

FARM AND GARDEN.

Briers in Pastures.

On land where briers grow naturally, it is difficult to eradicate them. Pastures may be overstocked with sheep, which are fed extra, and in this way cleared up, but mowing them off each year will not run them out. A few Angora goats are undoubtedly the best means to clear them up. The goats will eat briars and brush in preference to grass.

The Difference in Raisins.

Governor Board reports a difference in the annual profits between two patrons of creameries managed by him of \$25.38 per cow on account of the difference in amount of production, one herd averaging a gross income of \$15.98 per cow while another averaged \$5.35, the first netting \$30 in excess of the cost of keeping and the second only \$5.

The Kansas Agricultural College.

In some investigations in the summer of 1908 at the Meriden creamery, found that the poorest cow averaged \$7.54, and the best one \$42.09, making a difference of \$34.55. The average per cow of the poorest five herds was \$9.44 and for the five best, \$33.74, a difference of \$24.30.

Weeds Rob the Soil of Moisture.

There is probably nothing, except irrigation, that will do so much to help a crop resist droughts as frequent but shallow cultivation. This cultivation prevents a great waste of moisture by destroying the weeds as well as checking evaporation, although some farmers would not believe this to be the case.

Some believe that weeds are a detriment to the farmer only by increasing the labor of harvesting crops and in using up the plant food that would otherwise be taken up by the cultivated plants.

This is all true, but there is another way in which the weeds are detrimental, and that is by using the water or moisture in the soil which is always needed by the growing crop, and this is especially true during dry seasons.

The farmer who keeps his land free from weeds is, so to speak, putting barrels upon barrels of water upon his land, and it is done with a great deal less labor than if the water were applied directly.

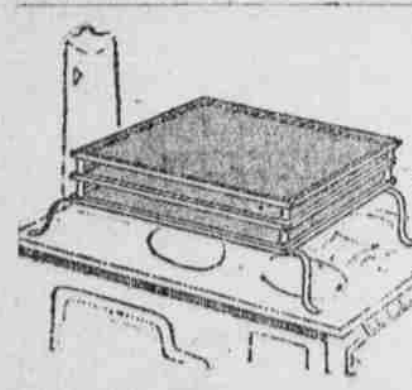
How to Have Birds All Winter.

It is not so wild a question as it first seems to be, whether we may be able to have birds with us quite freely all winter, and to increase the number of species that will give up migrating. I believe that it is pretty well understood that birds do not leave the north on account of the climate, so much as because of a decrease of the food supply. These varieties of birds which live upon the eggs of insects, and weed seeds, have adjusted themselves to a permanent home with us by changing coat and color. We have found that the thrushes are also quite willing to stay all winter. At least a few robins remain wherever there are warm shelters and plenty of food.

It is worth our while to consider the conditions essential to the increase of these winter neighbors. I find that the food most relished by the thrushes is the berries of the mountain ash. Other species of birds drop down in flocks, on their way north or south, and dine from the same trees. It is astonishing how much food a single tree can furnish. And yet almost any farmer can easily find room for a half dozen of these trees. For the pine grow back the high-bush cranberry is preferable. I suggest the planting of evergreen windbreaks, and the larger supply of the trees and shrubs that I have named as an experiment. I have had robins with me all winter. But other winter birds have been more scarce than usual.—E. P. Powell, in New England Homestead.

A Cook Stove Evaporator.

An evaporator is a luxury few farmers can afford unless they intend going into the fruit business to quite an extent. The illustration shows a cheap and handy evaporator within the reach of all. The frames are made of any size desired, six feet being handy dimensions if the stove is large enough to accommodate it. Over the frames,



EVAPORATOR ON THE COOK STOVE.

