



Decorative Key Boards.

Key boards are among the latest popular decorative fads and have a certain utility. A panel of polished wood has a cross piece of the same at the upper end, in which are small hooks, to hold the keys. On the surface of the panel a large key is painted, bearing a painted ribbon. Over each hook there is a special design to designate the door or drawer to which that key belongs.

A Summer Dining Room.

The idea that a dining room should be treated in a somewhat heavy and subdued style dies hard. Thus it is that a white and yellow dining room is still something of a novelty. When its windows give on a green and shady prospect the effect of the yellow dining room is really quite enchanting. An apartment of this description in a cottage on Long Island has the walls paneled to within seven inches of the tops of the doors, and all the wood-work is painted ivory white.

Gas Stove 'Don't's.'

Don't buy a small gas stove unless your family consists of two persons. A four-hole stove, with a top about 24 inches square, is so serviceable that it pays whether a family be large or small. Such a stove costs only \$12. See that the stove you buy has an attachment for lighting the oven from the outside. It is much superior to and safer than the old method of reaching in with a match.

Don't try to bake beans, beef a la mode or such dishes as need long hours of slow cooking, in a gas stove. It is cheaper to buy them. Never put two dishes such as pie and molasses cookies to bake at the same time. They need a very different heat, and the cookies would be burned black long before the pie was ready. You can simmer corned beef or soup as slowly on a gas stove as on the back of a coal range. Every good gas stove has a simmerer. It consumes the smallest imaginable amount of gas and can be left untended safely for hours half turned to cook the soup stock or to keep a double boiler at steam heat. Don't burn gas when the flame is red, or when it blows. Turn it out, let the gas flow a few seconds and relight. The flame must burn blue to do good service; if it is red the cooking utensils will get smoked black.—Good Housekeeping.



Orange Float—Boil one quart of water with the juice and pulp of two lemons; when boiling add one and one-half teaspoonfuls of sugar. Dissolve five tablespoonfuls of cornstarch in one teacupful of cold water, stir into the boiling syrup and stir all the time for five minutes; when cold pour over six sliced oranges and add the beaten whites of two eggs, flavored with a half teaspoonful of vanilla and sweetened with a tablespoonful of sugar.

English Preserves—The juice and yellow peel of three oranges, removing all the white; five pounds of gooseberries, one and one-half pounds of seeded raisins and four pounds of sugar. Top and stem the gooseberries and put them, with the raisins and orange peel, into a meat chopper and grind fine. Add the juice and sugar and stew gently about 40 minutes, stirring frequently. Put into small jars or tumblers, and when cold pour over melted paraffine.

Fruit Custard—A delicious fruit custard may be made by boiling one quart of milk in a double boiler. Beat two eggs very light and stir into them four tablespoonfuls of sugar and one tablespoonful of flour. Add to this a little cold milk, then stir it gradually into the boiling milk, stirring until it thickens, set it away to cool. When cool, flavor with vanilla. Have ready in sauce dishes strawberries or sliced oranges or any fruit in season, and pour the custard over it. This is a very simple and palatable dessert.

Braised Spanish Onions—Peel some medium-sized onions, which should be all the same size; set them in warm salt and water for half an hour; boil them in salted water for an hour if large, or less according to size, as they must only be partially cooked. Remove them from the water, drain them and set them in a white fireproof dish with some butter; bake them for at least an hour, or until they are tender and brown, basting them with the butter occasionally. Send them to table in the dish they were baked in.

FRENCH CAVALRYMAN

Rides a Hobby-Horse and Slashes at a Turk's Head.

Not only has the cavalry soldier to acquire the art of remaining in a saddle—he has also to learn how, when in that position, to attack or defend himself against his adversary. To this branch of his instruction an innovation recently introduced into the French army has added a zest hitherto only conspicuous by its absence.

The old system consisted in making each soldier in turn mount a roughly-constructed wooden horse and make a series of passes and cuts with lance or saber at a sort of Turk's head mounted on a wooden stand and placed at a certain invariable distance from him. He could hardly miss it if he tried, and as it is only madmen who can derive any sort of pleasure from thrashing an unresponsive dummy, it is not surprising to hear that the exercise passed for being one of the most monotonous and disagreeable in the whole course of instruction.

