

LIFE IN CUBA.

HOMES AND HABITS OF THE PEOPLE.

The Houses Have Big Barred Windows - Picturesque Dress of the Women - Hospitable Country Folk.

THE races in Cuba are so mixed, says May B. Stacy in the New York Recorder, that one is ever in doubt whether he is talking to a Metizo, or a Cuban, or a Spaniard; but their manners and customs are very pleasing. On my arrival in Havana I was met by a very charming and cultivated man, one of Havana's leading lawyers, and most courteously entertained for some days at his casa, prior to my visit in the country, where I spent the winter among the sugar plantations.

The homes in Cuba are very comfortable, made of stone with plaster fronts and immense barred windows and solid wooden doors. The floors are paved; sometimes there is a rug just where the chairs are put, and that is in a square between two opposite windows.

The custom is to say: "Thank you; but I am not hungry." When you call upon a friend a cup of excellent black coffee is made at once and served. If a husband and wife call the husband is served first, and he drinks only half of the coffee, and hands the rest to his wife. This is also the custom at the table after dinner with the dessert, as well as the coffee. I must add, I am thankful it is not the custom to include the guests. I presume it is the old loving cup, or, perhaps, a daily reminder to the weaker sex that Adam was made first.

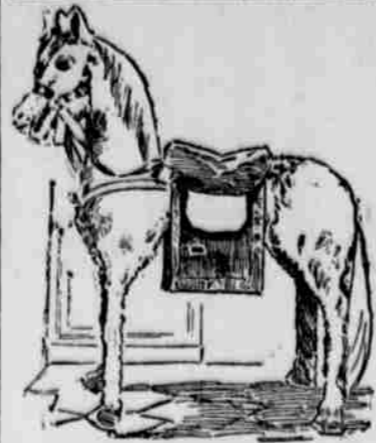
One thing I noticed particularly was that at night the people hold a handkerchief over their mouths and nostrils to prevent breathing the night air, and in Havana the ladies carry perfumes with them, as the odors about the houses are sometimes dreadful.

Few people walk in Cuba. You take a cab for any distance, dismissing it when you enter a house and hail another one when you come out, but to call a cab you motion away from you instead of to you, as we do in the States. The reason one does not walk is because the sidewalks are too narrow, and the streets very filthy; many sidewalks are only three feet wide, several less than two. We felt sure after

CHINESE FUNERAL HORSE.

Paper Steed Which Celestials Consecrate to Service of the Dead.

The most marked trait of the Chinese is a profound veneration for their



A CHINESE FUNERAL HORSE.

ancestors, a characteristic which finds expression not only in a filial affection for and obedience to the living parents, but also in a holy reverence for

NEW FASHION FAD.

HUGE BELTS EIGHT INCHES DEEP WORN BY WOMEN.

Will Make Stout Women Shorter and Slim Ones More Graceful—Latest Hints in Millinery.

THE belt of the autumn girl is a fashionable monstrosity. It is the most conspicuous article of her raiment, says the New York World. English women are prone to belts, and Americans are Anglomaniacs by nature, therefore they are following the fashion with a vim set by their sisters across the water. The big stores are exhibiting many new and very striking designs in belts. The ingenuity and originality is surprising, and one wonders what next may seize the feminine fancy and deplete the feminine purse.

Some of the most elegant belts in quality are made of firmly woven silk elastic, the surface being of satin finish. These vary in width from five to eight inches, accordingly, as one's physique demands curtailing or enlargement to produce the desired effect. They can be had in colors and are fastened by elongated clasps and novel buckles conforming to the depth of the belt. These are worn with empire gowns to produce the short-waist characteristic of this style of dress.

By reason of its elasticity it permits of the free and graceful motion of the

fall models, but what there are take the form of poppies and roses, which appear in velvet silk, and the prettiest of all which are made entirely of



PARISIAN HAT WITH BOW OF CARMINE SATIN RIBBON AND BLACK AIGRETTE.

feathers. Then again, roses are closely imitated with taffeta silk, cut on the bias with rolled edges. Lace is a secondary factor with new hats. In

GREATEST BABE LIVING.

Unique Daily Life of the Infant Heir to Great Britain's Throne.

The greatest baby in the world is now about one year old. The name of this baby is Edward. He is His Royal Highness the Prince Edward of York, heir to the throne of an empire on which the sun never sets, and he is now cutting his teeth.