which should be made of two and a half or three inch strips of board screen wire netting is firmly tacked. For the legs to be fastened on the bottom frame, take four pieces of strap iron from a foot and a half to two feet long. Through one end of each iron drill two or three holes for screws. Fasten these to the bottom side of the frame with inch screws and then with a wrench or some other tool bend the legs in such a way as to leave a space of from a foot to eighteen inches between the frame and surface of the stove. On the upper side and near the corners of the frame, drive in small nails so that they penetrate the wood deep enough to leave an inch in length sticking up. Over these slip four thread spools. By driving corresponding nails into the bottom side of the second frame to slip down into the spools, it is held in place. The third frame is fastened in the same way and as many more as desired can be added. The frames are high enough above the stove so as not to interfere with cooking. The fruit dried in this way is of a good quality, and the work can be done as rapidly as in a high-priced evaporator.—J. L. Irwin, in American Agriculturist.

High Priced Feed.

This season promises to be one of

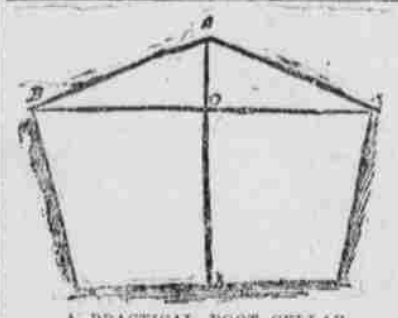
high priced feeding stuffs. Hay was a short crop in this country, and straw will be high. While we have a good crop of corn, it is not excessively large, and the usual reserves have been used up very close. Exports tend to increase, and the feeding demand at home will again be large. There is reason to believe that the price of corn will rule fairly high all season. Such conditions should lead to better care of corn stover than has been given by many in the past.

The amount of stover from an acre of land varies so much with variety and latitude that figures are not satisfactory; but in what may be called the centre of the corn belt we may count upon one and one-half tons of stover from an acre of fairly good corn. Two-thirds of that, or one ton, will be eaten by stock with relish, and experiments by scientific men show that the part eaten is just about as digestible and nutritious as an equal weight of timothy hay. That is to say, we should place about the same value upon the stover of an acre of land as we do upon a ton of hay if wanted for feed. This is in accord not only with the experiments of scientists, but also with the experience of thousands of practical farmers. For horses at hard labor the stover is inferior, but for idle horses and for cows it is superior. Viewing the matter as it is, no stover needed for feed should be left to weather in the field until midwinter. There are better ways within the reach of every one.—David, in Farm and Fireside.

Storing Root Crops.

A common and practical way of building root cellars is shown in the illustration. This method of construction is commonly used in the great potato growing sections of the country. Excavate by means of a scraper, and then set up the retaining walls. The upright pieces at the sides should be two by four studding placed not more than four feet apart. The floor may be of plank, or may be simply of earth. If no planks are used, the studding should have the lower end imbedded in the earth to prevent it from slipping.

The siding may be of inch boards



A PRACTICAL ROOT CELLAR.

and should be nailed to the studding before they are raised into position. The joists (B, O, C) should be of two by four, and the supports for the roof should be of the same material. The space above the joists may be filled with straw or leaves, or hay, to prevent freezing in the cellar. The plates, which are secured at the top of the studding, may be placed somewhat above the level of the surface of the ground. Part of the earth which is removed in excavating should be banked up against the walls under the roof, so that the slope of the ground will be away from the cellar.

Doors may be placed at intervals in the roof so that roots can be shoveled from a wagon directly into the cellar. At one end of the pit there should be solid double doors, so that entrance may be had to the cellar in cold weather without permitting the cold to enter. The upright center-piece (A, B) should not be more than five to six feet high, and the length of the cellar may be as great as desired. The width may be from eight to ten feet. If this can be constructed on a slight slope of land it will be all the better.—Country Gentleman.

Orchard Culture.

