No Cure, No Pay.

In the way Findley's Eye Salve is sold. Chronic and granulated lids cured in 30 days; common sore eyes in 3 days, or money back for the asking. Sold by all druggists, or by mail, 25c. box. J. P. HAYTER, Decatur, Texas.

Lord Chief Justice Russell, of England, is said always to have a bet on every important sporting event.

Beauty Is Blood Deep.

Clean blood means a clean skin. No beauty without it. Cascarets, Candy Cathartic clean your blood and keep it clean, by stirring up the lazy liver and driving all impurities from the body. Begin to-day to banish pimples, boils, blotches, blackheads, and that sickly bilious complexion by taking Cascarets,—beauty for ten cents. All druggists, satisfaction guaranteed, 10c, 25c, 50c.

George Berry, the English bandmaster, has retired after 65 years' service with military bands.

What Is Tetterine?

It is a sure cure for all skin diseases. It cures itch, tetter, ringworm, eczema, salt rheum, etc. Never fails. Nothing is "just as good." Don't accept substitutes. Try, and you will be convinced, as thousands of others have. If your druggist doesn't keep it, send 50c. in stamps direct to the maker, J. T. Shuptrine, Savannah, Ga., for a box postpaid.

The Khedive of Egypt draws a salary ten times as great as that of the President of the United States.

"A Gentle Wind of Western Birth"

Tells no sweeter story to humanity than the announcement that the health-giver and health-bringer, Hood's Sarsaparilla, tells of the birth of an era of good health. It is the one reliable specific for the cure of all blood, stomach and liver troubles.

Hood's Sarsaparilla
Never Disappoints.

Quite Attached to It.

Philadelphia Record: Dedboroke—"I hear you called on the lady's father last night. How did he like your suit?" Hardupp—"Very much, I think. He kept half the coat collar when I left."

She Obeyed Instructions.

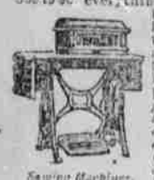
Mrs. Naggsby (impatiently calling)—"Nora, drop everything at once and come to me!" Nora—"Yes, ma'am." Mrs. Naggsby—"Now, what's the baby crying for?" Nora—"Because I dropped him, mum."—Tit-Bits.

BUY OF THE MAKER.

Fifty-one years ago, we began our present plan of doing business of selling direct to the consumer, as we found thousands of people living in all parts of this country who pay cash for their merchandise, were tired of paying the big profits their local dealers were charging.

We then began selling everyone our own goods made in our own factories, consisting of everything you Eat, everything you Wear, everything you Use, everything found in a home, in an office, in an hotel, on a farm, or in a barn, and we are saving money to-day for nearly two million people, who live in all parts of the world. *Our 964 page Catalogue costs us 75c. to print and mail it free to everyone—it tells all about everything to Eat, Wear and Use, has 10,000 illustrations and quotes wholesale prices on 100,000 different articles.*

Corset, 50c to $1.



Sewing Machines, $7.95 t. $27.

Our Lithographed Carpet Catalogue shows Carpets, Rugs, Art Squares, Portieres and Lace Curtains in their real colors. Carpets sewed free, lining furnished free and freight prepaid.

Our Made-to-Order Clothing Catalogue with samples of cloth attached, offers suit and overcoats from $5.95 to $20.00. Express paid on clothing everywhere. We also issue a Special Catalogue of Pianos, Organs, Sewing Machines and Bicycles. Which Catalogue do you want? Address this way:

Chair 69c.

JULIUS HINES & SON,
BALTIMORE, MD. Dept. 211

Story of a Long Beard.

Cornelius Breckenridge of Taliaferro, Ky., was in town the other day and while talking to a friend he thrust his hand under his waistcoat and pulled out a snowy white beard which reached almost to his knees, says the Denver Times. "I am going to tell you an incident of my life that has never before been made public," he said. "That beard of mine is now thirty-one inches long and the cause of its length is all due to the fact that I once made a bet. When the war broke out I was one of the southerners who enlisted and fought with the confederates. Quite naturally my feeling toward Abraham Lincoln was not of the best. When old Abe came up the second time for election I said to a friend: 'Bob, if old Abe is elected I will never again shave.' 'Well,' said Bob, 'if Abe Lincoln is not elected I will never shave.' Both of us agreed it should stand as a bet and the election day rolled around and the result is well known."