His Royal Highness lives either at York House, St. James, London, or at White Lodge, seat of the Tecks. A description of his personal appearance is now on file in the royal archives of the Tower of London, and he has been photographed 109 times. These details are not trifles. They are a part of the history of the British Empire.

The Prince has blue eyes. His hair is not scanty by any means, and he is rather fat, as will be seen from the accompanying picture of him, which is the one hundred and ninth of His Royal Highness, and the very latest. He has a nursery of the most severely plain character, and, although his little life is one long uninterrupted ceremony, etiquette requires that the plainest of baby accessories shall surround him. He is under the tutelage of one Mme. Buika, whom all England knows as the confidential companion of the Princess May before her marriage. This Mme. Buika has naturally an enormous responsibility.

His Royal Highness is already a General, a Colonel, a High Sheriff and a patron. He is a Keeper of the Seals and an Imperial Usher. He is already entitled to put G. C. M. J., C. O. I. S. I. and ever so many other letters after his name, and he is a member of the House of Lords.

When the baby awakes in the morning he holds a lance. The royal code says so. His Highness will be attended by the lady in waiting, who takes his commands. This means that she will wash and dress him. He must never have anything on him that is red—anything, that is, in the shape of clothing. His attire must be invariably white. This is because he is a Prince of York, and there is a royal rule connected with the Wars of the Roses that forbids his assumption of the red until he is five years old. He may not wear black shoes until he is three, and in public a sash must invariably be around his waist. Under no circumstances is he to be addressed, even playfully, by anyone except his parents. Queen Victoria herself is not at liberty to say "you" to him. It must always be "His Highness seems well," or "His Highness sleeps." In fact, it is His Highness this and His Highness that all the time.

Only a blood relative may hold him in her arms, with the exception of Mme. Buika, who has received a royal patent for the purpose. Even the physician who attends him must receive a royal patent before beginning to physic this babe. Every article of attire he wears must bear the royal arms worked by hand in silk, and he may not wear the same article twice in succession. It must be washed before it goes on again.

His Highness travels by special train. He has six equerries and a gentleman usher of the black rod. He receives invitations to all royal and state func-



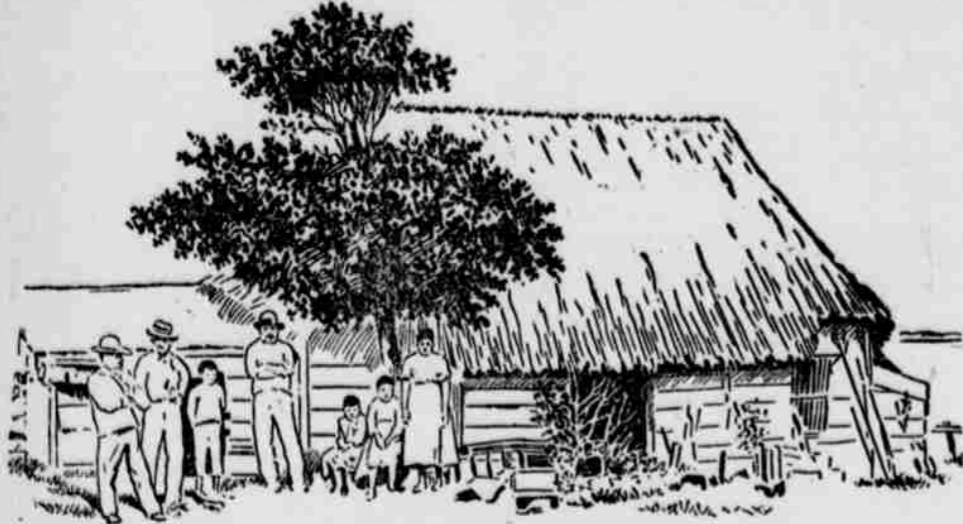
PRINCE EDWARD OF YORK, AGED ONE YEAR.

tions, and is always represented at them by one of these equerries.

On state occasions the Prince is arrayed in cloth of gold. His head is covered by a crown of starbed and gilded linen. He is then carried by a royal lady in waiting. That means that whoever carries this babe must have royal blood in her veins. Another curious thing about the Prince is that no nursery at any one time. When he is attired in royal robes the peers must kneel to kiss his hand on entering his presence. Of course no hats may be worn in his presence. In York House Mrs. Gladstone had to take her bonnet off before entering his nursery.

