

FOR LITTLE FOLKS.

A Young Bicycle Rider.

Boston claims the proud distinction of having the youngest bicycle rider in the world. Master Thomas John Shepherd is his name, and he lives with his father in Roslindale, a suburb and annexed part of Boston proper. Thomas is a daisy, and he rides the wheel with the pleasure and the knowledge of a veteran. He is but 4 years old now, and he began to ride when he was but 3. He rode a 29 pound wheel last season and weighed just two pounds more than his machine. This year he will ride a new bicycle built especially for him, which will



weigh just 9 1/2 pounds, and his father is of the opinion that it will not tire the youngster, although he did some long distance work last year that seems simply incredible when one considers his years and his size.

He is exactly 3 feet 4 inches in height and wears the sweater with the emblem of the Roslindale Bicycle club. His father is an enthusiastic wheelman, and the boy often accompanied him last season on his rides about the country. The longest ride he ever took was one of 25 miles, at an eight or nine miles an hour pace. There is an interesting incident explaining how the boy learned to ride. Thomas had a three-wheeled velocipede and he was much interested in it and took great pleasure in it. He soon began to covet a safety, and his father took off one of the rear wheels of his velocipede, and substituted a single wheel. He told his little enthusiastic son that if he learned to ride that wheel he could have a safety. This was an easy job for the little chap, and he soon mastered the mystery of keeping his equilibrium on his new steed. Then came the regular safety, which Thomas John Shepherd rides with pleasure and enjoyment. He has a medal which was presented to him by a party of gentlemen whom he met on the road on one of his trips. It is presented to the "youngest known rider in America."—Bearings.

A Snow Leopard.

Recently, and within a few days of each other, two valuable additions have been made to the collection of animals at the zoological gardens. Both belong to the feline family, and both are leopards, but here the similarity ceases. The one is entirely black, with short fur and accustomed to the tropical climate of Johore, in the Malay peninsula, while the other is a snow leopard, with long fur and thick, bushy tail. The latter is a native of the heights of the Himalayas, and that it is a dweller in a cold climate is fully evidenced by the length of its fur. The snow leopard is docile and good natured, so that the keeper can enter his cage with impunity. The black leopard, on the contrary, is ferocious.

Although in a wild state, snow leopards are by no means uncommon in some parts of the Himalayas, and their skins are no unknown trophy to hunters, the



newcomer of the zoological gardens is the only representative of the Felis uncia in captivity. His present abode is in the lion house, where he is housed because of the dryness of the atmosphere, which is more essential to his well being than his native cold, for he is a martyr to bronchitis. On the voyage home he became very friendly with the cook and thereby contracted luxurious habits. With his morning meal he drinks tea and milk, and mutton broth is his favorite food. The ages of the two newcomers are uncertain, but they are believed to be between 18 months and 2 years.

Of the two the snow leopard is by far the more valuable from the zoologist's point of view. He represents a totally distinct species, the Felis uncia, from which is derived "ounce," a name by which he is locally known, and is as different from the ordinary leopard as the Persian is from the ordinary short haired cat.—London Graphic.

Origin of Boys' Brigades.

The Rev. R. M. Deming of the New York Baptist Missionary society recently delivered an address on "The Boys' Brigade" in the Strong Place Baptist church, Brooklyn. Mr. Deming is the originator of this brigade and spoke eloquently of its object, growth and power throughout the United States. The idea of a boys' brigade originated in the west and proved very popular in that section of the country. The first company in New York was organized in 1892. Then companies were formed in Brooklyn. In Brooklyn and New York there are over 3,500 boys enrolled as members of the brigade. Mr. Deming said: "The movement is not a scheme to provide for the boys a perpetual picnic or free circus, neither does it develop in them a spirit of belligerency. It is emphatically the opposite of all this. Its sole aim is to create in the boys the highest Christian character possible."—Brooklyn Citizen.

A MODEL WIFE.

She Had a Good Deal to Try Her, but She Wouldn't Get Angry.

The best natured woman in the world resides in the city of Austin. She has been married a number of years to a man named Peterby, who is one of the most disagreeable, quarrelsome men outside of the Texas legislature. And yet Mr. and Mrs. Peterby have never had a quarrel, for the reason that it is impossible to make her angry. He has scowled at her and occasionally wadded a chair at her, just to see if she wouldn't get angry, but he suffered disappointment in each and every instance. Peterby had been bragging to his friends about what a good natured wife he has, and Gilhooly offered to bet \$50 that if Peterby were to go home, raise a fuss and pull the tablecloth full of dishes off the table she would show signs of temper. He had tried that with his wife once, but he never repeated the experiment.

Peterby said he didn't want to rob a friend of his money, but he knew he could win. At last he made the bet. The friend was to watch the proceedings through a window. Peterby came home apparently fighting drunk. She saw him coming, went out to the gate, opened it, kissed him and assisted his tottering steps into the house. He sat down hard in the middle of the floor and howled out:

"Confound your ugly picture, what did you pull that chair from under me for?"