THE very word "operation" strikes terror to a woman's soul.

Nearly always these operations become necessary through neglect.

If the menses are very painful, or too frequent and excessive, get the right advice at once and stop taking chances. It will cost you nothing for advice if you write to Mrs. Pinkham at Lynn, Mass., for it, and if you let the trouble run along it will surely cost you a great deal of pain and may mean an operation.

WOMEN AVOID OPERATIONS

MISS SARAH J. GRAHAM, Sheridanville, Pa., writes: "DEAR MRS. PINKHAM:—I had suffered for several years with female troubles and doctored until I was discouraged. I felt wretched and tired of living. I had disease of kidneys, bladder trouble, dropsy and bloating, had womb trouble and a large tumor had formed; in fact all my organs were out of fix.

"Seeing a woman's letter praising your remedies, I wrote to her and she begged of me to try it, telling me all that it had done for her. I bought six bottles of Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound and now cannot express my gratitude to you. The tumor began to come away in pieces and I got better all the time. I believe now that I am entirely cured.

"My doctors could not believe it at first, as they all had told me that my case was a hopeless one, and no human power could do me any good. They were astounded. If I can say anything that can help other women, I shall be glad to."

It is not safe to wait until the last moment. Head off trouble by prompt attention to it. Don't be satisfied without Mrs. Pinkham's advice.

GETTING ABOUT PARIS.

The Street Cars and Omnibuses of the City and the Rates of Fares.

The means of passenger transit in Paris is something that will interest a great many people the coming year, in view of the throngs that will visit the exposition. It is effected by electricity, steam, compressed air and horse-power. There are three tramway lines serving Paris and the suburbs, and omnibuses are generally used throughout the city. One of the above-mentioned tram lines belongs to the Compagnie Generale des Omnibus, and the other two are practically controlled by the same company; so that it can be said to have a monopoly of the entire passenger transit, exclusive of cabs and carriages. It is a stock company, organized in 1855, having obtained from the city the exclusive right to transport passengers from one point to another in the city of Paris. The concession expires on the 31st of May, 1910. The omnibuses are of two sizes, and drawn by two or three horses, respectively. The smaller model is arranged for 28 to 30 places (14 outside, 14 inside and two on the platform). The larger model affords accommodations for 20 on top and 20 inside, including four on platform. The fare on the top is 15 centimes (near 3 cents); inside and on platform, 30 centimes (nearly 6 cents). The payment of the last-mentioned fare entitles the passenger to a "correspondence" or transfer ticket to another connecting or intersecting line. No passengers are taken on when the places are filled, either at a station or en route. At the starting points numbered tickets are handed to the passengers, and when there are more than enough to fill one conveyance the precedence is given to those holding the first numbers. The next omnibus or car starting begins with the number last uncalled on the previous vehicle. The same system prevails at the fixed stations en route for vacant places. No standing in the aisle is allowed. The statistics for 1896 show the number of passengers carried as follows: 33 lines of omnibuses (26 to 30 places), 50,030,034; 14 lines of omnibuses (40 places), 79,349,631; 3 lines of steam tramways, 12,862,990; 23 lines of horse tramways, 37,092,926; 4 lines of compressed air and electricity, 10,705,340; total, 240,040,291. The distances traversed by the divers lines vary from about two miles to a little over four miles.

JUSTICE IN CHINA.

A Story of Li Hung Chang and Would-Be Prisoners.

Of Li Hung Chang numberless stories are told in Chinese society. Now and then one reaches this country through our consuls in China. On one occasion when the premier was having a bitter fight with some of the more conservative members of the tsung-li-yamen he received as a present a magnificent cake, which he had reason to suspect contained poison. He put the cake aside and set all his powerful machinery to work to find out who was at the bottom of the plot. The investigation was partly successful, the crime being traced to three men, of whom one, at least, was absolutely guilty. Li had the trio arrested and brought to his yamen. When they arrived they were ushered into his presence and were received in his courtliest manner. The cake was produced with the remark that "politeness forbade his tasting it until the three generous donors had had an opportunity to enjoy its excellence." Li cut the cake and one of his servitors handed it to the unwilling guests. Each took a piece and ate, or pretended to eat it. One crumbled the pieces and let them fall upon the floor but the other two ate calmly, without manifesting any emotion. Ten minutes and the two men began to show symptoms of suffering. Li smiled benignantly and said to the man who had not eaten: "Your wisdom is so great that I am compelled to preserve your head as a souvenir to transcendent genius." The man was removed and promptly decapitated. To the other two the premier remarked "The cake that you are eating is not the one you sent me, but one which I had my cook imitate. The poison from which you are suffering exists only in your imagination. I know of no way to cure your present pain except by letting you share the same fate as your friend who has just left the room."

