In the sunny land of ancient Greece, calebrated for poetry and song, lived a spirited, irascible girl. Her only aduca-tion consisted of a knowledge of the mysteries of Athenian housekeeping, and the arts and accomplishments in which her mother had been capable of imparting instruction. A youth with ugly physiognomy, whose flat nose, thick lips, and prominent eyes, like a satyr's, were long the butt of jest in all Athens, pre-sented himself as a suitor for the hand of the maiden. Possibly the provident father may have looked upon the wisdom and learning of the youthful Socrates, and pictured his daughter as the wife of a distinguished public man. Certainly she would have the prospect of a comfortable home, all the conveniences, probably some of the luxuries, of life, for the youth was a sculptor whose genius had already won some distinction. So the heathen maid, who knew not that the wife must ever honor and obey the husband, was weeded to this suitor. She entered upon her new duties with all the enthusiasm and earnestness of her nature, yet the twain seem to have lived in a state of doubtful connubial bliss. Naught save the discordant part of their experience has been handed down.

Socrates, and then the world, have immortalized Xantippe as a scolding wife. Admitting the accusation, we ask you to consider the true provocation. Not only was Socrates unattractive in feature, but his style of dress was such as would disgust any woman of taste and spirit. He wore the same old garment summer and winter, and went barefooted, having been known to pos-sess but one pair of shoes in all his life. This conduct may have given a false impression of the domestic qualities of his wife. What though her floors were as white as sand could make them, and her chests filled with snowy linen, the world would judge of her neatness chiefly from the personal appearance of the husband. The outer robe for gentlemen and ladies was the same, and the wife often wore the one belonging to the husband. But Xantippe is accused of steadily refusing to wear Socrates' How could she do otherwise under the circumstances?
With no wish to touch with impious

hand, or detract one iota from the glory which clusters around the name of this great philosopher, and remembering also the times in which he lived, we must say that he who showed wisdom and good sense in every thing else was very careless and negligent in the treatment of his wife. Grote says that he was very irregular in his hours, haunting every sort of place where he could enjoy the delights of talk and argument. If he went to a merrymaking, he was likely enough to stay all night, and without any sleep, just to wash his face, go to the lyceum or academy and set in for another day's talk. Meanwhile his wife staid at home with the children, nursing her wrath to keep it warm. There is such a thing as righteous indignation. Under our civilized laws the lady might almost have obtained a divorce on plea of wilful desertion.

Socrates was greatly attracted by the conversation of women of talent, and courted their society for the higher cultivation of his own mind. He was mstructed in the art of speaking by Aspasia. Was it not enough to make any wife jealous to know that she was closely questioned; and seeing himself detected pleaded guilty, and achieved and the company of others how he had done the trick. neglected and the company of others sought? Very likely she wished he had sought? Very likely she wished he had being that day sent to the front. married one of these showy women. Very likely she told him so. Besides this, ocrates did not provide for his family. He left the employment of his youth and gave up his time to conversing with all who came to him free of charge. The result of this was that he lived on bread

Socrates, when asked how much his property would bring if sold, said that. if he could find a good purchaser, all his property, including his house, would bring five mine, or \$70, and considered himself rich enough. Now if this amount had been put out at interest in Athens it would have yielded an annual income of \$12; a slender revenue upon which to support a wife and three children. Evidently he was not an enterprising efficient manager. This failing on the part of the husband has driven many modern women into the lecture field which occupation, unfortunately, Xantippe could only exercise upon Socrates.

Socrates was probably often invited out to dine, for, being constantly on the street, where he could snuff the savory odor of the kitchens, he had the best chance in the world to know where a feast was about to be held. A public man, with as glib a tongue as Socrates had, would not lack invitations. He was constantly bringing home some one to dine, when his wife had not a scrap in the house to cook, nor a stick of wood to cook it with. She could give no feast, much less attend any, because she lacked the means to present herself in suitable attire. Plutarch says that the ladies were invited a year beforehand that they might have time to dress.