Thanks to M. Montan, adjutant and drill instructor of the Third Dragoons of the French army, all this has been changed, and the recruits now like nothing better.

The horse in itself, if a little nearer in appearance, is still only made of wood as before, but the Turk's head representing the enemy has been miraculously endowed with life and rendered as mobile as quick silver, or as a Boer commando. The soldier can never tell on which side of him it is going to make its appearance next, or whether it will sweep around him in front or at his back. He cannot transfix it as formerly with mathematical precision when and where he will, but must keep all his faculties on the alert to touch it at all.

The principle of the arrangement is simple. By turning a small hand wheel at the extreme back of the apparatus a simple contrivance of double cogwheels causes the rods carrying round the horse as a centre. The direction or rate of speed may be varied at the will of the instructor, the difficulties being graduated according to the skill of the soldier.

The use of the invention bids fair to become general not only in the French cavalry, but in other countries as well, the simplicity of its construction making it an acquisition by no means costly—something under \$50, it is said.—Pearson's Magazine.

The Conquest of Korea.

Seventeen centuries ago the Japanese Emperor Chual was playing his lute in the presence of his wife and prime minister. Whether on account of the music or from some other cause, the empress became inspired with a divine afflatus and began to utter the thoughts put into her mind by the deity. "There is a land to the westward," she exclaimed, "and in that land is abundance of treasure, gold and silver, dazzling to look upon. This land I will now bestow upon you."

The emperor pushed away his lute. "If you go up to a high place and look toward the west, said he, there is no land to be seen, but only the great waters. They are lying spirits who have spoken to you."

Then the god was filled with anger, and again he moved the empress to prophesy. "You are not fit," she said, "to rule this empire. Go the one road!"

But the prime minister trembled when he heard these words, and said to his master, "I am troubled, my heavenly sovereign, by this terrible message. Continue, I pray, to play the august lute."

The emperor Chual commenced to play softly; gradually the sound died away; all was still. They held a light to his face and saw that he was dead. But the empress put herself at the head of his fleet, invaded the land of gold and silver with her warriors, and soon made the three kingdoms of Korea tributary to Japan.

These things happened, we are told, in the year 201 A. D., and the story of the valiant empress is as familiar to a Japanese as is that of Boadicea to ourselves.—The Nineteenth Century.

Where Men Kiss Men.

American men, as a rule, don't kiss each other. Americans abroad, who see the French, Italian, and even the stolid German osculating upon the least occasion, find something in it almost funny, not to say extra emotional. The New York Evening Sun asks: What traveler in the land of the kaiser but has been moved well nigh to hysterics at sight of some son or brother, who, setting out for a place probably 20 miles distant, is being hugged and kissed by his male relatives with a gusto that would do credit to a set of boarding school girls. Boarding school girls in this country in fact would show very much less gusto. Opposed as the American temperament seems to be to kissing between men, however, it does seem as though there ought to be some way of expressing emotion between a hand-clasp and a kiss. Individuals differ in their attitude toward the kiss just as do races—it being largely a matter of temperament. There are grown men who confess to have never omitted a good morning and good night kiss to their fathers so long as the two dwelt under the same roof. But the temper of the American people is against it.

Hopes Jack Tar Cannot Splice.

In the very old days nearly all of a yacht's rigging was hemp, but in our modern racing craft very little hemp rope is used. Not only the standing rigging, but a great part of the running, is steel wire rope. Only the ropes that have to be pulled on with hands, like sheets—ropes that trim the sails—are made of hemp. This is because steel is not only stronger, but it does not stretch like hemp and so does not stretch like hemp and so does not stretch like hemp and so does not stretch like hemp.—Home Magazine.



POPULAR SCIENCE

A large hospital is being built in the Vosges Mountains for the isolation and treatment of lepers. In case whole families are attacked small dwellings are provided for them.

The longest cold season is found in the Rocky Mountain region, where it exceeds the warm by about ten days. The warm season in Texas and the Lower Missouri Valley opens about ten days earlier than in the region near the Middle Atlantic coast, and from twenty to twenty-five days earlier than on the southern coast of California. In the Northwest the warm season opens from twenty to twenty-five days earlier than in the lake region, and from fifteen to twenty days earlier than in the North Pacific coast region.