A large apple crop such as we have this year always encourages the planting of more orchards, and we suppose this year will be no exception. In setting an orchard a man has many years to wait before he can receive any return from his investment, and during all those years he should give good cultivation, fertilization and care in the way of pruning or training, which is the better way, because it expresses the better way. When this has been done properly and the trees begin bearing he has an investment which will give good returns for many years if the care is kept up. It is then false economy to take any chances in the start by purchasing cheap trees, or by carelessness in preparing the ground for them. Thoroughly decide on the varieties to be set, selecting such as are adapted to the soil and climate from among those that are in demand in the market. Buy only a reliable party, who can be depended upon to furnish healthy, vigorous trees, true to name, and see that they are taken up with care. To obtain such it may be necessary to pay a little more than would sell for, but scrub stock in an orchard is as bad as elsewhere on the farm.

Do not commit the mistake of making the land too rich, or of putting manure into the hole before setting the tree, but have the land in good condition, say as good as for a corn crop. Give it good cultivation while the trees are growing, avoid the small grain crops, but growing corn, beans or peas, roots, tomatoes or squashes between the rows to get some pay for the use of the land and for the labor of working it each year. It is easy from the above list to make a rotation that would last until the trees well filled the ground, or if it does not there are others, like small fruits, which might be added, or even a crop of chickens. The fertilizer used for these hoed crops would feed the trees also and it would be placed just where the trees most needed it, beyond the extremity of the branches, to tempt the feeding roots to extend out after their food. Whatever crop may be chosen do not crowd the trees with it. While the ground will need working clean to the trunk of the trees, it is better that there should be space enough to work there after the crop has grown too large to cultivate among. He who does this will probably guard against borers and other insect pests, and will have an orchard that will give both pleasure and profit.—Massachusetts Ploughman.

In Milwaukee recently during a rainstorm several trees were set on fire by diverted electric currents.

Good Roads Notes

Aid to Rural Highways.

NEW YORK wants good roads. This fact has been demonstrated in no uncertain way by the number of petitions for road improvements which have been presented since the passage of the Highley-Armstrong law. These petitions were from all parts of the State, and speedily showed that the appropriation of \$50,000 for State aid would not meet half the demand.

In the law are incorporated the most desirable features of the State aid laws of other States, while the objectionable ones have been eliminated. The following notes of explanation are by William W. Armstrong, who introduced and helped to secure the passage of the law.

The Highley-Armstrong Good Roads bill is the result of several years of hard work and earnest discussion, and from year to year has been altered and modified to meet criticism and opposition. On account of the changes so made from time to time there seems to be some confusion about the provisions of the act which was finally approved. An intelligent consideration of the subject, therefore, requires at the outset a brief statement of the provisions of the law.

The act provides that any board of supervisors "may" adopt a resolution declaring that public interest demands the improvement of a certain piece of highway not located in a city or village, and that upon a petition of the owners of a majority of the lineal feet fronting upon such a highway it "must" adopt such a resolution.

A copy of this resolution is then to be transmitted to the State Engineer, who shall first determine whether the piece of highway indicated is of sufficient public importance to receive State aid; if so, he shall map the highway, cause plans and specifications for the improvement and an estimate of the cost to be made, and transmit copies thereof to the Board of Supervisors. The Board of Supervisors, with these facts and figures before them, "may" then adopt a second resolution, declaring that such a highway shall be improved, or it may refuse to go any further with the matter if it so chooses.

This plan was adopted after a most careful consideration, so as to preserve the principle of home rule to the counties of the State; so that no county could be compelled, if unwilling, to improve any portion of its highway; and so that no county should be permitted to do so until it had all the facts and figures before it.

If a county, therefore, desires merely to know how much it will cost to improve a certain piece of highway, it need only adopt the first resolution and get the plans and estimate the cost, free of charge, without going any further. If it chooses, after ascertaining the cost, to adopt the second resolution, it may, but it cannot be compelled to do so.

If, however, the Board of Supervisors adopts the second resolution, it must transmit a copy of it to the State Engineer, who then advertises for bids for the work. If no responsible bid is made within his estimate, he must make a new estimate and transmit it to the Board of Supervisors; and if the Board of Supervisors then adopts a new resolution, based upon the new estimate, declaring that nevertheless such highway shall be improved, the State Engineer must advertise for bids as before.