The well-known occupation of Soc-rates was finding fault with his neighbors, and very naturally the wife did not escape his censures. He even permitted her to be accused of scolding in his very presence (a thing which the world never could have known), and then, instead of trying to defend and hide her faults, as a loving husband should, he admitted that this was true, and said: "I have married this woman, being firmly convinced that, in case I should be able to endure her, I should be able to endure everybody."

Such things as these are supposed to make the very best of women scold. Therefore, since Xantippe probably married Socrates because she had no other choice, and Socrates married Xantippe because he knew their dispositions were most discordant, and then did so many things to torment and aggravate her, we claim that she was justified in occasionally giving her husband a view of domestic affairs from woman's standpoint, or, in other words, giving him a piece of her mind.

The Profits of Brink Sellers. The list of wills proved in London during one week lately, afford remarkable evidence of the profits of manufacturers of intoxicating liquors and their ingredients and go far to endorse Lord Russell's recent statement as to the astounding consumption of intoxicating drinks in Great Britain. The will of Fiward Wigan, hop merchant, was proved under \$1,000,000 personalty; that of W. Farrell, brewer, under \$1,500,000 personalty; that of E. Wigrem, brewer, under \$800,000 personalty; that of E. Ind, brewer, under \$400,000 personalty; 000 personalty; and that of W. Preston, distiller, under \$1,250,000 personalty. In each case there was probably very large real estate also.

#### An Incident of the War.

Jacob Brummer, a Dutchman, a very light-hearted chap, having enlisted in the United States Volunteer Artillery, was sent to the barracks at Trenton New Jersey, in the winter of 1864, to wait there till a sufficient number of recruits were enrolled in the same regi-ment with him, to be then sent to Washington. He took one of the upper bunks in the barracks assigned to him together in the barracks assigned to him together with a friend, and they spent their time the best way they could with smoking, and drinking lager-beer, which could be obtained of a sutler within the pallisades of the camp. Things went on well enough till their money gave out, when one evening Brummer sold his shoes to one of the numerous peddlers about the camp, and with the money procured the drinks for himself and his friend. But when the lager was gone the idea press-ed upon Brummer's mind what account he should give next morning of his boots—though he was not studying long when an idea struck him.

In the next bunk to him, Teddy, an Irishman, had put up his quarters, who had already received part of his bounty and bought two pairs of boots; he had one pair on his feet, and the other pair with his shoes strapped on his knapsack Teddy had that same day been visited by his wife, and having after her de-parture drained the contents of an innocent-looking soda-water bottle, was fast ssleep, sticking his feet over the intervening plank into our hero's bunk, whose eyes began to look brighter and brighter the longer they looked at the intruders of his home. The temptation seemed strong; he drew out his knife and began, to the astonishment of his friend (who did not seem to see the point), to cut desiberately the initials of his name, J. B., under both soles of his neighbor's boots, filling up the fresh cuts

with dirt. The next morning at roll-call he took his place in front of his bunk, but minus boots; and the attention of the officer of the day was soon called to the fact by the tittering of the boys near him, and sternly looking at him, asked: "What has become of your boots?" 'They were stolen last night;" and the officer immediately instituted a search. His attention was soon called by one of the searching party to the boots lying in Teddy's bunk, and calling for the owner, Teddy stepped forward and claimed them. The officer then asked Brummer if these were the boots he had lost, to which he answered No; but pointing at his adversary's feet, exclaimed: Those boots look mightily like mine,

and if you only let me look at the bottom of them, where my name is cut in, I can make sure!" Teddy's wrath was great when he heard himself thus aceused of theft. He finally pulled off his boots—but lo! there were the letters J. B. plainly cut in both soles. Teddy, now dumb with astonishment, had to give up the boots, and showing strong inclinations to fight, was marched off to the guard-house. The boots were now handed to Brummer, and he hastened to put them on, but tried in vain. The oots were worn by a man measuring five feet five inches-were No. 7; and the smallest that Brummer-who measured six feet one inch-could get on was No. 11.

