

England is rejoicing in the possession of a treasury surplus of more than \$40,000,000.

Ballington Booth is going to mount his "Volunteers" on bicycles that they may be able to overtake the fleeing sinners, announces the New Orleans Picayune.

Dr. Brewer in the Journal for Hygiene recommends consumptives to inhale vinegar and eat peanuts. Some cannot digest peanuts, but those who can will find them quite as effective fat producers as cod liver oil, and much more agreeable.

A native of the East Indies is said to have invented a rain-making apparatus that will go. The principle is the sending up rockets charged with ether or ammonia, whose liberation will cool the air to a point that will induce the precipitation of whatever moisture the air contains.

An analysis of 2,000 accident policies on which benefits have been paid shows that 531 persons were injured by falls on pavements, 243 by carriages or wagons, 75 by horse kicks or bites and 47 by horseback riding; 117 were cut with edge tools or glass, 96 were hurt by having weights fall on them, and 76 were hurt in bicycle accidents, while 72 were hurt by falling down stairs.

A London newspaper is authority for the statement that since William E. Gladstone's words of approbation served to make several recent English novels famous he has been in receipt of nearly every new work of fiction published in the English language. Every day his mail contains novels forwarded to him by publishers in England and America. If he read them all he would have no time to sleep or eat.

Says the Springfield, Mass., Republican: It is interesting to note that professor Woodrow Wilson, who has been delivering a series of lectures on municipal problems at the Johns Hopkins university, contends that American city governments are inefficient because they copy too closely the structure of federal government, with its two chambers and executive. In his opinion the system of checks and balances and division of power is not suited to municipal needs.

The tradespeople throughout the United Kingdom who can boast of warrants as purveyors to the queen have formed themselves into the Incorporated Society of Her Majesty's Warrant Holders, of which Mr. Tom Simpson Jay of Regent street is president, for the purpose of suppressing a practice on the part of some unscrupulous tradesmen of exhibiting over their shop fronts and on their billheads, etc., the royal arms, a privilege which is conferred only by a royal warrant.

In Germany the view obtains that the execution of criminals should be by some means more certain even than the electric chair. Dr. E. Cuhmann, a celebrated chemist, suggests the use of carbolic acid. According to his plan, the criminal would be carried to a cell which can be filled noiselessly with carbolic acid in gaseous form, from floor to ceiling. When the gas reaches the delinquent's mouth and nose, it causes instant paralysis of the lungs and unconsciousness, and life departs without previous pain.

According to the estimates of census experts, as reported by Mr. Carroll D. Wright, commissioner of labor, in charge of the eleventh census, the population of greater New York on January 1, 1898, will be about 3,430,000. "These figures," says the Philadelphia Record, "assuming that they shall be verified by results—and the latter may exceed rather than fall short of the calculation—would make New York easily the second city in the world, and so far in advance of Chicago, and even of Paris, that neither could ever hope by natural growth to overtake her."

The returns just published by the Pasteur Institute in the French metropolis, furnish ground for considerable speculation and discussion. For the remarkable fact that the number of patients presenting themselves to be treated there as bitten by mad dogs should now show a decline of more than fifty percent from what it was ten years ago, would lead to the inference, suggests the New York Tribune, either that people are losing faith in the system of inoculation, or else, what appears more probable, that the terror of hydrophobia, a malady in which imagination plays an important role, is no longer as universal and as intense as it used to be.

DOMAIN OF DRESS.

WARM WEATHER STYLES FOR FAIR READERS.

Handsome Jacket Basque and Skirt—Shirt Waist With Blouse Front—The Poke Bonnet In Favor Again.

