

NEW YORK FASHIONS.

Designs For Costumes That Have Become Popular in the Metropolis.

New York City (Special).—"One is always hearing of that amateur millinery genius who takes a few notes through the shop windows, goes home, investigates the family scrapbag and



A CALLING GOWN OF MULBERRY CLOTH AND BROWN VELVET.

produces therefrom a confection beside which a Parisian novelty seems positively shabby. One hears of such wonders on all sides, but it has never been my luck to see one of these scrapbag reincarnations that was not homely home-made in every feature," said Mary Dean, the fashion expert,

are from the very first showing of the coming season's wash shirt waists, the first one being a particularly desirable model. It has fourteen box-plaits on the front, a French back, with five box-plaits down the centre, and the new Dewey collar.

The new V or fan-shaped tucking is illustrated in the second one, the front having two bias clusters of twelve each, and the back has five vertical tucks on each side of its centre. The shaping of these tucks is very becoming, giving as it does breadth across the shoulder, and a taper to the waist.

The third waist shows the use of embroidery combined with the tucks, and, while it is more decorative, many women prefer not to use it, as they think it detracts from the distinctiveness of the shirt waist, as being a tailor-made garment and an adjunct to a tailor-made suit. Consequently they prefer no trimming on a wash shirt waist other than tucks or machine stitching, depending for a dressy separate waist on a regular light-fitting, trimmed-silk waist.

Notice the clustered effect of the tucks on all the waists, and just on either side of the centre back and front, as opposed to the spaced tucking all over the waist, back, front and sleeves, so modish last season. Anything for a change! Poor femininity evidently will have to change those last summer's tucked all-over shirt waists that were the pride of her heart, but which now, on blighting words! are last summer's mode.

Velvet Jackets With Cloth Gowns.

Many pretty little velvet jackets are seen with cloth gowns. One pretty girl has one in red to match her cloth skirt. This skirt is one of the new ones, with clusters of narrow knit plaits the space of a narrow gore apart. From the waist down to the knees these plaits are stitched on both edges, giving them the appearance of horizontal bands of cloth, but below



THE 1900 SHIRT WAIST. SOME SPECIMEN MODELS.

recently. "Now, however, with a half-yard of velvet, a buckle and a pretty ostrich plume it is a poor hand that can't contrive as smart a little revolutionary toque as need crown any head.

"One I saw this afternoon deserves telling about, because the girl who wore it wore also so sweet a little calling gown that I followed her for a half-dozen blocks in order to take in every detail. The frock was a soft satin-surfaced cloth of deep rich mulberry color that is bound sooner or later to be as popular as flutée blue once was. Her skirt was slit open from hem to some distance above the knees in front to show an underdress of beaver-brown velvet picked out in tiny jet-worked figures. Her shirt waist opened in front to show a flat vest and collar of the brown similarly decorated, and I can assure you that this study in mulberry brown and black is quite the most piquant thing I've seen in two months. Her toque had a crown of mulberry velvet, a brim of one roll of grebe, a dashing plume fastened by some invisible agent directly in the front of her crown and a big bow of cream-colored antique velvet adjusted a little above the brim to the left side. That hat, I'll wager, was her milliner's supreme inspiration."

The 1900 Shirt Waist.

Instead of giving up the shirt waist, as fashion arbiters seemed determined they should, women have decided that it is the most useful article in their wardrobes, and this season will cling to it more determined than ever. The differences in style between the new ones for the season of 1900 and those of last year are principally matters of small detail. Bayadere and bias effects will be entirely out this summer, while vertical effects will be en vogue. Tucks will again be the height of vogue. Fan-shaped tucks are, perhaps, the newest and most novel innovation.

For backs, however, the perfectly plain French back fashionable last summer will obtain to a certain extent, while a back with a cluster of tucks on either side, either parallel or forming the fan-shape, will have wide vogue, too, being newer.

