

# NEW THINGS STRANGE & CURIOUS

## Cat Has Gold Tooth.

Here is a handsome young Maltese cat which boasts of a gold tooth. She is the pet and, although Dainty—that is the name to which she responds when summoned to the milk saucer—is only six or seven months old, she is probably the only kitten in America with a mouth so ornamented. Hence she is duly proud of her unique and distinguished position in aristocratic cat circles, and is fond of exposing her gold tooth for the admiration of human beholders.

Several weeks ago Dainty's master noticed that one of her incisors was not as strong as it should be for the mastication of fish and other delicacies highly esteemed by feline epicures, so he resolved upon the gold tooth. Accordingly, Dainty was relegated to that throne of misery commonly known as the dentist's chair, carefully secured to prevent her good teeth and better claws from interfering with the work in hand or the dentist's cuticle, and within an hour or so, but there was Dainty with a swordlike incisor of the purest gold.

Dainty took kindly to the new tooth immediately and paraded her gratification. Indeed, she was quite set up about it, and went



among the doctor's assistants and servants soliciting their attention. Now she is a regular show feature of the establishment. Every time a victim—be it a patient—enters Dainty makes for him or her, yawns widely and ostentatiously reveals the glittering tooth.

Dainty is remarkable for many other things. She is extraordinarily intelligent and has been taught a score or more of tricks, which she performs readily when requested. She can make a standing jump of six feet ten inches and pass through a small hoop. She can also leap from the floor to her master's shoulder, but after the performance of this feat Dainty insists that the doctor shall brush her soft coat with a whiskbroom.

Every morning she is served with an egg, medium boiled. This she eats from an ordinary egg cup, using her paw to convey the contents to her mouth. Should the cook prove so remiss as to boil the egg a trifle hard, presto! away go cup, egg and all, angrily flung about by the indignant puss, who will then snarl and scratch until an egg of the proper consistency is set before her.

## A Trumpet Violin.

Remarkably extraordinary is a musical instrument which has just been invented. It can best be described as a violin which has a trumpet in place of the ordinary sounding board. This trumpet is made of aluminum and is firmly secured to the violin. The vibrations of the strings are produced by means of a diaphragm, which is connected with the trumpet.

Miss Ethel Lynd played on this instrument in London recently and attracted much attention, not only from professional musicians, but also from members of the Royal Institute. The latter examined the instrument carefully and were highly pleased with



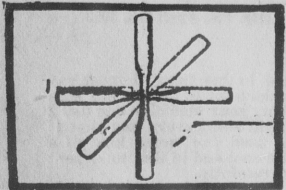
the sounds which it produced. The music of a trumpet differs widely from that of a violin, yet it is said that when the two are played together, as they virtually are on this instrument, most melodious sounds are the result.

## Boomerang For Boys.

Nevel among toys is a boomerang, and the principle on which it is constructed is highly ingenious. Three or more vanes, which are so formed that they can be readily grasped by the hand, radiate from a common center, and in order that they may cleave the air while they are rotating they are beveled on one side.

Furthermore, with the object of increasing their impetus the rear edges of the vanes are thicker than those in front. At the ends of the vanes are weights, which are of greater specific gravity than the material of which the vanes are made.

A boy, it is claimed, can soon learn to be-



come an expert marksman with this toy. Another merit which it possesses is that it admirably illustrates the manner in which its prototype, the deadly boomerang, should be handled and thrown—a subject about which European and American boys know very little.

## WHALE'S SKELETON STRANDED.

Point Lobos, nine miles from the historical old town of Monterey, Cal., has an interesting relic in a whale's skeleton ashore. It was caught by a company of Japanese whalers and divers who have a whaling station and abalone cannery there.