General Brialmont, famous for the defence plans of Antwerp, has lately devised new uses for cement in the walls of fortresses. Masonry walls, or walls of ordinary cement, are quickly demolished by modern high-powered cannon, but General Brialmont has succeeded in mixing fragments of granite throughout a cement mass, so that the resulting mass has extraordinary resistance. Iron cables imbedded in the mass join its parts together, so that it holds firmly even when deeply fissured. A wall of the sort will resist the heaviest artillery when its thickness is ten feet.

Ichthyologists are much interested in the capture by a North Shields fishing boat of the extremely rare opah, or king-fish. Its appearance off the coasts of England is very rare. Its chief glory is its beautiful coloring—blue, green and yellow, and bright vermilion—and its semitarlike fins on the upper part of the back. The sides are green above, and beneath the lateral lines are a number of yellowish white spots from which the fish derives its name of luna. In Japan it is termed tai, and is regarded as an emblem of happiness, because it is sacred to Neptune, while by other observers its showy colors have caused it to be likened to one of the sea gods.

It is a matter of common knowledge that the vault of the sky has (at least to the eyes of some persons) an apparently flattened form, the horizon appearing to be more distant than the zenith. Professor W. C. Brenke, of the University of Illinois Observatory, has made an attempt to determine experimentally the amount of the apparent flattening, by means of "a series of estimates of the angular distances of stars by a class of junior engineering students, all of whom were somewhat familiar with the estimation of angles." The result at which he arrives, expressed in an untechnical way, is that an object—the moon, for instance—appears to be about three-fourths as distant from us when in the zenith as when on the horizon.

On the coast of Africa, opposite the mouth of the River Congo and continuous with the course of that river, lies a submerged valley, the existence and shape of which have been ascertained by means of soundings made by the British Admiralty. This valley, through which the Congo probably flowed at a time when the western coast of Africa was more elevated than it is at present, is 122 miles in length, extending to the edge of the platform of submerged land which borders the continent. Its sides are steep, precipitous and well defined, indicating that they are formed of solid rocks. Other submerged river valleys are found on the western coast of Europe, and similar phenomena exist in various parts of the world where the edges of continents have sunk.

Can Animals Cry?

Lady Burton says she has seen horses in the Syrian desert cry from thirst, a mule cry from the pain of an injured foot, and camels shed tears in streams. A cow, sold by its mistress who had tendered it from birth, wept pitifully. A young soko ape used to cry from vexation if Livingstone didn't nurse it in his arms when it asked him to. Wounded apes have died crying, and apes have wept over their young ones slain by hunters. A chimpanzee trained to carry water jugs broke one, and fell a-crying, which proved sorrow, though it wouldn't mend the jug. Rats, discovering a young one drowned have been moved to tears of grief. A giraffe which a huntsman's rifle had injured began to cry. Sea lions weep for the loss of their young. Gordon Cumming observed tears trickling from the eyes of a dying elephant. And even an orang-outang, when deprived of its mango, was so vexed that it took to crying. There can be little doubt, therefore, that animals do weep from grief, or pain, or annoyance.—Cassell's Little Folks.

The Discount Fend.

There is probably no abuse which the long-suffering wholesale market has had perpetrated upon it to such an extent as that for which the discount fend is responsible. Many apparently reputable merchants who would scorn the idea of dishonesty, are at the same time effecting a taking an extra twenty days' discount on bills which have passed their maturity. But this is not all. Occasionally a case comes to light where the discount fend goes so far as to deduct ten per cent. from a 7-10 bill, and if the firm in question sees fit to return his check and ask for a full settlement, the goods are shipped back, and the wholesaler told to whistle for redress.—The Book-keeper.

SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY.

When the sun is pouring down its rays upon the ocean at noon-day none of them penetrate to a depth of over 200 feet. Could a diver descend to that depth he would find himself shrouded in darkness as profound as though he were immersed in a sea of ink.

One of the difficulties in operating the arc light is the necessary renewal of the carbon rods. A substitute for them has lately been invented, which consists of two aluminum arms pointed with platinum. The arms are L-shaped, and are operated by a simple pendulum arrangement, which, with the arms themselves, is enclosed within a vacuum bulb. The lamp is to be used in a horizontal position and casts no shadow. It is claimed that there will be no wear of the incandescent parts.