In materials, percales, gingham, madras and cheviot are favorites, and will be more worn than ever. Stripes will be largely in the ascendancy in pattern designs. White lawn will be much used for midsummer wear.

The sketches presented herewith

that they are free and give the flare to the skirt. The velvet jacket has a collar and broad lapels of chinchilla extending to the waist, and the weather has not yet been cool enough for the girl to find it necessary to close the front of the coat and to hide the pretty fluffy white front of the bodice she wears beneath it.

Becoming Bodice Effects.

Pretty little bodice effects are seen in a good many gowns, soft broad bands of silk drawn tightly around the waist, with two points in front, and they are very pretty and a pleasant change from the narrow line of stitched silk and velvet that has been worn so much.

Lace and Fur Combination.

Lace seems to be a novel fabric to combine with fur.

A Popular Negligee Effect.

The shops are full of stunning negligee gowns at this season, and there seems to be a perfect craze for original effects in garments of this description.

One of the most striking effects seen lately is here-with illustrated. It is from the Dry Goods Economist,



DAINTY NEGLIGEE.

and is a negligee of pink mousseline de soie, with bolero of lace mounted on satin. The bow is of pink satin.

AGRICULTURAL.

Wheat Farming.

A Nebraska paper tells of a man who bought a farm there, upon which there was a mortgage of \$700. He did not make much money the first year, but he sowed eighty acres of wheat the next year. It was a poor year for wheat and the stand was so poor that he thought he would not harvest it. He returned to his old home, and left the farm and the mortgage to fight it out as they pleased. The wheat ripened, fell to the ground and seeded itself well. There was a fine crop, and as some was kind enough to write about it to him, he went back, harvested it and sold it for enough to pay the mortgage and all his other debts. "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again."

Feed For Mounting Hens.

Meat and ground bones are excellent for mounting hens and so is milk. If the hens are closely confined, the best green food is finely chopped clover. A teaspoonful of sulphur for ten hens may be added to the grain mixture on clear dry days, but it will surely cause them to have rheumatism and become lame if given on damp days. For that reason one should be cautious that the condition powder that may be used contain no sulphur as they may be used at an unfavorable time. If corn and wheat are fed mostly without regard to the need of more nitrogenous foods, at this time the moulting period may be necessarily prolonged, and the hen may be very fat though not fully in feather.

Improving the Field.

The pasturing of a flock on a farm is one of the most effective and important ways of improving a field. And in the general rotation of crops it should be made a special part of it to have the land under the sheep's feet one year out of the number in the rotation followed. The profit from the use of the land will be more than can be made in any other way. The land is improved; troublesome weeds will get rid of and turned to good use, and the condition of the field will be better in every way. It is to be regretted that farmers on this continent do not realize the truth of this. It is the sheep of Great Britain and Ireland, of Germany and France, indeed, of all European countries, which have made the average yield of the crops twice as much as that of our fields.

Eggs For Market.

For most of us it pays better to raise eggs for market than to raise fowls or broilers. In raising eggs one has a long, steady market, but for fowls and spring chickens the same is not always true. Besides, after we have raised a chicken for eggs, and she has done the best she can in laying eggs, we can kill her and find a market at some price for her. The question of profits then is merely a relative matter of cost of feed and price for eggs. If good prices can be obtained for the eggs large profits are realized, but low prices probably mean loss. Consequently we must figure out how to get good prices. One located a long distance from a good market, where land is cheap and plenty, would find egg raising as profitable as breeding fancy fowls or spring chickens. The eggs that come from a great distance are generally marked seconds or culls, and they sell at such low prices that the producers cannot receive much for them. Only bakers and confectioners will buy these poor eggs, and they are sold by the case, and not even by the dozen.

Fattening Fowls.