When a responsible bid within his estimate is made the State Engineer awards the contract; but if the town or county desires to do the work itself it has the preference over all bidders. This provision enables localities having scrapers and other appliances for improving their own roads to utilize them in doing their own work under this act, and so keep all the money expended at home.

Each Board of Supervisors has, under the general highway law, the power to elect a County Engineer. If it has elected such an officer the State Engineer must act through him. If it has not he must supervise the performance of the contract himself.

When the work is completed he must draw a warrant upon the State Treasurer for one-half the cost of the work, and certify the other half to the Board of Supervisors, which must levy fifty-five per cent. of the whole cost of the work upon the county. The other fifteen per cent. is payable in one of two ways, namely: If the Board of Supervisors adopted the first resolution for the improvement without a petition from the adjoining owners, the Board of Supervisors must levy the fifteen per cent. upon the town in which the improved highway is; but if the first resolution was adopted after such a petition, the Board of Supervisors must cause the Town Assessors to levy the fifteen per cent. upon the property owners on the improved highway.

Such, in brief, is the plan which has finally been approved by the Legislature for affording aid in the improvement of rural highways.—New York Journal.

Value of Good Roads.

It has been figured out in New Jersey that land values tend to rise thirty per cent. in value wherever good roads are introduced, irrespective of other natural benefits. They are invariably the forerunners of other improvements, such as the electric railways, free mail delivery, increased demand for country residences and so on. They create far greater social unity, they spread intelligence, they give to the isolated citizen a political significance not otherwise attainable.

Placed at Disadvantage.

The farmer who is compelled to use bad roads when he is able to get to market, generally finds it forestalled and himself obliged to ship to some distant point, while the farmers along the railroads of the Far West or on the good wagon roads of Ohio, Indiana, New Jersey and Canada are supplying his home market.

ENCOURAGING THRIFT.

A Business Man Who Has Found That It Pays.

"I always have confidence in people who save a little money out of their salaries," said a prominent Western merchant, "and I do what I can to encourage habits of thrift. I employ about seventy-five clerks in my establishment, to whom I pay weekly salaries ranging from \$10 to \$40. Naturally enough more of them get the former than the latter amount, but they are none the less worthy on that account. In the beginning when I employed only two people, I lived pretty close to them, and I knew how thriftless they could be when they were not encouraged to be otherwise. I have discharged more clerks for that sort of thing than for any other cause. They spent their salaries, large or small, as might be, in a reckless fashion, and let debt accumulate quite regardless of the rights of creditors. As my business increased, and with it my profits and my force of people, I began to give the matter more study, and in the end, when I felt able to be of material assistance in encouraging thrift and honesty, I proposed a yearly recognition of those who would save something out of their salaries. It was small at first, but was so successful that to-day I haven't a clerk who has not some kind of a bank account, and not one who wilfully refuses to pay his debt. When we get a new one who refuses to take advantage of the opportunities afforded we let him go at the end of his first year.

"My present plan is to double the savings of all clerks who receive \$10, \$12 and \$15 a week; to add twenty-five per cent. to all who receive from \$15 to \$25, and ten for those over \$25. A clerk on \$15 a week or under cannot save much, but as a rule that class of clerks have no one to maintain but themselves, and if one cannot save more than \$25 out his year's labor, it is rather pleasant for him to get \$25 clear profit. Those who receive the larger amounts usually have families, and whatever they are they comfortably increased. One of my \$1200-a-year clerks, with a wife and two small children, save \$400 last year, and my check for a hundred additional was deposited to his account the day after New Year. A young woman in charge of a department at \$800 a year has almost paid for a nice little cottage in the suburbs out of her extra, and so the list runs on through every branch of the business. I make it a condition that all current obligations must be met at the end of the year, so that the savings are actual net profit. Every year some of the clerks are not entitled to any extra, but if this is the result of sickness I assume a part or all of the doctor's bills. You may say it costs something for me to do it, and you are right. But I have the best class of clerks in the city, and as a result I have the best class of custom in the city, and I guess I don't lose enough by it to necessitate an assignment at an early date," and the merchant smiled with very evident satisfaction.—Washington Star.