FARM AND GARDEN.

Dust Baths For Hens.

Do not forget while the weather is fine to gather some finely powdered road dust to make dust baths for the hens during the winter. It can be supplemented then with coal ashes, but the dirt dust bath will be preferred, as it does not muss the hens' feathers so much.

Succulent Feed For Sheep.

If the shepherd desires to bring his flock to the best condition in winter he must use some succulent feed such as roots or ensilage, or such feed as oil meal, bran or clover. In most farming localities few feeds can be raised cheaper than corn and corn fodder. These can be used to good advantage in maintaining a flock, and if the silo is properly filled, will furnish sufficient succulent feed.

Killing Off Young Roosters.

The great plague of the beginner in poultry, whose object is to produce the greatest number of eggs, is the large proportion of non-layers that are found in every flock that were spring hatched. It is, we think, the rule that later hatches have a still larger proportion of cockerels. But be they few or many, all except the one or two that are to be kept for breeders should be killed and marketed when of broiler size. Their sex can then be determined easily by any one used to poultry, and in the late summer the broiler will sell for eating for as much money as it would bring when fully grown, besides saving the feed and care required to keep until that time.

For Moulting Hens.

Fill a bucket with two parts of good wheat bran and one part of shelled oats. Boil a beef bone, with some meat adhering to it, in a two gallon vessel. Put a potato or two and as many onions, if convenient, in a pot, and when cooked pour the liquid into the bucket of bran and oats, cover it over, and let it stand for twenty or thirty minutes to steam, soften and expand. Then feed the mixture to the hens. Give them the bone to pick over, and also the cooked vegetables. Do this once a day, and a goodly lot of eggs will be obtained from even a flock that is moulting, for there are always some hens that are not as far advanced in the shedding process as others, and they will lay while the others are completing the process. They should also have some gravel.

The Hog and the Brook.

Experience has shown that the brook is a dangerous adjunct to the hog pasture. This is especially so in most of the prairie States, where the land is so level that a brook winds sluggishly through many townships, and must need receive the drainage from many farms.

When hog cholera breaks out on one farm it often, in this way, distributes the disease to all the farms further down the course of the stream, wherever the hogs depend on the brook for drinking water. Investigations have shown that some of the worst outbreaks of hog cholera have come in this way.

In a mountainous country, where the streams are many times so short that they are known from source to final out-flow they are comparatively safe for the watering of all stock; for the reason that it is not possible for a disease to exist there without its presence being known. But in level States the length of the streams precludes this knowledge. In every section of level country where hog cholera exists at all, the hog and the brook should be separated. This precaution, if widely taken, will lessen the disease named by a large per cent. —Farm, Field and Fireside.

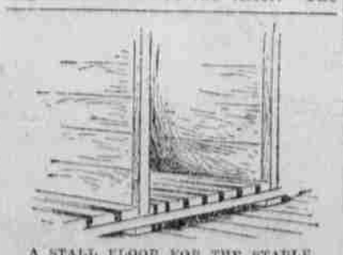
Taking Honey From the Hive.

To remove comb honey from the hive great care should be taken. After one has produced a case of nice fancy grade honey it is important to know how to take it from the hive and not have the bees puncture the white cappings. This is often permitted and the honey is rated as second grade. When ready to take off honey approach the hive with the smoker going well, send in a few puffs of smoke at the entrance, then raise the back end of the super and puff in a little smoke very gently. Do not frighten the bees by rough handling or jarring the hive in any way, for then they will run to the boxes of nice honey and puncture the cappings and fill themselves.