The whole proceeding was observed by the officer, who now began to view the case in a different light. Brummer

A Montgomery bar-room has an edu cated fly, which obeys the commands of its master, when told to rub his head walk lame, shoulder arms, etc. For some time the master found it difficult to tell the pet from the other flies and so tied a blue ribbon around its neck. The gun which it uses is an old Confederate army muksket, and in walking lame the other day it stubbed its toe and fell down and has since been cenfined to its room. Its physicians are of the opinion that it will recover.

### LITERARY NOTICES.

THE PHRENOLOGICAL JOURNAL for Decem ber is at hand. Among the magazines we re ceive each month, none is more carefully pe rused than the PHRENOLOGICAL, on account of its sound views on everything related to of its sound views on everything related to the times. It is progressive and reformatory, but never deals in vague and iliusory schemes, like most of the so-called progressive publications. The December number contains among other good things, Judge Daly, of New York, with a fine portrait; An Old Bone of Contention; An able Review of Mr. Beecher's 1 life of Christ; The Bridge of Motion, or Recent Scientific Developments; Laura's Experience, a Strauge, but True Love Story; Gen. Robt. A. Cameron, the Colorado Colonist; Chicago; Chronic Catarrh, its Cause and Cure: Thought. A. Cameron, the Colorado Colonist; Chicago; Chronic Catarrh, Its Cause and Cure; Thought, in Sound and Motion; The Geological History of Man; The Faculty of Order and its Culture; Working at Night; The Deserted Village. Single Nos. 30 cts. \$3.00 a year. A new vol. begins with the next number. S. R. WELLS, Publisher, 389 Broadway, New York.

THE CHILDREN'S HOUR .- In their December number, just received, the publishers of this beautiful magazine say: "We will not promise to make the 'Hour' any better or nandsomer next year than it has been in 1871, for we do not really know where to improve it. But we will promise to keep it fully up to its high reputation as 'the best and parest, and most attractive of the children's magazines.' We close the year with a number of unusual richness." The Illustrations in this number are remarkable fine. Price \$1.25 a year; 5 copies for \$5.00, with a beautiful chromo as a premium for clubs. Specimen copies 10 cents. Address T. S. Arthur & Son,

Philadelphia, Pa. ARTHUR'S LADY'S HOME MAGAZINE.—The publishers of "ARTHUR" cisim for it the high distinction of being "The Queen of the Lady's Magazines;" and taking the December number now before us in all its essential features, pictorial and literary, as a specimen, we will not make bold to dispute their claim. "Kept In," "A Merry Christmas," and "Check," the last a rich cartoon are illustrations of a high order, and address themselves to readers of taste and culture. The fashions are finely represented, full and varied. But the special charm of the Home Magazine lies in the excellent quality of its reading matter. This claim of the publi-hers' the press has long since conceded; and it is gratifying to know that the people themselves recognize the claim and ARTHUR'S LADY'S HOME MAGAZINE .- The people themselves recognize the claim and give the "Home" a wide and cordial welcome. Now is the time to send for this Magazine. TERMS \$2.00 a year, with a large reduction to clubs and splendid premiums. Specimen numbers 15 cents, Address T. S. ARTHUR &

Son, Philadelphia, Pa. The December number of OLIVER OFTIC'S MAGAZINE is so tempting in its contents, that "our boys and girls" will be anxious to subscribe for another year. It is seldom that one periodical contains so much that is good, and in such variety. In this number, Optic, Kellogg, and Sophie May finish their charming stories; there is poetry both serious and comic, scientific articles, choice sketches, travel and adventure, a profusion of pictures, puzzles enough to satisfy the most exacting, chit-chat with correspondents, "pigeon-hole-papers" on various topics, a lively piece of music, and other good things "too numerous to mention." Published by Lee & Shepherd, 140 Washington Street, Boston. \$2.50 a year. The December number of OLIVER OPTIC's

#### FARM AND HOUSEHOLD.

A WORD ABOUT REPAIRS .- The inevitable waste and wear, which always, in the end, necessitate the abandonment everything in its day useful to mankind, is compensated for and retarded by repairs. But in the attempt to do this, there is often much time and money uselessly squandered.