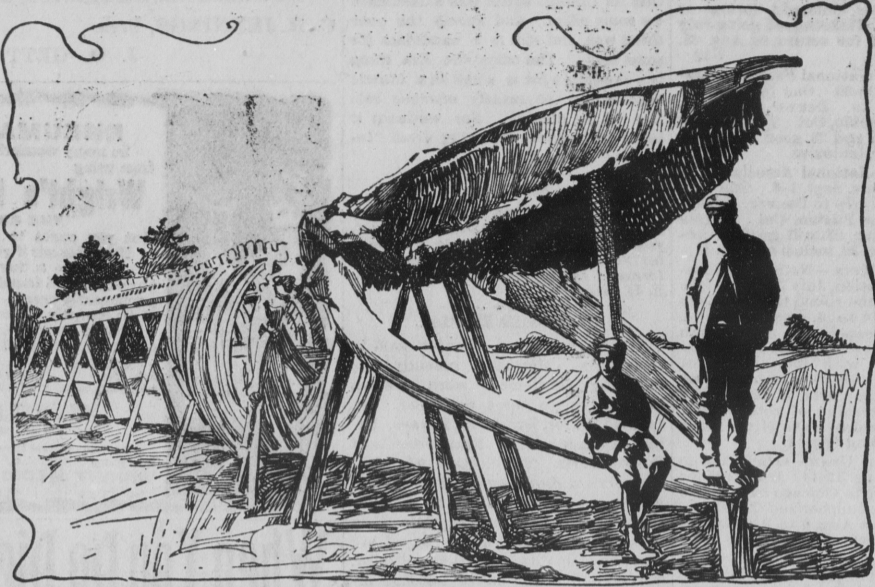
This whale, when caught, measured 80 feet in length. The bones were stripped of blubber and buried in the ground to bleach.

After several months they were dug out and a frame was erected, upon which the bones were placed, and each joint was wired.

In the top of the mouth can be seen the part which is used for whalebone. The bone proper is cut up in thin pieces and used for, book backs, match safes and other novelties.

Whales are no longer caught in this vicinity on account of other oils taking the place of whale oil, and whalebone is becoming very scarce. The bone cut in thin slices is porous.

It is considered that Japanese men are among the best needleworkers in the world, their only equals being the women of Russia.



## WILD DUCKS THAT ARE TAME

With the object in view of protecting the wild birds which inhabit Lake Worth during the winter months, Mayor Whitlida, of Palm Beach, Fla., has succeeded in having the Florida Legislature enact a law making it a criminal offense to shoot or in any way molest any wild bird in the waters of Lake Worth within one mile of Palm

Beach. This law has been strictly enforced during the last season, and as a result the wild Northern ducks which make their annual pilgrimages to this sunny clime, and which heretofore have kept well out of range of the sportsman's gun, are now quite as tame as the domestic duck, and can be seen any day

in large numbers feeding in the vicinity of the docks. It is a common occurrence for the tourists to feed these birds from their hands while out for a morning or afternoon sail, and quite often have the ducks found a resting place in the boat and become members of the sailing party.



## CAN ESCAPE FROM HIS TOMB.

By means of a novel tomb which he has just built, Mr. John M. Pursel, of Williamsport, Pa., hopes to avert the dreaded calamity of being buried alive and left to such an awful fate.

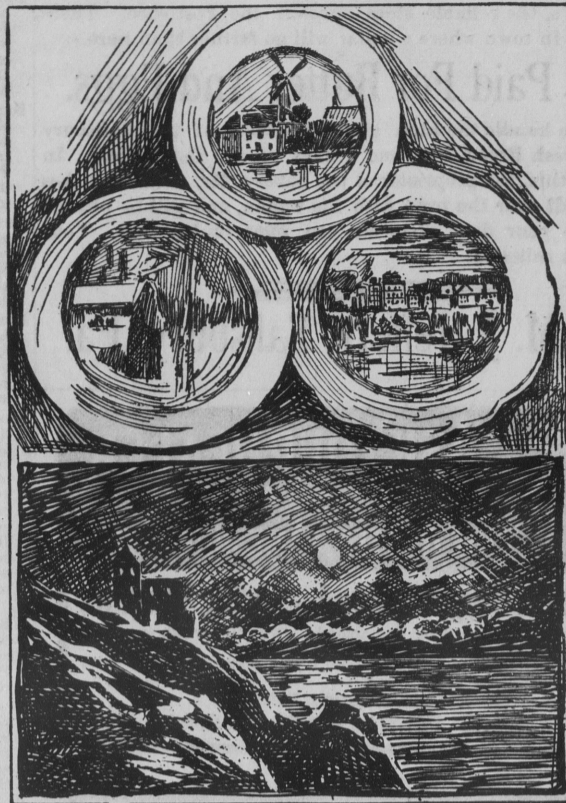
The structure occupies a prominent position fronting Grandview avenue and overlooking Grandview Cemetery. The front is a piece of solid stone masonry.