After raising the super about six inches on the back end with one hand, slip the bee escape under it with the other hand and adjust everything in its place. The bees will all make their exit through the escape in the board one by one, and your super will be ready to come off the next day. It is best to put on escapes toward evening so the bees in the super will not be too hot. Now if you have been judicious and expeditious in all your manipulations you may carry off your super of nice comb honey the next morning without a puncture or scratch.

A Floor For Horse Stalls.

Where mares are kept a tight floor in the stall is not especially convenient, but with horses the case is otherwise. For them such a floor as is shown in the accompanying illustration is best suited for keeping their coats from becoming stained. The stable floor beneath the flooring of the stall should slope a little so that the liquids that run through the openings in the stall flooring will be conveyed down behind the stall, where they may be absorbed in the litter. The



A STALL FLOOR FOR THE STABLE.

pieces of which the stall floor is made may be five inches wide laid one-half inch apart. They are shown farther apart than this in the cut in order to make the matter plain. There should be four cross bearings under the stall floor if two-inch stuff is to be used.—New England Homestead.

Insects Injurious to the Currant.

The insects attacking the currant are the imported currant-borer, the American currant-borer, the imported currant worm, the native saw-fly, and several others of more or less importance. The two borers are in some sections a serious impediment to successful currant culture. The moth of the imported borer lays its eggs in June, singly near the buds, where in a few days they hatch into small larva, which eat their way to the centre of the stem where they burrow up and down, feeding on the pith all through the summer, enlarging the channel as they grow older until at last they have formed a hollow several inches in length. When full grown the larva is whitish and fleshy, with brown head and legs and a dark line along the middle of its back.

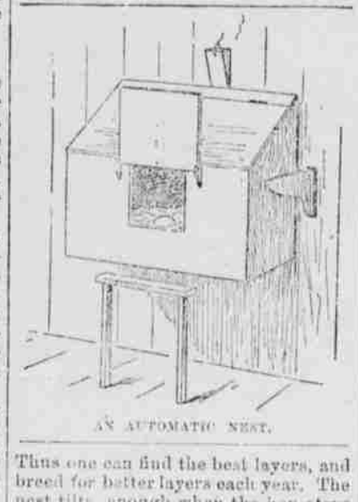
When the hollow stems do not break off, indications of the presence of the borer may be found in the sickly look of the leaves and the inferior size of the fruit.

The only remedies are to cut out and burn all hollow canes, or to capture and destroy the moths, who are sluggish in the cool of the morning. The American current-borer differs from the above in being of smaller size and without feet. Sometimes as many as eight or ten of these borers are found within one cane. The cutting and burning of the infested stalks is recommended in this case as for the imported borer. The insects attacking the leaves of the currant are the imported and native currant worm, and the currant span worm.

There are numerous other insects that commit depredations of minor importance, but the three mentioned are all that are likely to be troublesome. The first two can be kept in subjection by the use of powdered hellebore in the proportion of an ounce to a pailful of water, sprinkled or sprayed on the bushes at their first appearance. For the span worm, if hellebore is used, the liquid should be made three times the usual strength. Paris green is more certain and effectual where there is no objection to its use.

Self-Registering Hen's Nest.

The cut shows a nest for confining each hen as she goes on to lay. Several times a day the nest can be examined and those hens which have laid can be liberated, after taking the hen's number and marking her egg.



AN AUTOMATIC NEST.

Thus one can find the best layers, and breed for better layers each year. The nest tilts enough when the hen steps on the edge of the opening to tip down the thin door that will shut her in. The wedge behind slips down and holds the nest firm, so it will not rock back and forth.

Pulverizing the Soil.

The value of pulverizing the soil repeatedly is not generally understood by farmers who cultivate large acres of land, but the market gardener, who has only a small space on which to make a living, shows by his methods that he realizes the importance of this work. Incidentally, pulverizing the soil means good culture of plants, but plants can be cultivated and the soil may not be pulverized. The finer we pulverize the soil around plants the better is the mechanical condition of the soil for making the plants grow and resisting dry weather. When we study the subject from a scientific point of view we can understand better the effects of what is good culture. Everybody in this age understands the theory of the evaporation of water from the soil, how the water rises from the subsoil or underground springs by capillary attraction, and if not taken up by the plants passes off into the air. This evaporation begins on the surface, and extends gradually downward. If the soil is too thick and compact the moisture has difficulty in rising up, and the top layers dry very slowly. Such land is usually wet and muddy in ordinary rainy weather, and it is unfit for crops. In order to facilitate capillary attraction the soil must be so pulverized that the air spaces in the soil are small. This enables the soil to rise gradually and continuously. By good cultivation on the surface the plants are kept well supplied with moisture all of the time, and every fresh stirring of the top soil starts up new reservoirs of water from the subsoil.