Her Knowledge of Chinese.

A young woman at a watering place this summer made a reputation as a profound linguist in a rather odd manner. She called one day at a Chinese laundry, where she had left a shirt waist, but it could not be found, as there was no entry in the book of hirings corresponding to her pink slip. After a half hour's search the Chinaman found the entry. A mistake had been made, the entry crossed out and a new set of hirings in tiny characters placed below. She was told that that waist would be laundered immediately and she could get it the next day.

The next day the young woman called for it, accompanied by three other young women. At the sight of the excitement of a visit to the Chinaman laundry is not to be despised. The Chinaman to whom the pink slip was presented was not the laundryman of the day before and he experienced the same difficulty in finding the identifying characters, finally saying, "Not in book." The girl answered calmly, "I can find it," and the Chinaman allowed her to take the book. Turning the leaves until she came to one that had an entry crossed out, with another in tiny characters under it, she handed it to the Chinaman. "There it is," and to his surprise, he found it.

"You only lady I know speak Chinese," he said. And the other girls looked upon her with admiration.—Kansas City World.

Saved the Chicken's Life.

Mrs. William Ditchfield, of Upland, has not studied medicine or surgery, but she has performed a surgical operation on a chicken at her home and the chicken is now living and well, having entirely recovered.

Mrs. Ditchfield prides herself on her chickens. The other day one of them was taken sick. After diagnosing the case she determined that if the chicken's life was to be saved an operation was necessary. Accordingly she whetted up a knife and, screwing up her courage to the necessary notch, she cut open the chicken's craw and there found imbedded in the side a small silver of bone. After much trouble she succeeded in removing it. Finishing the thing in a style almost professional, she neatly sewed up the incision with silk thread.

The chicken is to-day running around as lively as any of the brood. Mrs. Ditchfield is now looking for more chickens with bones in their craws.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

How Mexicans Make Ice.

In one of the highest valleys of Oaxaca, Mexico, at an elevation of 8000 or 9000 feet, there is a flourishing ice industry, which is based on the well-known principle of the reduction of temperature by radiation of temperature during the night. The ground is covered with a large number of wooden troughs, which are filled with water, and during the winter nights a film of ice not more than one-eighth of an inch in thickness is formed. This ice is removed on the following morning, stored into holes in the ground, and then covered with earth. It rapidly solidifies and is then cut into blocks, and sent by mules to the cities below, where it is readily sold.—San Francisco Call.

THE MUSKRAT AT HOME.

How He Builds and Lives and Masquerades as Terrapin.

The muskrats have begun to build their winter houses and put on their winter coats. Among the waving flags thousands of coneshaped muskrat houses are in course of construction. The family habitation is made of dry, coarse flags and grasses, small pieces of water-soaked wood and small stones, all cemented together by a peculiar mortar which only the muskrat knows how to prepare by chewing clay and mud into a fine preparation. The old negro hunter declares that the cementing is done with evenness and precision by the industrious little worker by means of his paws. Two or three holes or "leads" allow the rats to pass out or enter below the ice. The houses are rough on the outside and are built from three to five feet high. Old hunters and close observers of the habits of the muskrat say that the little marsh dwellers know in advance how high the spring tides will rise. As verification of this claim it is observed that all beds in a given marsh are of the same height.

The houses below the water line are bare, mud inside, with a floor of sticks and grasses a few feet above the water. Upon this scaffold-like floor the rats are said to lie with their heads toward the "lead," ready at a moment's notice to dash out and appear at the surface 200 yards away in deep water. The law passed by the last Legislature gives added protection to these, the most popular fur producers on the Eastern Shore of Maryland and Delaware, which are caught by the hundred thousand each winter. The little animals are in many cases caught in steel traps secured by strong chains. As soon as the rat is trapped it plunges into the water weighed down by the trap, and is drowned. A muskrat authority gives the interesting bit of information that, while a muskrat is compelled to breathe under water, it can travel for miles under the ice by a scientific air-producing process which enables it to remain under the ice covering for hours. In order to do this it must stop as often as once in twenty minutes and eject its breath into the water. This air rises to the surface, forming a big pale bubble. After it has been exposed to the water for a few minutes the bubble becomes oxygenated, when the rat inhales the globe and resumes his journey.