Ten or at most fifteen days should be sufficient time for fattening fowls. Feed corn meal seasoned with salt and milk in the morning, at noon whole corn, and the same at night. Give all

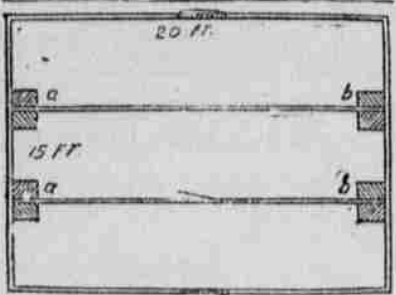


DIAGRAM OF A POULTRY YARD.

they will eat, but be sure none is left.

Clean water, plenty of sharp gravel and some charcoal should be kept where they can help themselves. Fowls fatten much easier if confined in yards than when allowed to range at will. In the diagram, the sides are of poultry netting and the yard is connected with the poultry house, where they may find shelter from storms, a, a, food dishes; b, b, water. The divisions may be removed, but are convenient in separating breeds.

Keeping Good Stock.

The practice of reducing the stock every year, "weeding" out the poor animals, as it is called, has two sides to it, which may be worth considering. Poor stock sold in the fall of the year simply to save the expense of feeding them through the winter, when cost of food is high, invariably prove a loss to the owners. Prices are usually low for such stock at any time, and especially in the fall. Everybody else is weeding out, too, and the only market for them is the butcher. It would be much more to the purpose to recommend early in the fall or late in the summer to weed out the poor animals that it will not pay to winter, and make extra exertions to feed them up to a standard which will make them sell for a decent price.

There is hardly an animal, no matter how poor and inferior, which cannot be bred up and fattened with judicious care so that it will sell for a fair price. The lean, cadaverous sides, the scrawny hair and the half-starved appearance of the animal can all be changed for the better. Shut the animals up in some clean, healthy pens, where they cannot exercise much, feed them systematically on fattening food, water them as they need it, and even curry down their rough coats occasionally.

This treatment followed up carefully for a month or six weeks will add a good many dollars to the value of the

animal. If we have scrub stock in the fall of the year that we conclude will not pay to winter, it is much better to adopt this course of treatment than to hurry them away at once to the butchers, being forced then to accept almost any price that is offered.

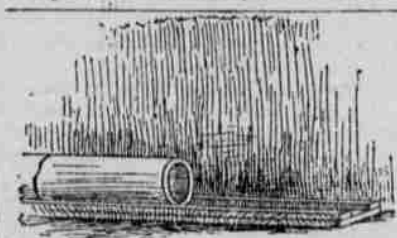
Delectable Farms For Orchard Culture.

In the vicinity of most of our large towns and cities are many desirable farms that may be purchased for little more than the buildings cost, and which are admirably adapted to orchard culture. The man who possesses the wisdom requisite to carry out the details in successfully embarking in fruit-growing, will at once determine the character of soil desirable to succeed with the apple. He will not buy a river bottom of alluvial deposit, well knowing that such a soil is not the natural home of the apple tree. Nor can such farms be bought as cheaply as the rougher and broken fields of the hills and uplands; and here it is that the apple tree delights to spread itself. Set here in a soil abounding in iron and ferruginous materials as indicated by the appearance of the rocks, the apple tree thrives and bears without much cultivation, as is witnessed in scores of orchards in every natural apple-growing region, that the soil has never been turned by the plow on account of the rough and stony character of the soil.

Such orchards, it is well known, with scarcely any attention, produce abundant crops of the finest and best such soils. The one drawback on such soils is the length of time it takes to get an orchard into bearing condition in such locations. Of course, the trees at first are of slower growth, and if procured from the highly cultivated nursery stock it will take a couple of years for them to overcome the shock incident to being transferred from a rich soil and the influences of stimulative culture to this virgin soil, though less rich in immediately available plant food in large quantities. But such orchards, begun with good stock, will be long-lived and constant bearers.—Farm, Field and Fireside.

When Laying Tile Drains.