The heads of the iron receptacles are of cast steel and are fitted with combination locks. When a member of the Pursel family dies the body will be placed in one of the compartments. The coffin lid will not be screwed down, and one end will be open. Then the steel head will be bolted in place in such a manner that it can be removed from the outside only with the

greatest difficulty, but the head is in two parts, one of which fits within the other. The inner plate is detachable from the inside. Should that tomb ever contain a living occupant he or she will simply have to reach out and turn a knob and the door of the "narrow house" will open and give freedom.



## PICTURES DRAWN IN SMOKE.



Could anyone looking at the pictures here reproduced, ever think that they were literally made out of smoke? Yet they were, and several persons in Europe are now spending much of their time at work of this kind.

The only materials necessary for such an artist are a lighted wax taper or candle, two or three delicate brushes and a plate made of porcelain, china or any similar substance, the only indispensable condition being that its surface must be level and uniform. This plate should be carefully cleaned, as the least trace of grease or moisture would spoil the work.

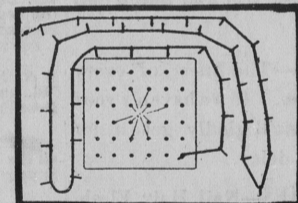
The first step is to cover the surface of the

plate with black smoke by means of the lighted taper, and the picture is then made by removing the black from certain parts of the plate. This may be done with brushes or with the point of a penknife, or even with the tips of one's fingers. If too much black happens to be taken away from any spot through a blunder, it can easily be replaced by the lighted candle.

As soon as the picture is made the plate should be slightly warmed and over its surface should then be poured some transparent varnish. In a few hours this varnish will be dry and the picture will be permanently preserved.

## Peg And Rope Puzzle.

Several small blocks and a cord divided into a number of parts form the new puzzle which is shown in the accompanying picture. The blocks are arranged in equidistant parallel rows, and the various parts of the cord correspond in number with the blocks, and are distant from them the length of a diagonal line of a rectangle which is formed by six or more of the blocks. Finally, in the blocks are holes, and secured to the vari-



ous parts of the cord are pins, which are designed for the purpose of remaining fast in the holes when they are in proper position.

The puzzle consists in so manipulating the various parts of the cord that each part will be brought in contact with its corresponding block. A novice may fancy that it is easy to fasten the pins in the holes, but a trial will soon convince him that it is quite a difficult undertaking.

The City of Tokio has 800 public baths, where some 300,000 persons bathe daily at a cost of about one cent each.

## Flowers Made By Frost

During very cold weather King Frost never fails to leave proofs of his artistic skill on the windows of rooms which are not heated, and wonderfully delicate and chaste are the crystalline figures which are traced by him on the smooth panes of glass. A notable specimen of his work in this line is shown in the accompanying picture, which represents a portion of a frost-covered window in a country house in Germany. The Germans call the fantastic designs which appear on the windows in winter "ice flowers," and those who saw the window shown in the picture say that King Frost excelled himself on this occasion. So beautiful indeed was his work that an artist promptly made an exact copy of it.



The tiny crystals on the window were arranged symmetrically and in such a manner that they represented either a bough with many offshoots or a mass of coral with branches in all directions.

There are eight printing offices in Jerusalem.

## Hooks For Babies.

It seems incredible that in the twentieth century women living in a civilized country should treat their infants in the manner in which they do in certain districts in France.

When they are obliged to leave their infants alone for an hour or so they never fail to place them out of harm's way by hanging them either from the ceiling or from one of the walls of the room. They have a rope with a loop for this purpose, and all they have to do is to fasten the rope to the cradle or clothes of the child and then place the loop over a hook, which is always fixed at a considerable distance from the ground.

That infants in such a cramped position are not comfortable can readily be seen; indeed, it is said that many of these unfortunate little creatures are seriously injured through such treatment. Happily this barbarous custom is not as much in vogue now as it was some years ago.



## Photographer's Canopy.

In the accompanying picture is shown a screen or canopy which is especially designed for photographers. It consists of a suitable frame, a light-excluding covering therefor, a curtain-supporting device which can be moved toward and from the end of the canopy over a person who is to be photographed, movable curtains or screens on this device and means for moving the device to and fro on the canopy.

It will readily be seen that in this way the light in any studio can be, so to speak, controlled. By moving the curtains in the requisite direction the photographer can at any time exclude the light, either wholly or partly, as may be desired.