Gardeners have what they call a dust mulch, which is simply another name for good, thorough surface cultivation. They stir the soil around the plants every week or few days, and the soil becomes so thoroughly pulverized that capillary attraction is in rapid progress all the time. It has been demonstrated that on the right kind of soil garden plants can in this way be brought through the driest weather imaginable, and without a drop of water artificially supplied. The dust mulch is better for the plants than an artificial one of leaves and litter, although the latter are not to be neglected where it is impossible to give the thorough pulverization required. The stirring of the surface soil is more important when the plants are young than when they get half grown. Then they shade the ground around the roots, and form a protective moisture holder that helps them through the hot weather. After all it is the young, immature plants that we have to care for and tend, and if we succeed in getting them started aright the crops are pretty well assured.—A. B. Barrett, in American Cultivator.

GREAT WHEAT HARVEST

BUSY AND INTERESTING DAYS IN THE NORTHWESTERN STATES.

Appearances of a Thresher's Train as It Goes From One Job to Another—What the Separator Does—Relative Merits of the Header and the Binder Discussed.

The hum of the threshing machine will be heard for the next few weeks from the east line of Minnesota to the farther boundaries of the Dakotas. The land is dotted with grain stacks, usually in groups of four, though occasionally a farmer, who makes a herd or a flock the prominent feature of his husbandry, will have his entire crop stacked in a semicircle round the north and west sides of his corral. At intervals slender columns of smoke tell of a "steamer" at work from dawn till dark. A stranger in the country seeing the steamer moving from one job to another might easily mistake the outfit for an innovation in railroading. First comes the traction engine, not unlike a locomotive engine, although smaller and painted in brighter colors. Immediately behind the engine is the tender wagon fitted with a rack for hauling straw. Nearly every engine nowadays is a straw burner. Then comes the separator, a monster machine with thirty-six to forty-eight-inch cylinder, and a sixty-inch separator. Behind the separator comes the tank, resembling very closely a Standard Oil distributing wagon, which hauls water for the engine from the nearest windmill pump. Next the "trap wagon" carrying the loose paraphernalia of the outfit, and the clothes and bedding of the men. If the threshers board with the owner of the grain this constitutes the train, but if, as is generally the case, the owner of the machine boards his crew, the "grub shanty," an ordinary house-wagon, brings up the rear, making a train from 100 to 150 feet long.

The modern separator comes pretty near being the "whole thing." Instead of the threshing crew of our boyhood days—drivers, feeders, oilers, band-cutters, four to six pitchers, measurers, and half a dozen straw stackers—the crew consists of a manager, usually the owner of the machine; engineer, oiler, waterman, six pitchers and a cook. The pitchers, three on a stack on each side of the machine, throw the bundles, higgledy-piggledy onto an endless belt the width of the cylinder, automatic guides straighten them and the belt carries them under rows of knives that cut the bands and then feeds them into the cylinder. The grain passes from the winnower into the elevator, is carried up ten or twelve feet to the weigher, weighed and sacked or poured into the farmer's wagon box. The straw and chaff pass into the "blower," or automatic stacker, a steel tube about three feet in diameter and thirty feet long. This is set at the beginning of a job at an angle of ten to fifteen degrees above the horizon and gradually raised as the straw stack rises, to an angle of fifty or higher. It also swings from right to left, stacking the straw in a semi-circle around the tail of the machine. At the bottom a "blower" or fan forces a draft through the tube strong enough to carry the straw many feet from the mouth of the stacker.

Some of the threshers require the owner of the grain to board the crew, but most of them have learned that it pays better to carry their own boarding house, have meals at regular hours, and keep their men together. All the farmer has to do is to haul his wheat to the granary and pay the bill, ranging from five to six cents a bushel. He finds it a great improvement over the old days when he was obliged to scour the neighborhood to get together a force of twelve to twenty men, and the farmer's wife is delighted with the change.