The cut shows a way to keep the tiles in a drain perfectly even on the bottom. This keeps earth in suspension in the water from settling in the irregularities of the tiles. Take a narrow strip of board and nail two strips along the sides, so the tiles will just fit in between them. Successive strips of board treated in this way will give a row of tiles that lie perfectly even from one end to the other. This condition is one of the necessities in successful tile-laying, for any unevenness in successive lengths of tile is quite sure to cause a deposit of sediment, and a consequent clogging of the drain.



DEVICE FOR SUCCESSFUL TILE-LAYING.

Where so much expense is undergone in opening a trench for the laying of tile, to say nothing of the expense of the tile itself, it seems a great pity to have a small mistake made in laying the tiles, which will soon destroy its usefulness altogether. Thousands and thousands of rods of drain tile are laid every year, the cost of which is almost wholly lost through so small a factor as the irregular laying of the sections—one section not having the same slope as its next neighbor, thus causing a halting in the flow of water, which is sure to cause, in its turn, a deposit of earthy particles that are held in suspension by the water. Though such a deposit may scarcely be appreciable at first, it amounts to a great deal in the course of a year, and the pipe is all too soon out of order and must be taken up.—New York Tribune.

Problems of Soil Exhaustion.

"According to the report of Secretary Wilson of the Department of Agriculture," says the St. Louis Republic, "certain divisions of that Department are devoting most of their time to the study of the exhaustion of soils by successive crops and the restoration of the soil to its former efficiency.

"The problem in the great West has not yet risen to the importance it has attained in the Atlantic seaboard States, where farms have been yielding for several centuries. Even in the East it has not reached the importance it possesses in European countries—France, Germany and the Netherlands.

"The problem is not so easy, however, as it appears at first sight. The same constituent elements, such as carbon, nitrogen, hydrogen, oxygen, iron, lime, phosphorus, even taken in identically the same proportions, may make as different substances as corn and sawdust or charcoal and diamond. Then, too, the absorption of the fertilizer by the soil and its conversion by the soil into forms in which plants can assimilate it furnishes another complication in the problem, so that, altogether, it is as complex as any in applied chemistry.

"The scientific study of the elements which each crop abstracts from a soil and the means by which those elements can be restored to the soil is a modern development of agriculture. This development has not made the progress which the apparently simple nature of the problems involved would lead one to expect. It seems an easy matter to analyze chemically the products—corn, rye, oats, barley, cotton, tobacco—taken from the soil and to ascertain definitely the exact elements they have carried off. It seems as easy a matter to replace these constituents by means of fertilizers of known composition.

"At present the problem is not pressing upon the United States as forcibly as the problem of supplying water to the arid plains, which only require such addition to become first-class farm land.

"The time will come, however, when the problem will be the gravest with which the Agricultural Department will have to deal, and the work done in that field now will get its reward then."

A GORILLA'S COURTSHIP.

BATTLE BETWEEN GIANT APES IN AN AFRICAN FOREST.

The Fierce Foes Were Fighting For a Mate and the Muscles of the Younger Proved Too Much For the Experience of the Older.

"After the Civil War," said Captain Jack Benton to a New York Sun man, "I drifted back into civil life. It seemed monotonous, however, after the excitement of campaigning, and, receiving an offer to go to Africa and collect animals for menageries, I jumped at it. My work took me into the interior of upper Guinea, which was then about as wild a country as there was in the world.

"One morning I left camp to make a circuit of some traps we had set in the night, and, as I wasn't on the lookout for big game, I took only a light rifle with me. Trudging through the woods, I came on a little clearing, and there, not fifty feet away, I saw a big male gorilla. He was on all fours, half-squatting on the ground.

"Equipped with only a light rifle, I had no ambition to meddle with the beast. I slipped back into the underbrush, and was about to make off as quietly as possible when the peculiarity of the gorilla's actions attracted me. He seemed to be trying to look as amiable as was possible for such a monster, and a second glance showed me the reason for this. At the right of the clearing was a second gorilla, smaller, but equally ferocious-looking, a fitting mate for the first big brute. I had evidently discovered a gorilla courtship.