IN the jacket basque and skirt picture herewith, French Vigoroux in opalescent shades is handsomely united with seafoam green chamelon silk, rose pearl, bijou buttons forming the decoration. The full vest fronts of silk are gathered and arranged over glove-fitting linings shaped by double bust darts, and the closing is invisibly in center front. The belt is laid in three folds, the loose right end overlapping the left with single buttons placed on each fold in center front. A stock of satin ribbon to match is tied to a large bow at the back, concealing the standing collar that finishes the neck. The jacket fronts flare apart over the full vest, with rounded lower edges, the tops being reversed in long shaped

basque length, and is worn under the dress skirt. A turn down collar mounted on a high band finishes the neck, which can be made permanent or removable at pleasure. The bishop shirt sleeves are fashionably full, being disposed in gathers at upper and lower edges. Slashed openings at the back are finished with laces, and the turn-back cuffs in two sections can be made permanent or removed as desired. This style of shirt waist is particularly adapted to the plain and fancy batistes now the vogue, lawn, dimity, organdie and soft wash silks developing stylish waists by the mode.

The quantity of material 36 inches wide required to make this shirt waist for a miss fourteen years of age is 2 1/2 yards.

POKE BONNETS AGAIN IN FASHION. Pokes are a prominent feature of the choicest millinery. The poke bonnet is an awkward shape in itself, made really becoming by judicious use of milliners' devices. The brim, which is rolled back from the face, is covered either with tulle net or lace, usually with settings of jet. Either ribbon or feathers may be used upon the crown, and a few flowers are set



LADIES' JACKET BASQUE AND SKIRT.

lapels that meet the rolling collar in notches. Three small buttons decorate each lapel and the edges are finished with stitching in tailor style. The back is glove-fitting, the usual seams performing the adjustment to the waist line, below which double plaits laid in extensions at each seam give the desired fashionable fullness. The modishly smart gigot sleeves have the fullness displayed in double rows of shirring at the top, drooping to the elbow in stylish wrinkled puffs.

The skirt is only moderately full and therefore commended for summer wear. It displays the fashionable rippled sides with gored front breadth and measures only four yards around the foot. The back breadth is straight and falls with graceful effect from gathers at the top. A row of stitching beyond the seam gives a strapped effect to the front gore. This style is deservedly popular and a more attractive or useful costume cannot be made for seaside, mountain or general weather. Serge, cheviot, tweed, cloth and other woollens combine well with silk, satin or batiste for the vest front.

The quantity of material 44 inches wide required to make this basque for a lady having a 36-inch bust measure is 3 1/2 yards.

To make the skirt it will require of the same width material 4 1/2 yards for a 36-inch waist measure.

MISSES' SHIRT WAIST WITH PLAIN FRONT. Embroidered jaconet, writes May Manton, is chosen for this dressy shirt waist, which is arranged in a style very becoming to young misses. A band of embroidered insertion conceals the closing in center front, and the turn over collar and cuffs are of fine, white linen. The full fronts

in at the back. A little frill of lace, put next the face, is often a becoming addition to either a bonnet or a hat.

Children's bonnets are made of nearly every material, though for the very young misses silk or linen is preferred to straw. The trimming is of simple rosettes, small flowers, such as



A NEW POKE BONNET.

forget-me-nots or rosebuds, or bows of ribbon. A frill of lace or embroidery, falling around the baby's face, is seen on some of the most picturesque bonnets. Strings of ribbon or some softer material are indispensable.

SPECIAL FEATURES OF SUMMER FABRICS. The special feature of the new summer fabrics is the transparent effect, and grenadine, gauze, crepe de chine, etamine and canvas are all the vogue



MISSES' SHIRT WAIST WITH BLOUSE FRONT.

are gathered at the shoulders, neck and lower edges, and droop in French pouch or blouse style over the belt. The back line is gathered at the neck and waist line, where the fullness is massed in centre. The lower edge extends to

Etamine was in fashion ten years ago, and quite as popular then as crepon last year.

Half of the world's product of quinine is used in the United States.

BUILT A HOUSE.

AN OHIO WOMAN PLANS AND BUILDS HER OWN HOME.