Muskrafs when served by the Eastern Shore cook as "muck terrapin" will challenge the epicure to distinguish it from the real Chesapeake diamond-back. When properly skinned the muskrat tastes and odor entirely disappear, and when properly cooked the almost black flesh is juicy, tender and sweet. The food of the rat is the roots of marsh grasses and shrubs which grow on the shores and no morsel of food is touched until it has been thoroughly washed.—Chesapeake (Md.) Correspondence in the Baltimore Sun.

CURIOUS FACTS.

The report comes from Damascus that the remains of a valuable library that escaped destruction when Tamerlane sacked the city in 1401 have been discovered by one of the city officials.

The Journal L'Agriculteur records a curious observation of a specialist, namely, that nightingales devour the droves of a live and leave workers unmolested. As an experiment, twelve of the former and six of the latter were killed and placed by the hive; the twelve were eaten, the six not touched.

The remains of an ancient gallery were recently found six feet below the surface at Tottenham marshes during the excavations for the new reservoir of the East London Water Company. It is supposed to have belonged to the Danes, who were defeated in Lea Valley by King Alfred in 804 A. D.

One of the skyscrapers in New York City has a daily population of 3100, and the mail sent out from it averages 18,000 pieces a day. Every forty-five minutes a mail wagon from the Post-office carries away from this building about seventy-five pounds of outgoing mail. Another New York office building sends out 35,000 pieces of mail every week day.

A remarkable case of the death of a little girl from the bite of a fly comes from St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London. The child complained that a fly had bitten her on the nose. Her face soon began to swell, it was not long before she was delirious, and in spite of every effort she died. The hospital autopsy developed the fact that blood-poisoning had resulted probably from poisonous microbes introduced into the system by the fly. Such cases are not without precedent, but are rare.

The village of Neodesha, Kan., was recently visited by a tornado, and at the end of the excitement a farmer living in the vicinity struck his head out of his cyclone cellar and found that his choicest field was occupied by a strange house of small dimensions. He could not identify the building as belonging to any of his acquaintances, and up to date all his efforts to do so have been unavailing.

Mr. Chamberlain's Orchid. On the Quai des Fleurs, in Paris, Mr. Chamberlain saw one day a rare orchid.

"How much?" asked the future Minister.

"Twenty pounds, monsieur; it is the only specimen in France."

"Here is the money," replied Chamberlain, and, drawing the notes from his pocket, he took the flower, tore it to pieces and trampled it under foot, saying, "I have it in my own collection, and I object to a Frenchman having a duplicate."—Paris Letter to Toulouse Express.

Singular Watch Charm.

Miniature Bibles are worn as watch charms in Russia. They are each one inch long, three-fourths of an inch wide, and three-eighths of an inch thick, and contain the first five books of the Old Testament. The text is in Hebrew, and can be read with the aid of a magnifying glass.

WHY SOME MEN GROW TALL.

Length of Limb and Body Are Indications of Unnatural Growth.

The biggest living man is Lewis Wilkins, who is now arousing great interest in the scientific circles of Europe. Wilkins was born on a farm near St. Paul, Minn., in 1874. When he was but ten years old he measured six feet in height, and now has grown to the tremendous height of 107 3/4 inches—just three-quarters of an inch less than nine feet—and weighs 354 pounds.

There have been other tall men and women before Wilkins, and scientists have striven in vain to account for these freaks of nature. Only lately a plausible story has been put forward by a French physician, Dr. Marie, who says that gigantism is nothing more or less than a disease. This disease generally occurs in patients between the ages of eighteen and thirty-five, and is first called acromegaly (from two Greek words meaning "enlargement of the extremities"). If the patient is not attacked until after he is eighteen the ends of the bones in the arms and legs are enlarged and prolonged slightly, but if this disease has attacked a child at or soon after birth gigantism is the result. The bones are prolonged all along their length, grow unnaturally, and the result is a giant.