"The male gorilla, trying to attract the attention of the female by unorthodox motions, was beginning to advance clumsily toward her, when suddenly a dull boom! boom! sounded from far away in the forest. Up to that instant the male gorilla, while savage-looking, had given no sign of being angry, but now all was changed. His huge jaws shut together with a snap. Then through the silence which had fallen on the jungle when the first gullen challenge was heard came a sharp bark, followed by a deep humming sound. It was the terrible battle call of a full-grown gorilla, the cry sent out when he is about to fight to the death for a mate. At the end of each echoing challenge the hairy giant beat with his big hands on his chest, while at the other end of the clearing, waiting to bestow her hand on the victor, sat the female gorilla whose charms had inspired such jealous rage.

"Suddenly there was a little flurry at the left end of the clearing, and the challenger broke through the bushes into plain sight. He was worthy to do battle with the first giant. I could see he was a veteran, with the scars of many battles on him. His big lips were rolled up in a grim snarl, showing broken teeth and great gaps, the result of former battles.

"Neither of the big animals wasted time in preliminaries; they had worked themselves up into such an insanity of rage that only killing would satisfy. Each advanced on his hind legs until within six feet of the other. Then the younger gorilla began to fight. Stepping forward with marvellous quickness for such an ungainly animal, he struck a fair-like blow with his huge paws. Had the blow gone home, no mere flesh and blood, not even the big-boned frame of his antagonist, could have withstood it. But the old gorilla had been in too many death grapples to be caught so early in the fight. Even as the big arm swung around he sprang forward, coming in close so as to miss the full force of the swing. The next instant he had swung his own arm around the younger gorilla's neck, encircling it with four feet of steel muscles and holding his enemy's head stiff upright, so that he could not bring the terrible teeth into play. Then the old gorilla opened his heavy jaws, and getting a firm grip on the right shoulder of the younger gorilla, held on like a bulldog, tearing his way through the knotted muscles and sinews and shoulder blade of his opponent. At the same time the left arm of the old fighter wrapped itself about the younger gorilla in a rib-breaking grip.

"It was only for an instant, however, that things looked so desperate for the younger fighter. The first gorilla's splendid fighting ability and tremendous strength showed themselves. Whirling up his left arm he fastened his long fingers about his antagonist's throat and tried to break his grip and shove his head back. At first the old effect of this was to make the old fellow tighten his grip on the other's shoulder. Then the younger gorilla put forth all his strength. I could see the muscles of his arm, shoulders and back gather themselves into big knots and bunch up as if they would break through the skin. The murderous deep-set eyes started forward, until they were level with the cheekbones. A last desperate effort and the big head went back, the tightly closed jaws of the old gorilla tearing the flesh and sinews as they were shoved away, but not ungrappled. Then the old fighter's right arm slowly and reluctantly uncoupled from the other's neck. The younger gorilla had broken the death grip. Both big fighters were momentarily free and stopped back to regain breath.

"Although wounded, it was the younger gorilla that made the attack. This time he did not waste any efforts on blows with his huge paws. When they had approached almost within striking distance the younger of the fighters made a rush. He received a blow on the head that would have crushed a man's skull. It scarcely staggered him. Then both his long arms wrapped themselves about his opponent's neck and holding his antagonist tightly clasped, he began biting with fierce energy, not a steady, gripping bite, but furious, tearing gashings, which ripped skin and flesh from face and shoulders and chest.

"The older gorilla was taken by surprise at this sudden rush and change of tactics by his opponent. But though at a disadvantage, he was too old a fighter to be easily dismayed. First he secured a grip on his opponent's throat, and straining every muscle tried to tear himself free from the infuriated grasp of the younger beast. He might as easily have broken a steel cable as the strangling

held of his enraged opponent. Then the older fighter relaxed his grip on the other's throat, and placing both his big human-like paws on the younger's face tried to force his head back.