Her Husband a Cripple—From Foundation to Roof the Building Shows the Brave Woman's Handiwork.

A WIFE of forty-nine who has proved herself a helpmate indeed in Mrs. Elizabeth A. Foster, of Portsmouth, Ohio. Mr. Foster has but one hand. They are hard working people. Having no children, by saving their earnings they accumulated enough to buy a lot on Walnut Hills, a suburb of Portsmouth. They soon found their accumulations would buy the lumber, but were not sufficient to build a house. Mr. Foster's father was a car-



HOUSE BUILT BY MRS. ELIZABETH A. FOSTER WITH HER OWN HANDS.

enter, and he had learned the art of drawing plans for buildings, but being minus one hand and crippled in the other he could not do any work. Mrs. Foster's father was also a carpenter, and in her younger days she had spent many hours watching him in the erection of buildings.

She was above the average in intelligence, and had gained such a thorough knowledge of the general mechanism of the trade that she concluded she could build a house that would afford them a comfortable home in which to spend the declining years of life. They together formulated the plans and ordered the material. Mrs. Foster then staked off the ground and went to work laying the brick foundation. While this was new work for her, her general knowledge of how things ought to be served her well, and she hewed to the lines closely. When the chips had all fallen she found that she had a foundation that would have been a credit to any mechanic. Then with the little assistance her husband could give her, such as holding timbers and lines, she erected the framework, nailed on the weather boarding, and was soon interesting the passers-by in her work of nailing on the shingle roof.

Mrs. Foster is very modest, and felt somewhat embarrassed to have people who happened to pass that way stop and stand for several minutes watching her drive the nails, saw and plane,

COTTON BOLL WEEVIL.

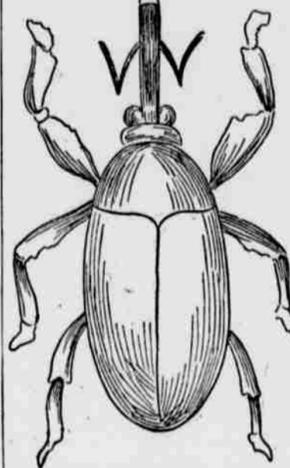
A Pest Which Recently Appeared in the United States.

The Agricultural Department of the United States Government considers the cotton boll weevil, a picture of which is here shown, to be one of the most dangerous pests that has ever made its appearance in the United States. It has so far confined its operations to Northern Mexico and a limited area in Texas. It has in some localities shown a tendency to spread rapidly, while in others it is said to have been at work for years in very small areas, and shown little signs of extending operations. Department experts have been at work investigating his bugship for some months past in the neighborhood of Brownsville on the Rio Grande. So far no cure has been discovered, and many acres of cotton have been abandoned in consequence.



COTTON BOLL WEEVIL, HIGHLY MAGNIFIED.

An extraordinary thing about this creature is that it will live in a cotton boll and nowhere else, and once secreted inside of these shells it is safe from enemies and snug and comfortable in a bed of softest down. The appearance



COTTON BOLL WEEVIL, HIGHLY MAGNIFIED.

of this insect is dreaded later in the year.

2000 Stolen Letters.

The English Postoffice is universally recognized as an institution of wonderful efficiency, but from a reported incident it would appear that a few thousand or more letters and things go astray.

George Twen, a postman, was charged with stealing letters and parcels. The prisoner was arrested on Wednesday, and when a search was made by the police of the stables in the George Inn yard where he keeps his pony, 2000 letters and parcels were found, addressed to all parts of the United Kingdom. The parcels contained, among other things, butter, funeral wreaths and clothing. The stoppage of letters is supposed to have been going on for some time, as some of them are dated 1891, and mice had built in the papers. The prisoner was remanded.—New York Journal.

Finest Church Organ.

What is said to be the finest church organ in the country has just been set up in the South Congregational Church, of New Britain, Conn. It cost \$20,000, and includes every possible modern improvement. Its bank of keys is movable, and electrically connected with the organ, so that the instrument can be played from any part of the church.