"I hope you did not hurt yourself?" she replied, smiling kindly. "I was to blame for it. I am so awkward. But I'll try and not do it again if you will forgive me this time." And she helped him to his feet, although she had nothing to do with his falling. He then sat on the sofa, and sliding off on the floor abused her like a pickpocket for lifting up the other end of the sofa. She said she was sorry and finally led him to the supper table. He threw a plate at her, but she dodged it and asked him if he would take tea or coffee. Then the brute seized the tablecloth, sat down on the floor and pulled the dishes and everything over him in one grand crash. Some women might have lost their temper, but not so with Mrs. Peterby. She did not blubber like a child; she did not even sulk or pout. With a pleasant smile, she said:

"Well, George, this is a new idea. We have been married 10 years and never eaten our supper on the floor. Won't it be fun! Just like those picnics we used to go to before we were married," and then the angelic woman deliberately sat down on the floor alongside of the wretch, arranged the dishes and fixed him up a nice supper. This broke him up. He owned up he was only fooling her and offered to give her \$50 to get herself a new dress with. She took the money and bought him a new suit of clothes and a box of cigars with it. Heaven will have to be repaired and whitewashed before it is fit for that kind of a woman.—Tammany Times.

Was Shylock a Jew?

Eleven different versions of the pound of flesh story exist in the early literature of Europe, none of which is founded on a historical basis, have one related by the biographer of Pope Sixtus V. The original tale runs as follows: Simon Cenada, a Jew, enters into a wager with Sechi, a Christian, staking a pound of his flesh against a large sum of money of the Christian. The Jew loses the wager, and Sechi insists on his forfeit. The case is referred to the governor of the city, who, in turn, places it before the pope, who condemns both to lifelong imprisonment, from which they are finally released on the payment of a heavy fine. An Italian, Giovanni Fiorentino, in the sixteenth century, was the first to change the roles of the Jew and Christian, and in this altered form the bard of Avon found the story. The poet himself could scarcely have known any Jews personally, since they were expelled from England 300 years before his time and were not readmitted until after his death. From stage presentations, from descriptions in books or from popular reports, which were always derogatory to the Jewish character, the poet derived his knowledge of the Jew.—Menorah.

Saving Fund Versus Bank.

The New York Recorder tells a story of a young man who was induced to join a loan association, although somewhat skeptical of their merits. He resolved as a test to put by \$10 a month in the loan association and a similar sum each month in a savings bank. At the end of 10 years he balanced his cash and found that he had \$1,800 to his credit in the association and only \$1 in the bank. This is accounted for by two circumstances, one being the dread of fines if delinquent in the association, the other being that the book value of his association stock was always so far ahead of the savings bank account that when he wished to expend any money he found it much less expensive to draw it out of the bank, hence would not disturb his shares in the association.

Women in Public Offices.

In Sweden more women than men are found in the telegraph offices, and single women are admitted to all departments of the postoffice service except that of letter carriers. Women have the same salaries and equal positions in the telegraph and postoffices in Norway and Denmark as men, and in Denmark may become "station masters" on the railway, while they also figure as shorthand writers in the parliament. We find them also in public offices on the most liberal terms that have been made in Finland and Iceland.—Philadelphia Ledger.

Serious Loss.

Mrs. Knowes—Poor Mrs. Youngwife! That fortune she's just come into will take all the sunshine out of her life. Mrs. Guesses—H'm! I don't see why you should commiserate her. Mrs. Knowes—The poor thing won't have any need of going shopping for bargains any more.—Chicago Record.

CONCERNING DREAMS.

They Occupy Only a Few Seconds and Are Affected by Events.

Doctors assert that dreams occupy a few seconds only—at most the space of about three minutes. This statement is startling to those who have not noticed for themselves what part time plays in such a connection. The writer has had several opportunities of proving its correctness himself, and many might arrive at a similar knowledge by asking to be awakened a minute or so after falling into a first sleep. All who dream will do so immediately on falling into unconsciousness. Another reliable test is to be found in the sleep that follows upon the morning summons for rising. A few more moments snatched for the tempting after doze will not unfrequently mean a dream of a very elaborate nature—one which implies almost as many hours as seconds.

Are dreams affected by the events of our wakeful hours? Is the question that has been asked over and over again, but the result of observation leads one to believe in such being the case or not, according to the importance with which we treat them. In connection with such a question events and individuals can scarcely fail to require separate consideration. Events that are all important to some do not commend themselves in that light to others, and this fact leads one to express the opinion that, according to the intensity with which outward events occupy our thoughts, will our dreams be in any way affected by them.

To one woman the exercise of hospitality means the entire surrender of her mental domain to all the worries, real or imaginary, consequent upon the preparations for the contemplated entertainment. To another, the needful directions once given, there is an immediate return to considerations which outweigh in her opinion the more material ones that held a whilom place in her thoughts. In the one case culinary failures and visions of indifferent service will probably haunt the dreams that precede or follow that entertainment. In the other no such tortures are involved in the sleeping hours.