"This brought out a terrific trial of strength. If the old gorilla could force the other's head back, he would be free and might perhaps break his enemy's neck. Each of the huge fighters seemed to know this and put forth all of his giant strength. Back, shoulders, arms and neck were called into play, the heavy muscles rippling up and gathering into big knots. The snarling growls, which had marked the beginning of the fight, had died away. Each animal was silent. A stillness seemed to have fallen on the whole jungle, and the crackling of the twigs and dry leaves seemed unnaturally loud as the two gigantic fighters came to the supreme struggle.

"For what was probably half a minute, and seemed an hour, the two semi-human shapes stood there putting forth every energy. At last the younger fighter's face was within two inches of his opponent's head. The younger gorilla made a supreme effort, twisted his head suddenly and before his opponent could dodge had fastened his teeth in a death grip on the throat of the veteran fighter.

"Up to this time the battle had been fought in silence, but as the old gorilla gave up the contest and felt the teeth of his antagonist sinking deeper and deeper into his throat, the pain was greater than he could bear. He broke into a wailing cry that echoed through the jungle. I have heard the death cry of many animals, but never a call like that of the dying gorilla. The half human wail broke out again, but while I was standing irresolute it ceased. The fierce, hard fighting, hard-biting younger gorilla had been working his way through his antagonist's throat and had at last hitgen through the wind pipe. The great fight was over, and the veteran of many similar contests had met the fate he had meted out to others.

"I watched the younger ape, as if fascinated, while he wreaked his revenge on the body of his dead enemy. Then with a start it occurred to me that I would suffer a similar fate if I stayed in that vicinity. But I had no real cause for anxiety. The gorilla had other matters to think of. The last glimpse I had of the conqueror was as, with the glare of battle still in his eyes and covered from head to foot with his own blood and that of his enemy, he marched off in triumph toward her for whom he had fought so desperately and so well."

BUEER ACCIDENTS TO BANG

Used as Gaslighters, Choked and Boiled With Carbon Dioxide.

"While it cannot be stated as an American habit to use gas with money," says an official of the redemption of the Treasury Department, "the number who appear actually money to burn, and who then burn it. There are a few burners, too, than come and demand a redemption partly destroyed money, people hesitate before they appear in such a position. I don't want to stand as stating that it is today, for that would probably be somewhat, but it is it occurs many more times than supposed. A case came to the division last week a fellow lighted a match in his room and from what he supposed was a paper which he had in. He started with the lighted match, but he found he had blown out his lighted paper, to his surprise, that his taper was a ten more than one-half of which burned. In his company the Secretary of the Treasury whom he was advised to be mitted that he was a fool as a kick instead of anything, said as grass was rather him he would have to appeal. He furnished several affidavits which have to be filed in such a new bill was sent him for burned note which he sent demption. Lots of times money, but make no demption, supposing that the Treasury Department does not claim is made none in suggestion.

"I had a case somewhat similar recently, and there any similar occurrences, as a five-dollar note up to a five-dollar note. The paper was a playful disposition," wrote of him owned it, and the Governor him playing with the note, but recognize it as money. He play any more in my eye. Later on, when the puppys, playing with it, the owner of a self with a note which had fallen on the floor. The case were very amusing man got his remnant of deemed at its full value.

and gas lighting people are olds in the majority. The number of such cases the women sufferers is so small almost be said they don't by using it as lighters. A woman who boiled almost a instance several bills which means got in the folds of a head of cabbage. She dropped into her basket and back from the market. were pretty well wrecked cabbage was being cut up were discovered, but enough left on which demption.

Signaling With the Helio. The heliograph which is so much used by Generals White at Luchysmith, is the first visual signaling, for it is a cardinal military utility, rapidity, range and is an instrument for direct telegrams of the sun on distant stations by means of a mirror, but may be described accurately, though more as a shaving-glass mounted tripod. By the aid of a mirror the sun is reflected into a station. When this is made by the aid of a heliograph, the light can be flashed required point in the method.