Twenty years ago a dollar a bushel was considered only a moderately "paying" price for wheat. Ten years back, when the market had worked down below seventy-five cents, the wheat farmer faced certain bankruptcy with a groan. Now, farmers in the Northwest are selling wheat, and making money, at fifty cents a bushel. Many factors contribute to make this possible, but heavier crops and lower wages are not among them. Lower prices on nearly everything he buys, especially machinery, leave the farmer a larger surplus from a given sum, but the result is brought about most of all by improved machinery and systemizing the business. The gang plow, the four-horse harrow, the broad drill, the binder and the header on the level prairies of the Northwestern wheat fields have more than doubled the producing capacity of labor.

As soon as one crop is off preparation for the next is begun. Even now in the Dakotas and Minnesota notable progress has been made toward the crop of 1900. On many farms a field of forty to 100 acres was summer fallowed in June. Then, there is the cornfield, twenty to 100 acres more, needing only to have the corn stalks dragged to make it ready for the drill. As soon as the grain is in the stack—and here is the strong point of the large and increasing number who use the header in preference to the binder—the gang plow is started. The earlier the stubble is turned under the better the promise for next year. With a fourteen-inch gang and four good, heavy shires or Percherons, an old man past the age for arduous labor, a cripple, a bright boy of twelve or thirteen—and on a pinch the farmer's daughter—can turn over five or six acres of the mellow soil a day. Recently at a G. A. R. campfire in South Dakota, there was a slight delay. At the last moment the organist, who was to accompany a quartet in some old army songs, had sent regrets, and a young man had been dispatched for the daughter of a comrade in an adjoining town. The messenger found the girl afield with the "gang." In an hour she had made a hasty toilet and was playing the organ as prettily as you please.

By the middle of September the 100 acres, which is the area prescribed by the unwritten law for each gang, is turned. Then comes a long rest, so far as the wheat crop is concerned, until April 1. About that season of the year, if you should be driving through the realms of the wheat kings, you would witness some transformations. Yesterday the snowdrifs were melting in the April sun; to-day the farmer, or the farmer's man, is following the four-horse, thirty-six foot harrow, smoothing an acre for the drill at every sweep across the quarter section. To-morrow the drill starts. No daylight is wasted. Twelve to twenty acres a day is seeded till the crop is in. Then the rush is over. At more leisure the garden is made, the cornfield plowed, planted and cultivated. In July, haying and preparation for the harvest are in order.

If Fortune has smiled; if shower and sunshine have followed each other in due proportion; if drouth and sirocco, tornado and hailstorm have spared them, the fields of ripening wheat are a poet's dream. But to the farmer in the great wheat belt harvest is distinctly and emphatically non-poetical. It means long days and short nights, dust and sweat, grimy face, hands blackened with oil, weariness and aching joints. Harvest is the most critical and important part of the year's work.

The most practical and successful wheat growers are divided in opinion as to the relative merits of binder and header. The headers are made to cut a ten, twelve or fourteen foot swath. With a twelve-foot header thirty to thirty-five acres a day can be put in the stack, but it requires a crew of six to eight men and boys and eight or ten horses. With a six-foot binder two men with three horses will put in the shock twelve or thirteen acres. But horses are more plentiful than men in the Western harvest fields. By using a seven-foot binder and eight horses in two relieis, three men frequently put up twenty acres or more in a day. For the header it is contended that the harvest can be taken off more quickly and cheaply and the grain is in the stack when it is cut, leaving the field ready for to plow earlier than by any other means. The advocates of the binder argue that it is not always possible to secure enough hands to fill the header crew while the farmer can run his binder with one hired man.

By either method the work is pushed from dawn till dark. The farmer and his help reach the end of harvest worn down by hard work and long hours, but with a sense of relief that the fruits of the year's labor are measurably secure against the hazards of the elements. While wheat is, and must necessarily remain, the leading feature of Northwestern agriculture, the best farmers have ceased to depend on the wheat crop alone for their living. A herd of cattle, a flock of sheep, a few pigs, the great American hen, and a well kept garden supply many of his family wants, leaving him in better shape if the wheat crop fails.