One of the principal causes of loss is delay in making timely renovations and substitutions; another is injudicious ways of repairing; and, lastly, repairing that which it were wise to abandou altogether. Instead of at once correcting what is smiss in a tool or machine, many will let it run as long as it is pos-sible to work with it, when it is often found impracticable ever to make it serviceable again; or, if not so badly injured as this, toat one deficiency, which it would have cost little to has caused many worse than the first.

In making repairs it is often thought

that a poor mechanic will do just as well as better and more costly skill. No greater mistake can be committed. We assert that the mechanical ingenuity, ready command of resources, knowledge of the adaptability of means to ends, skill of eye and hand, common sense and sound judgment-which go to make up an accomplished mechanic-are more necessary in a repair shop than anywhere else. Here it is not the same old routine, day after day, the making and putting together of forms so familiar as to require little original thought; but every job varies in some particular from every other, and each must be repaired in a different way. It requires brains as well as manual skill to do this kind of work in a creditable manner, and every manufacturer will find it policy to put a first-class mechanic in his repair

Lastly, in constantly stopping old machines to patch them up into makeshifts, there is often more money sunk than would supply their places with new ones. Many people estimate the cost of repairs only from the cost of material and labor; but in many cases the time lost in repairing is the largest element of expense, especially when the steppage of one machine entails the stoppage of many others.

In repairing machines the following rules ought, therefore, to be observed First : Repair as soon as anything gets out of order. Second, Intrust none but good mechanics with repairs. Third. Be careful not so continue repairs when

machines cease to be worth them. LAWN AND LAWN-DRESSING .- There is no feature around a dwelling-house that will add more to the appearance than a well kept patch of grass. Around a fine country seat the land always re-ceives early and careful attention from the gardener in charge, for he knows the importance that is placed upon it by his employer, and therefore makes use of every means within his reach to have the land in good order. It makes but little difference how small the spot of grass is if it has been carefully tended, it adds to the beauty of a village lot or city door-yard, and the expense of doing what is necessary to bring about a velvety surface is a mere trifle. Owing to the severity of our winters, a well kept lawn needs protection by mulching to prevent "heaving" toward spring in case the ground is a heavy clay, and even on a light soil this mulch will well cellent fertilizer in stimulating an early and rapid growth of grass in the spring. The manure may be spread broadcast at any time from the 20th of the present month without danger of smothering the grass. In spreading the manure it should be scattered evenly and not too thick. It is not necessary to completely cover the surface or grass. A thin coating will answer every purpose. When the manure is spread it is better to go over the ground again with a fork, and whenever there is a lump, knock it about with the fork, so that it will be

scattered evenly; if not the lawn will be "spotty" in the spring.

Nothing more than this fall coating of horse manure will be needed until the spring opens. Say in the latter part of March or early in April. Then the grass should be raked over with a coarse iron, or common wooden rake, removing any litter or straw that may happen to be on the grass. The fine parts of the manure will settle down among the crowns of, and furnish nourishment to the roots, causing them to tiller more freely. From then until the close of the season everything will depend upon the frequency of cutting. No matter how carefully and thorough the ground is prepared and seeded down for a lawn unless the grass is cut at least every two weeks during the spring and summer, half the beauty is lost, and those who appreciate rich velvety grass should bear this in mind.

A burglar was once frightened out of his scheme of robbery by the sweet simplicity of a solitary spinster, who, put-ting her night-capped head out of the window, exclaimed, "Go away | aint you

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a near or distant relative?" "Well, pretty distant-'bout twenty-four mile.'

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Winter is now fairly upon us, and the teams are hastening to the lumber woods in various parts of the country. Our advice to every man who goes to the woods, to be captain, cook, teamster, or any other man, is to take along a good stock of Johnson's Anodyne Liniment and Parson's Purgative Pills. Many months by this precaution.

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