On and On.



Proficient Bicyclist—"Well, old chap, how are you getting on?" Commencing Bicyclist—"Thank you, not badly; but I find I get off better."—Punch.

SEA LION HUNT.

A Dangerous Occupation Off the Californian Coast.

Men Lowered From Promontories to Get Hides.

Hunting sea lions is an important industry on the islands off the Californian coast. These wary seals climb out of the sea upon rocky ledges and enjoy themselves in the sun. An old bull usually has six or eight wives. Occasionally the husbands fight viciously with other males, and are very jealous of their families. Paternal affection for the pup seals is marked. The daddies labor earnestly, teaching the children to swim. Strange to say the pups are averse to the water at first, but after a time they enjoy a frolic in the surf as keenly as do the old folks.

The skins of these bulls, cows and pups are what the hunters seek. They land upon an island and sneak up behind hundreds of seals sunning on the rocky ledges. A bullet is sent into an animal's skull, and if the hunter's aim is true death is instant. Only a brain wound would cause instant death. If wounded elsewhere, the seal usually gets into the sea and sinks before the hunter reaches the body. So expert do the hunters become with their rifles that they frequently fire sixteen shots from their Winchesters, each killing a seal, before the herd disappears into the sea. The hides are sent aboard ship and salted down. When the vessel is filled, the cargo is taken to San Francisco and sold for three to six cents a pound. Pup hides, weighing 20 pounds, are the most valuable. Adult hides weigh 50 to 80 pounds, and sell for three or four cents a pound. Leather men use these hides for horse collars, harness and other articles requiring particularly tough leather.

The inaccessibility of the seal rookeries frequently involves the hunters in danger. The seals are shot from a promontory. Then the hunter is lowered on a rope by his comrades 100 or 200 feet to the slippery wave-washed rocks below, where the dead seals lie. He quickly skins the animals. A small boat from the ship rides outside the surf line ready to carry the hides away. A small line is floated ashore to the hunter, who ties the hides to it one by one, and the boat is loaded, the hunter is drawn to the top of the cliff, and another rookery is sought for more game. The surf about these deep sea islands is very high, and is one of the obstacles of the seal hunter.

The sea lions are rather cute in their way. They enjoy a great deal of sea fowl occasionally. When the gulls are flying overhead a lion will dive and swim some distance under water from the point where he disappeared. He approaches the surface carefully, allowing merely the tip of his black nose to show above the surface. By giving his body a rotary motion this nose tip makes circles on the ocean, and to the eye of the flying gull, resembles a waterbug at play. With a swish the deceived gull rushes down from its station above like a ball from a gun. The lion sinks a few inches, and as the gulls hits the water with tremendous impetus the jaws close mercilessly on the sea fowl, and it is hauled below the surface and devoured.

Upon approaching a rookery occupied by a numerous herd of sea lions one first hears their long, plaintive howlings, as if in distress; but when near them, the sounds become more varied and deafening. The old males roar so loudly as to drown the noise of the heaviest surf among the rocks and caverns, and the pups croak hoarsely or send forth sounds like the bleating of sheep or the barking of dogs.

The lions take great risks when attempting to escape from hunters. In one instance about twenty lions were collected on the brink of a precipitous cliff at least sixty feet above the rocks which shelved from the beach below. The hunters thought that by surprising the animals they could drive them over the cliff and that the tremendous fall upon the sharp rocks below would kill them all. The surprise was successful. Every lion jumped to what seemed certain death, but to the chagrin of the hunters, when they arrived at the foot of the cliff where they expected to find the lions either helplessly mutilated or dead, the last animal of the herd was seen plunging into the sea.—New York Press.

Easy For Him.

"I've kept diaries for years, as regularly as the days come round." Indeed! That is most amazing." Oh, not at all. I'm a stationer."