There have been startling instances of the brain's power to solve difficult questions during sleep. A case in point is that of a lawyer engaged in a criminal defense. The examination of one witness after another seemed only to add to the proof of his client's guilt. Wearing one night with trying to find some point which might turn the scale in the prisoner's favor, he fell asleep, and in a dream the desired point stood out clearly. On awakening it was immediately worked out, and the verdict of "not guilty" was found consequent upon that revelation afforded during the hours of sleep.

When exercising the imaginative faculties to any great extent, the dreams will always preserve the ideal character of the wakeful hours. The composer will dream of the melodies which provide his own lullaby when dropping into slumber, and the artist and the writer enter the land of dreams in company with those that the pen or the brush are guided to depict with such a loving hand. Plots have been furnished and subjects for the canvas have been suggested over and over again in the quiet hours of the night, when to all outward appearances there is nothing but the most peaceful slumber on the part of the sleeper.—Cincinnati Commercial Gazette.

African Disappointments.

As a continent Africa is the home of a vigorous race of mankind, which, while resisting assimilation with European civilization, defies permanent conquest. European travelers, traders, missionaries, conquerors, may at their will and at their peril penetrate into this dark sanctuary, but their sojourn is for a day, and on the morrow the faint traces of their passage are obliterated by the exuberant growths of barbarism. Grudgingly as it is sometimes conceded, it is nevertheless a fact that the bulk of the continent of Africa is still untouched by western civilization. For one cannot believe that Africa will ever be Europeanized or brought within the pale of western progress, for in order that Africa may progress it is absolutely essential that it be developed along natural lines, but as yet the inherent powers of native genius have neither been discovered, nor in the absence of any cohesion among native tribes and in view of European rapacity are they, even if discovered, ever likely to be encouraged or fostered. No; Africa is a continent fated to be conquered and exploited by the heirs of civilization, to whom it may pay tribute, but homage never.—Nineteenth Century.

To Keep One's Youth.

A distinguished English scientist, Mr. William Kinnear, in a magazine article insists that the secret of perennial youth is to be found in the use of distilled water and phosphoric acid. He says that death, or disease that produces death, is caused by the deposit in the human system of calcareous or earthy matter, and that the drinking of distilled water, which is itself a great solvent, and the use also of from 10 to 15 drops of diluted phosphoric acid in each tumblerful of water will remove such deposits and prolong human life to the very latest limit. In several of the great hotels in New York distilled water is provided at the table and for the use of the guests in their rooms, and the advertisement of this fact attracts many patrons.—Detroit Free Press.

About Gingerbread.

The homely luxury, gingerbread, has been popular ever since the fourteenth century. It was then made and sold in Paris. In those days it was prepared with rye meal made into a dough, and ginger and other spices, with sugar or honey, were kneaded into it. It was introduced into England by the court of Henry IV for their festivals and was soon brought into general use, treacle being after a time employed in the manufacture instead of honey.—Popular Magazine.

Stopped the Wedding.

Saxon girls 1,000 years ago always wore a gold crown during the marriage ceremony, this article being kept in the church and a fee being paid the priest for its use by the brides of the parish. In the year 927 the Danes raided the south of England and stole 100 church crowns, and there was no marrying in the afflicted villages for nearly six months until new crowns could be made.—Yankee Blade.

His Mark.

At the naval academy at Annapolis they tell the story of an English professor: While marking his class at the end of a recitation a cadet in the rear part of the room craned his neck eagerly to see what had fallen to his lot. The professor saw the movement, and removing his glasses said, "Mr. Blank, your mark is entirely too small to be seen at such a great distance."—San Francisco Argonaut.

Slight Misunderstanding.

Teacher—Who was the first man? First Boy—George Washington. Teacher—Next. Second Boy—Adam. First Boy (indignantly)—I didn't know you meant foreigners.—Boston Globe.

Public Sale!

The undersigned will sell at public sale, at his farm in Union township, near Corsica, Jefferson county, Pa., on

Saturday, April 21, 1894.

The following personal property, to-wit: 120 barrels of flour, 15,000 pounds of bran, middlings and chaff, and 700 bushels of oats, at Jones' mill; sixty-five tons of hay and straw—20 tons oats straw, 15 tons wheat straw, and the balance hay, rye straw and corn fodder, all baled; 15 bushels of white beans, 200 bushels of potatoes, two barrels of piccalilli, 20 barrels of elder and vinegar, 1 Deering binder (latest improved pattern), 1 11-tube Buckeye drill, 1 wind mill, rolling screen, hay and corn fodder cutter and crusher, 1 new wagon, 2 pair hay ladders, 1 pair twin sleds, 1 sleigh, top buggy, heavy double harness (new), single buggy harness, harrows, plows, cultivators, etc., all new; also, the fine driving horse, Dan, (cost \$1,500) and numerous other articles.

TERMS—On bills of \$5.00, and over, six months, and of \$10.00, and over, one year's credit will be given, with approved security.

Any of the above enumerated articles will be sold at private sale prior to day of sale on same conditions. In my absence J. B. JONES will answer all inquiries, he being authorized to sell any of the property and settle by cash or note with the purchaser.

I also offer for sale my highly improved farm, one of the finest in Jefferson county. \$500 cash, and \$500 yearly until purchase money is paid.

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