CURIOUS FACTS.

There is only one flock of pure merino sheep in England.

It is said that two million English sparrows were recently destroyed in a storm in Arkansas.

In Hungary salt is sometimes sprinkled on the threshold of a new house to keep away witches.

A suit to recover twenty-five cents occupied the attention of the court in Geneva, N. Y., for two days.

In a Methodist church in a remote Georgia community, the old rule of separation of the sexes during worship is observed.

The Savoy Hotel in Kansas City, Mo., has a dog that acts as bellboy, going for the mail, and carrying notes to the clerk.

There are millions of the inhabitants of the Philippine Islands who never knew the dominion of Spain and never saw a Spaniard.

"Gossamer iron," the wonderful product of the Swansea iron mills, is so thin that it takes 4000 sheets, piled one on the other, to make an inch in thickness.

The unique source of the water supply of Yport, France, is a series of fine springs on a pebbly beach that is covered by the sea to a depth of more than ten feet at high tide.

Perhaps the only word that is the same in all languages is the "Hello!" in response to the telephone call. Wherever there is a telephone line the word is in use, and means just what it does in English.

When a traveler in the grand duchy of Baden wants to send a telegram while he is on the train, he writes the message on a post card, with the request that it be wired, puts on a stamp and drops it into the train letter box. At the next station the box is cleared and the message sent out.

China still has the old-fashioned system of private letter carrying. Letter shops are to be found in every town. If he has a letter to send, the Chinaman goes to a letter shop and bargains with the keeper thereof. He pays two-thirds of the cost, leaving the receiver to pay the rest on delivery.

President Grant's Suggestion.

An official who quite generally knows what he is talking about was dilating the other afternoon upon the funny hopelessness for all reasonable purposes of many of the little creeks and rivers for the "improvement" of which Congress was asked to appropriate money under the River and Harbor bill.

"When Grant was President," said the official, "he used to alternately chuckle and fulminate against the expenditure of good Government coin for the 'improvement' of measly little streams that he himself knew could never be made fit for any human purpose. There was a Virginian who, failing to get Congress to stick in an appropriation for the dredging of a little stream down in his section, finally importuned Grant in the matter.

"'Let's see,' said Grant, musingly, 'I believe I crossed that stream in 1864, wasn't it?'

"The Virginian, who remembered Grant's crossing of the stream pretty well, replied affirmatively.

"'Look here,' said Grant, after a pause, his face lighting up suddenly, 'why dont' you macadamize it?'"—Washington Post.

Mexico as a Corn Producer.

Mexico now stands third among the corn-producing countries of the world, its production in 1897 being officially estimated at 121,893,000 bushels. Excepting the crop of the United States, the Mexican crop is exceeded only by that of Austria-Hungary, the average annual production of which country is about 150,000,000 bushels.—Crop Reporter.

THE SABBATH SCHO

INTERNATIONAL LESSON COMM FOR OCTOBER 8.

Subject: Haman's Plot Against the Esther iii., 1-2—Golden Text viii., 31—Commentary on the Lesson.

CONNECTING LINKS. In lesson tw last quarter we left the people at Jer still at work on the temple. "When finished there came a pause of nearl years in the history of the Jews. this time the Medo-Persian empire larger than any previous kingdom world, so that its ruler was surr with splendor and wealth almost imagination. Its ambition was to Greece, and extend its sway over the world. This empire in its whole from India to Ethiopia, must ha tained a population of at least 100, When Cyrus was king, and his ed issued to the Jews, fifty thousand to Jerusalem; these rebuilt the tem were planting the renewed kingd God again in Palestine. But the far no numbers still remaining in of their captivity. These were eng business, had homes, and must ha tained considerable wealth. It wa Jews who were scattered through Medo-Persian empire whose lives danger at the time of our lesson, th Haman's plot had been carried would most likely have sought to even these at Jerusalem.

1. "Ahasuerus." A royal title to several Medo-Persian kings. Xerxes the son of Darius Hystaspes, is the shortened word for Ah "Haman." The kings of the Am were called Agag. It is likely that was the descendant of that Agag by Saul but destroyed by Samuel, the ground might have a hatred Jews. "Advanced him." Made prime minister and put all the state under his direction. Such a tion in seats was counted of vast tance in the formal court of Persia.