The British Museum has recently received a specimen of the rarely seen "whale-headed stork," which was first found on the White Nile in 1849, and which until now had been supposed to be confined to that locality. The specimen referred to was shot on the north shore of Lake Victoria. It is described as a "distinctly weird-looking bird, having a gaunt, gray body, long legs, and a head surmounted by a little curled tuft and a scowling expression of the eyes." But its most remarkable peculiarity is its enormous bill, which is shaped like the head of a whale.

An interesting theory has been advanced to account for the phenomena of the Aurora Borealis, which takes into account the most recent scientific contributions of our knowledge of the composition of matter. This theory attributes the remarkable play of lights to be due to streams of Thompson's recently-discovered corpuscles which are supposed to be emitted from the sun. As these approach the magnetic field of the earth says the Electrical Review, they are deflected toward the poles, and when they finally reach a level of the air of the proper density they give rise to light phenomena similar to those obtained with cathode rays in vacuum tubes.

In the Interstate park, near Taylor's Falls, Minnesota, has been discovered a singular group of "giants' kettles," or pot-holes, covering an area of two or three acres and ranging in diameter from less than a foot to 25 feet, and in depth from one foot to 84 feet. They have been bored in exceedingly hard rock, and in many cases they are like wells in shape, the ratio of width to depth varying from one to five up to one to seven. Mr. Warren Upham ascribes their origin to torrents falling through glacial "moullins" at the time when the northern territory of the United States was buried under ice. As with similar pot-holes elsewhere, rounded boulders are occasionally found at the bottom of the cavities.

The continued experiments of Prof. F. E. Nipher, of St. Louis, Mo., with "positive photography," have produced some very interesting results. He says that the plates may be separately wrapped in black paper at night, or in a dark room, and all the remaining work can be done in the light. A plate is taken from its wrapper in the light and placed in the slide holder, and an exposure—a long one—is made. After exposure the plate is taken out in the light again, and placed in the developing bath, and the picture is developed, and may be fixed in the light. The result is a positive. Fine pictures are thus obtained. While it is desirable to shield the plate from the light as much as possible during the changes, yet, Prof. Nipher says, all of the operations may be carried on without any dark-room conveniences that may not be secured even in the open fields.

How to Acquire Psychic Force.

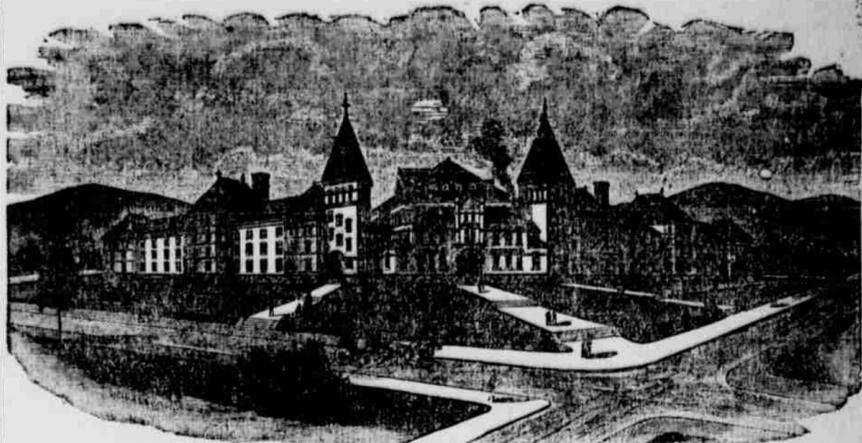
Mystics who acquire tremendous psychic force do not eat meat at all, but live on fruits, vegetables, roots, cereals and one or two eggs a day. They have perfect health and live to be very old, many passing the century mark. Would you enjoy the ideal breakfast? Asparagus, scrambled eggs, dry toast and a cup of weak tea. The ideal luncheon? A cold tomato and three leaves of lettuce, with pepper and salt. The ideal dinner? Fresh peas, boiled onions, a half portion of fish, fried hominy and water from the spring. Omit bread. No good! Bread is the mother, father and remotest ancestor of dyspepsia. J. Pierpont Morgan is a man of tremendous vital force and nearly a giant in stature as well as intellect. At an official banquet given in his honor in London the other night all that he ate was a small piece of fish and two soft-boiled eggs, and his drink was a glass of water. He is hunting for psychic force!—New York Press.

Maud Howe on Docking.