The "helio" is extremely weighing with its stand a soldier's rifle. It is possible virtue of telegraphy, people standing even at a distance from the point, rays are directed its signal. But this fact is useful it is to have the full on the distant station, insure this the helio has sun" as he travels through. Two screws, one giving movement and the other movement to the mirror, centre, effect this, and be manipulated by the in the act of sending with interruption to the message.

Cordova Leather. At the court of Elizabeth topped Spanish boot—like to our eyes, theatrical—lar among the rival courts desiring to outvie the queen's eyes. The most admired of all were Cordova leather, edged lace, and having gold times buff and red and rarely the now prevalent was the material. She seem to have gone out of the Stuart era, so far classes went. Your always adhered to a most stantial shoe when at home drew on boots every journey—a terrible experience short the distance middle of the last century Charles II.'s day Cowley Dr. Thomas Sprat from London as Chertsey, might very conveniently "the way of Hampton there one night."—The Magazine.

Old German. The old German has a strange way of keeping clothes she gave out of was nothing less than a perpetual wash list. possibility of making had a picture of each simply wrote down the thing opposite its picture of chalk which was thing was returned and the following week, wash lists are pretty

The Gaioowar of Baroda has a \$1,000,000 necklace. The first steamboat plied the Hudson River in 1807. At Japan's Atlantic City (Ika) everybody goes naked. Among the relics of cliff dwellers in Colorado is one building that sheltered probably six thousand people. Members of the British Parliament are required to raise their hats when alluded to in the speeches of fellow members.

The smallest size scissors have blades a little less than one inch in length; the largest hand shears exceed two feet. The Icelanders will not burn ash for firewood, because they believe that those who sit about a fire will become enemies. High heels, it is said, owe their origin to Persia, where they were introduced to raise the feet from the burning sands of that country.

In 1792 the first row of houses was built in Boston. They remained untenanted for months because the citizens said they reminded them too strongly of London. Melbourne, Australia, recently experienced the first fall of snow in its history. It came late in the Australian winter and was heavy enough for the children to make snowballs.

Natural gas conveyed in bamboo tubes was utilized in China years ago, and one of their writers mentions boxes which repeated the sounds of persons' voices that were dead—a machine similar to the phonograph. A Natal man has attracted some attention by his discovery that the dreaded locust can be got rid of by smearing a few of the insects with an infectious preparation and liberating them to communicate their fatal message to the swarm.

Coal was first used at Newcastle-on-Tyne about 1230. About fifty years later it became an article of trade between that place and London. It was generally considered so injurious to health that it was regarded as a public nuisance. Buenos Ayres seems to have the largest "rooking-stone" yet discovered. It is situated on the slope of the mountain of Tondil, in the southern part of the province, and measures ninety feet long by eighteen feet broad, and is twenty-four feet high. Its bulk is 5000 cubic feet, and weights at least twenty-five tons.

When Fat Cornered Nansen. Dr. Nansen, the Arctic explorer, came across an Irishman on one occasion who declared that he had traveled farther north than anybody. "What nonsense!" exclaimed the doctor, getting angry. "Why, sir, do you know I calculate to have traveled as far as any human being can possibly get."

But still the Irishman persisted, and went on to say: "Now, listen to this. How do you know that ye've traveled as far as any human being can get?" "Because," replied the doctor, "I came to a huge wall of ice that no one could get around."

"What did ye do then?" "Well, I conversed with my staff of men on the subject."

"Ah, yes, begorra," explained Pat. "O' heard ye. O' was on th' other side o' the wall!"

And he walked away in triumph.—Spare Moments.

A Very Beautiful Pearl. The most beautiful pearl in existence is in the crown of one of the former Czars of Russia and is on exhibition in the Kremlin at Moscow. It is a perfect sphere, and so pure as to appear almost transparent. It weighs ninety grains.