When H. R. H. is asleep a flag floats from his residence. When he is awake the flag is taken down. When he leaves his home the flag is hung out of the window of his nursery.

Another unexpected thing in the life of the Prince is the extreme publicity of it. He is perpetually being photographed, and the photographs are thrown broadcast all over England. Whenever he goes the fact of his coming is proclaimed. Lots of people congregate about his two homes to get a glimpse of him and Mademoiselle Buika carries him out in her arms to the coach in the most public manner. This liberality and publicity are in accordance with the time-honored custom of the British royal family to be as free with the people as possible.



A COUNTRY HOME IN CUBA.

Why the people are not all consumptives I cannot tell, for they sit in this draught even in cold days. They do seem to suffer greatly with catarrh and asthma.

One of the beauties of Cuban residences is the open court in the centre of the building, which is profusely decorated with birds and flowers, and even small trees are grown. In the richer ones there are marble floors, with fountains and statuary. Cane and willow furniture is used exclusively. In one room I saw eight large willow rocking chairs, and all the ladies were rocking rapidly as if to keep time with their talking. There is but one door to the outside world in these homes, and everything goes in and out of it. Marketing goes in, and garbage goes out. As the door is kept constantly barred, I was prepared for anything; even dreams of brigands flitted through my brain, but nothing but friends and the most inoffensive of marketmen ever entered the house to my knowledge.

The business men in Cuba take only a cup of coffee in the morning at home, and have their breakfast down-

trying to hold on with our toes, that our feet would soon resemble the monkeys, and we looked with care, when removing our shoes, to see if such a catastrophe had occurred. I found myself frequently in the gutters, which are very filthy, as the drainage is poor.

The milkman, instead of driving a wagon drives his herd of cows around town and milks at the door of his customer. It has this advantage, the milk is pure. There is no cream in Cuba; they boil the milk immediately it is received.

The want of confidence in the women hurt me very much. We are so respected and honored at home by our men that I got indignant when I saw wives, sisters and sweethearts watched like children. The monstrous barred windows, seen in all houses, gives them a prison like aspect, but Cupid—though barred out—finds many ways of slipping through.

Not Afraid of Tarantulas.

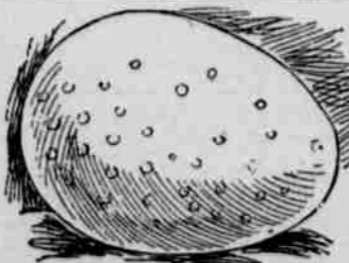
The tarantula abounds in all parts of Nicaragua, but from the Atlantic

the dead, who are faithfully worshipped in the most solemn religious rites. The form of adoration offered to the deceased is made up of the burning of candles, incense and gilt paper, accompanied by numerous genuflections and prostrations. A necessary factor in the services is the spreading of elaborate feasts, the invisible essence of which, it is believed, ascends for the delectation and mastication of the dear departed. The Chinese believe implicitly that the souls of the dead continue in conscious existence and in such contact with the scene of their former existence that the location of their graves, the constancy of the worship they receive, with the richness and variety of the offerings made to them, are most important in determining their happiness or misery.

The vulgar belief is that the needs of the dead are substantially the same as the needs of the living, and that they can only receive those necessities by the ministrations of the living. Food, clothing and money are therefore offered to the spirits, being rendered invisible and transmitted to the other world by means of fire. The funeral of any one is the occasion for a solemn bonfire, wherein are consumed the clothing of the deceased, and enormous sums of imitation money. In addition the funeral pyre often includes paper houses and furnishings and servants that the defunct may enjoy distinguished immortality. If the mourned were a sea captain a paper ship would be given to the flames. If he were an officer of rank a horse would be provided, as was the case in the funeral which offered an opportunity for the accompanying illustration.

Eggs Worth a Fortune.

The egg of the great auk is valued at \$15,000. That was the price recently paid by a wealthy collector of rare birds' eggs. There are only sixty-eight of this extinct bird's egg in existence. Two auks' eggs are in this country; one is owned by the Academy of Natural Science in Philadelphia, and the other is in the collection of Vassar College. The former collection held for many years among its treasures the rarest of all eggs—an egg of the California condor—but it mysteriously disappeared a few years ago, and it is supposed some scientific sneak thief thought it no sin



THIS EGG IS WORTH \$15,000.

to transfer the treasure to his own collection, where he is holding it for a rise in price.