When you see a big man it is, therefore, a question whether he is a naturally strong or whether he is a sufferer from acromegaly. All giants have not been acromegalic, according to Dr. Marie. He mentions two giants in the French army who did not belong to this class. One was Charles Freut, a cavalry soldier, who was six feet eleven inches, and another was Marat, a drum major in the Nineteenth Regiment of infantry, who measured six feet nine inches.

Perhaps the greatest giant who ever lived before Wilkins was Charles Byrne, an Irishman. He measured nine feet two inches. His skeleton is still preserved, proving beyond question his enormous size. He was probably acromegalic.

Other giants were Constantine, born at Zurich, Switzerland, eight feet one inch; Herold, born at Leipzig, seven feet five inches, and Lady Emma, eight feet one inch.

The Gold Bullet.

A weird story is told of a man by the name of Van Boesboom, who is distinguished in the Transvaal as the best shot in the Republic. He is fifty-five years old and never, it is claimed, has he missed an object at which he fired. A few months ago he had a productive gold mine and a flourishing family, but he lost his mine recently, and soon after his two sons were slain as they were fighting against the English. The loss of his mine troubled him little, but when he learned that his stalwart sons were no more a change came over him. He took his old flint-lock rifle, which he calls Lobengula, and with a bag of golden bullets he went to the front to fight the foes of his country. And it is said that during the recent battles when the ambulances removed each day those who had fallen in battle, the physicians could readily pick out the officers who had been killed by Van Boesboom, for instead of two ounces of lead or steel they had two ounces of gold either in the heart or in the forehead.

Whether this be truth or fiction I know not, but I do know that there are multitudes of men and women who are shot to death in these days, not only in South Africa, but in Europe and America as well, by the bullets of gold.—Homiletic Review.

Treasures of Ateic Times.

The work that is being carried on in the Calle de las Escalerillas for the laying of the sewer mains has led to important archeological discoveries, for as is well known, that street, as well as the present cathedral, formed part of the site of the great temple of Huizilopochtli, the Aztec god of war. The latest discoveries seem to be the most important of all. Foremost among them are two figures of the god Ehecatl (god of air), the companion of Quetzalcoatl. One of these figures is painted red, yellow and black, and in spite of the dampness of the ground where it has lain for centuries, the colors have remained fresh and vivid.

These idols are adorned with disks of gold, which are polished and engraved in a remarkable manner. The disks are about twenty centimeters in diameter and the gold plate is of fair thickness.

Other objects found at the same time were four ear ornaments of gold, a gold jewel case belonging to the god of air, beads, amulets of green stones, axes of silver, small idols of stone, lances of sharp stones, a curious mask of pyrite of iron, knives of large dimensions, a mask of diorite, censers of earthenware painted in colors, and many other figures of stone and cement, the latter being always polychromatic.—Mexican Herald.

Corisca.

In the main, Corsica, where it has no French officials to leave its politics, is still Corsican rather than French; and in the mountains the old spirit of independence is far from dead. For these and other obvious reasons, France is bound to keep active garrisons in the island, though she would do better by much with the more acceptable chains of a maternal administration. More railways, drained marshes, increased education, and a daily steamboat service would bind the island to the continent in self-interest and gratitude. As it is, it is scarcely too much to say that Corsica is only kept from open revolt by the element of prosperity brought to her by the tourists of winter.—Chambers's Journal.

Dangers of "High" Game.

The eating of "high" game is undoubtedly attended with risks, and the poisonous effects are probably due to the toxins produced in the earlier stages of putrefactive process. The advantage, of course, of hanging game is that the flesh becomes tender and decidedly more digestible than when it is quite fresh. The ripening process, however, may mean the elaboration of toxins. It is a curious fact that game can be made to look "fresh" and green by injecting into the fresh flesh potassium sulphide.—Lancet.

