century annals tell of a countess of Desmond who, at the age of one hundred and forty, was in the habit of climbing trees to pick cherries, but it is to be feared that this old lady was given to pulling the long bow about her birthday.

A Good Excuse.

"Hello, Johnny, why ain't you at school, to-day?" asked a friend of little Johnny Gillyflower, who was hanging about out of sight.

"Oh, I didn't want to go to-day. I didn't think it would be a good day in school," said Johnny, as he dashed his top on the top of that of another boy's.

"Why, what do you mean by that?" asked the man, becoming somewhat interested.

"Well, you see, Professor Tarheel, our teacher, has been going to see old Sam Black's daughter, just across the street from our house. He went to church, last night, to see her home, and Mirandy 'mittened' him. I didn't think it would be a good, healthy day in school, to-day, especially for a boy of spirit, who is always making mistakes," and the boy went trotting off down town.—*St. Joe Gazette*.