It is quite a fad nowadays to collect rare and curious eggs and vast sums are paid by wealthy collectors for the delicate little ovals. One of the largest private collections in the world is that of Mr. J. Parker Norris, a well-known lawyer of Philadelphia. He has spent more than \$20,000 for fine specimens of egg shells.

Switzerland, with a population of 3,000,000, averages 650 suicides annually. Only Denmark and Saxony make a more extensive use of what is supposed to be the right to die.

body, which is an additional advantage to women who affect the wearing of the belt.

Belts are pretty, and, despite any controversy as to the advisability of wearing them from a hygienic standpoint, are going to obtrude themselves upon us wherever opportunity is offered. They are becoming to most women, and for that reason alone they will assume the right of way. No young woman is in the swim unless she numbers three dozen belt buckles in her collection. Belts are more necessary now than ever before, for basques are an obsolete fashion, and all bodies terminate at the waist line, which fact makes the introduction of girdles imperative. All women agree on the one point, that belts tend to make a stout woman less emphatically so, and slender women like them because they realize the proportions between the size of the waist and hips.

HINTS IN MILLINERY.

The Napoleonic craze is about ended and the Dutch bonnet is a thing of the past. The majority will be glad of this, for it was only the small minority who could becomingly wear either. The principal tendency of the new hats is toward higher crowns, and they vary in outline, to be designated as the "Pierrot," "jampot" and "pottle" crowns. The first is pointed, the second flares, and the third widens from the crown to the brim. The low crown and flat brim of the summer shape will not be entirely abandoned either.

Many of the new shapes show crowns of silk plush, with brims of braided effects or of felt, and in the new imported walking hats are seen "pottle" crowns and wide, rolling brims made entirely of the silk plush, with a severe trimming of a flat crown-band, with loops and quills at the left side.

Among bonnets, the shapes seem to be somewhat larger than of late, and many show open crowns of wired jets and beads, or Oriental embroideries. There are also many beautiful toques, which never go out of fashion. But of all headgear the toque requires the most careful handling, and only an artist can give it that certain touch which keeps it above the commonplace. Flowers must find no resting place on the toque, and feathers rarely. The trimming must be simple, with knots of ribbon or velvet, ropes of grass and wisps of aigrettes, or aggressive looking quills.

Few flowers are noticeable on the

way of ornaments the preference is given to cut steel, while jet comes in second. Fancy feathers of all shapes and colors predominate, yet the ostrich tip will ever hold its own.

A SMART AUTUMN COSTUME.

Lincoln-green Amazon cloth, with a darkish plaid silk, with bright touches of color, composes the smart autumn costume here shown. The dress is remarkably pretty and most stylish as an indoor toilet, and the effect may be heightened by an eight or ten inch facing of the plaid inside the skirt or by a little balayouse of the plaid, pinked out at the edges and put in slightly full.

The skirt is cut from a fluted pattern, which is not excessive in width, and yet gives a very full appearance.



AN AUTUMN COSTUME.

and has no darts round the top, although it fits perfectly to the figure. The bodice is made on a fitted lining, cut in four parts only, viz., the two fronts, each with two darts, and the two backs, necessitating a seam down the centre. This centre back seam is seamed and boned, and the top faced to just below the bust line with the plaid, and the front darts are also sewn and whalebone inserted, and they are faced with plaid, ready for the plain material.

Balfour, the British Parliamentary leader, who is an enthusiastic golfer, says: "Care may sit behind the horseman; she never presumes to walk with the caddie."



LOVE MAKING AMONG THE CUBANS.

town, at noon time, just as our men lunch at their club or restaurant, and dine at home after business hours.

I presume it is on account of the climate, but most of the people look tired, and there is none of the briskness of Americans. The men lack the vigor our fine-looking American men have; there are many handsome faces, but round shoulders, which ever mar the handsome head.

The women of Cuba are very picturesque, when they wear the lace mantilla, but they are adopting the American and French hat, and it is not becoming. Their kindness to strangers is proverbial, and their quaint way of presenting their house to you, when you call to see them, is very attractive. One lady, whose embroidery I much admired, for it was as beautiful and fine as a spider's web, presented me her hands. "They are yours," she said, meaning she would embroider something for me, if I desired.

While taking a walk in the country one day, we passed a house where the door was wide open—they generally are open—and the family was at dinner. The master cried out: "Good evening; are you not hungry? Won't you come and eat something?"