OUR BUDGET OF HUMOR.

LAUGHTER-PROVOKING STORIES FOR LOVERS OF FUN.

A Was a Bargain.—Literary Firm Announcement.—His Qualifications Confirmed.—Inured to Blame.—He Disposed of Him, Etc., Etc. "For your thoughts, miss, I will gladly give this." "Well, I think one kiss would surely not harm." "I would surely not harm." "I would surely not harm."—Chicago Daily.

Her Amendment.—"Well, unbecomingly here having," said Mr. Snuggs, after showing. "Perhaps you mean an amendment," answered Mrs. Snuggs.

Literary Persuade.—"I pity authors who have such sedentary lives." "Sedentary! You don't call publishers a sedentary life," Chicago Record.

His Qualifications.—"Yes, I advertised for a horse dealer, throwing out 'What qualifications have you?' 'I can hit a little, spend a boy, timidly.'—Answer.

His Confession.—"There's a man says he is hungry and has no money." "Go to the bank and get your money." "I don't have any money." "Then go to the bank and get your money."—Judge.

Invited to Dinner.—"Jack, you ought to strap your wedding table." "Lemme alone, Julia, I've straightened up this table, I can't a thing on it until it gets up again."—Indianapolis Journal.

How He Disposed of Him.—"Yes, sir," said the returned dicker, "one of my dogs—just a mongrel—saved my life." "And you were not heartless to sell him, were you?" "No, 'Nav, I ate him."—Press.

A Field For the Imagination.—Mrs. Fussings—"All sorts are going around about the insons." Mrs. Snoop—"No wonder, been living in the night month and nobody knows about them."—Punch.

Confidence.—Cynic—"I love." Miss Antee—"Ah! I've got all along—you might say." Cynic—"I love the delusion of babbling." Miss Antee—"Bravo!" (Ohio) State Journal.

His Very Own.—"It is a Rubens, is it not, visitor, turning from an lady the painting to the hostess." "My husband's name," Mr. Gaswell, with ending notice, William. It's his right, he said \$7000 for it."—Chicago.

Too Late.—Stuttering Employer (writer)—"B-b-b-b-b, hand me a b-b-b." Office Boy—"A better b-b-b-b-b?"

Stuttering Employer—"N-n-n-n-n; the ink has d-d-d-d-d." Harper's Bazar.

Source of His Inspiration.—"The poet's eyes flashed as he woman's footsteps upon the floor." "Ah," he mused, "is the inspiration!" And fell to writing again.

For he had heard the faintest of his landlady, and his hand due.—Harper's Bazar.

Not a Case of that Kind.—"Now that you are married her intimate friend, do you y-hyphenate your name and self Mrs. Plumb-Duff?" "No," replied the lovely, "a shy glance at her fond young husband. 'This is a solidation. It's an about'—The Ideal.

The sweet notes of the from the girls' room of the low. "I'm saddest when I sing words. 'Most women are,' 'grumble on the floor above,' 'couldn't sing and talk at the street.'—Detroit Free Press.

He Got Bigger.—Lady of the House (addressing five-year-old who, with his little man, had just dined)—"Youngster—'Pretty well, we don't have any better home; but I always get bigger.'—Berliner Tageblatt.

How He Got Religion.—"Did you ever get religion, the revivalist." "Well, I should say so—of it," replied the man. "A hundred and thirty of religion!" cried the revivalist. "Did you get that?" "The only way that I men ever get religion," "I married it."—Chicago Daily.

Worth Preserving.—Boroughs—"Sorry to have waiting so long for that row, but I'll send you a row." Markley—"For goodness don't!"

Boroughs—"Because I'd like to throw in another row for it."—Catholic Standard.

Feminine Diplomacy.—"How do you get on with your neighbors?" "Very nicely," answered the lady, "as soon as they sent over and asked to wash tubs, flat irons, and baby grand piano." "But you have all such of your own." "Of course. What I was to head these off."—Star.