2. "King's servants reverenced These were a higher class of officers porters, who were in attendance gate to receive the commands of th Most probably the homage required man was idolatrous. "Gave him honors," as to a deity, for such wor to the kings of Persia, and might their favorites, "the king had s manded him." To bow the knee an reverence to all great persons was a mon respect due to them, and there not a particular command from the There was therefore more implied reverence commanded than what pro from a mere civil respect.

4. "They told Haman." They des know whether he and the Jews w allowed to observe their singular "He had told them that he was a This proves that he vindicated hims the ground of his religion, and it that he expected the king would ad pies, which favors the supposition Persian kings used to excuse the servants from such obeisance as the not conscientiously render.

5. "Then was Haman full of wrat made his proud spirit rage and br boil within him. He was a man of and vainglorious mind and into excess prosperity.

6. "He thought scorn to lay ha Mordecai alone." It is a penal in the not to worship Haman, as it was buchadnezzar's not to worship the image; but his single life is nothing satisfaction. Thousands of innoc valuable lives must be sacrificed too in appear Haman's intolerable pri unsettled cruelty and the ancient ha an Amalekite to the Israel of God. barbarous wish was his that they but one neck.

7. "They cast Pur." They cast find which of the twelve months the most favorable for the execution man's design, and the month Ad taken—the last month of their yea same as our February. Then the lo cast for the date, and the thirteen was chosen. It was the first month year when Haman began to cast lo the time for the execution of the Je delayed until the last month, which shows that though "the lot be cast in lap, yet the whole disposing thereof the Lord." Prov. 16:33. A year inte between the design and its execution, gave time for Mordecai to acquaint Esther with it, and for her to inf with the king and thereby prevent th spiracy.

8. "A certain people." In his eyes and contemptible, not worthy to be "Scattered abroad and dispersed the provinces." Who therefore, if tol may poison all thy subjects with principles. "Their laws are diverse all people." Such they certainly we they worshiped the true God accord His own laws; and this was not done other people then on the face of the One great purpose of many of their and customs was to keep the Jews re from the heathen. "It is not king's profit." A pretense of intere king's prosperity and authority. He represent the Jews as fugitives and bonds, disaffected to the governme likely to stir up rebellion. He will his advice and service to bring ab destruction of these people.

9. "Let it be written." By this he throw all the odium off himself and on the king and his counselors; wished the thing to pass into a tra which he could have but a small s the blame. "I will pay ten thousand of silver." He cids high for leave stroy all of them. This shows how bent on the destruction of the Jew undoubtedly Haman expected to g sum and much more by seizing on goods. He had said before that it w for the king's profit to spare the Jews here he is obliged to acknowledge there will be a loss to the revenue.

10. "The king took his ring.... unto Haman." Without any examin into the condition of the people sented to their destruction. By the ery of his signet ring he delegate Haman the power of life and death.

11. "The silver is given to the people also." If the people were ment to the nation, as Haman has then it would be worth something king to have them destroyed; and if would undertake the business he sh rewarded in the same measure offered to enrich the king. Blind king to see in this no personal against the Jews. "Do with them seemeth good." What inhumanity this—to give so many people unne death to please a favorite! We see exaltation of Haman, and in his quent fall, that God sometimes men to arrive at the highest degree and power, but that He soon bring low and exposes them to sham misery. Here is seen also the sin of Ahasuerus in giving credit too ea Haman's suggestion against the which well-nigh led many millions of cent persons to perish.

Soldiers in Opera.

Opera in Russia is sometimes to unexpected interruptions. The lowing incident, which recently curred at the Court Opera Hous Moscow, is related by Music Tr "'Carmen' was being produced the commanding general of the son had kindly lent a number of vates to represent the Spanish so in the piece. When, in the secon at the command of Don Jose, th vates marched on to the stage, were thrown into confusion by their commander-in-chief sitting front row of the stalls. They forg about the play, and stood still at tion before the general, as requir military discipline. Regardless wild entreaties of the stage ma and the despair of the principal the dutiful soldiers remained thus the general shouted: 'All righ children, play away.' 'At your mand, general,' answered the me then took their part in the piece production of which suffered, ho somewhat from the unforeseen ruption."