Maud Howe, speaking of the injury done to horses by the barbarous and foolish fashion of docking, says: "This fact is so well recognized by experts that there is not one cavalry regiment in the whole of Europe or America in which the docking of the tail is permitted, and in polo playing the long-tailed ponies are much the cleverest in turning and shifting their course, because they have the tails with which they were born."

France probably has the smallest conscript on record. Emile Mayot of Cunel in the canton of Montfaucon measures 3 feet 9 1/2 inches in his stocking feet and weighs 42 pounds. He was accepted.

Free Scholarships WILL BE GIVEN AWAY BY THE STAR, OF REYNOLDSVILLE, PA.



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FIRST PRIZE—One full year at Lock Haven State Normal, including tuition, boarding, &c. SECOND PRIZE—One term in King's School of Oratory, Pittsburg. THIRD PRIZE—A \$35 course in the International Correspondence Schools, of Scranton, Pa.

The young lady or gentleman getting the highest number of votes will be given one full year at the Lock Haven State Normal School free, including tuition, light, heat, furnished room and boarding. This is one of the best Normal schools in the State.

The contestant receiving second highest number of votes will be given one term—12 weeks—at King's School of Oratory, Pittsburg, where oratory, elocution, dramatic culture, literature, Shakespeare study, music, drawing, d'elsarte

tion paid. Any one sending or bringing in a new yearly cash subscriber will be given a coupon equal to 60 votes.

Persons desiring to enter the contest should begin as early as possible. As soon as the names are sent or handed in to THE STAR office they will be published, but the number of votes will not be published until June 19th, when that vote each contestant has at that time will be published opposite name, and from that to close of contest the vote will be published as counted and returned by the judges from week to week.

On Monday of each week (after June 19th) the ballot box will be opened and the coupons counted by judges.



Prof. Byron W. King.

book-keeping are taught. King's School of Oratory has gained quite a reputation as a first class school.

The person receiving the third highest number of votes will be given a \$35.00 course in the International Correspondence Schools, of Scranton, Pa. A complete commercial course, stenographic course, book keeping, complete teachers' course, coal mining, mechanical drawing, telegraphy and 60 other courses are taught by this school. The winner of this prize can take up a \$35.00 course or can have the \$35.00 applied as part pay on any course the winner may select.

The person getting the second highest number of votes can have their choice of the scholarship in King's School of Oratory or the International Correspondence Schools.

PREMIUM COUPONS—Persons paying their back subscription, or in advance one year or more, will be given a premium coupon which will entitle them to 36 votes for each dollar of subscrip-

THE STAR Scholarship Coupon. NAME ADDRESS

Write in the above lines the name and address of the person for whom you wish to vote and send or take the coupons to the secretary, J. P. Haskins, the music dealer, where they will be placed in the ballot box. Contest closes at 12 M., August 8th, 1901. All business communications and inquiries should be mailed to THE STAR office. Receipts and coupons will be promptly mailed from THE STAR office to patrons.

RULES OF CONTEST.

Contestants must register their names at THE STAR office. All coupons must be sent to the secretary of the committee, J. P. Haskins. All money collected for new subscribers or on subscription due must be sent to this office weekly. Each contestant will be furnished with printed cards certifying that he or she is a contestant.

F. P. ALEXANDER, THOS. F. ADAM, L. J. MCENTIRE, J. P. HASKINS, Secretary.

Shifts of Arctic Seas.

Lake Baikal is a remarkable body of water lying in a longitudinal trough on the edge of the central Asiatic plateau, whose surface is 1,600 feet above the sea with which it is connected by the Yenisei river after flowing across the northern plains of Siberia for a distance of 2,000 miles. A most curious fact, long known to scientific men, is that this lake is occupied by a species of seal almost identical with those found in the Arctic ocean. The same species, with slight variations are also found in the Caspian sea, but not anywhere else along the 3,000 or 4,000 miles which separate these bodies of water. The most probable explanation of this fact, and the one usually accepted by scientific men is that these species of seal were thus widely distributed during a continental subsidence in which the waters of the Arctic ocean covered all of northwestern Siberia and extended up to the base of the great Asiatic plateau which we followed for such a long distance on McClure's Magazine. When this depressed area emerged from the sea, it left the seal isolated in the two great bodies of water which still remain on its former margin. So lately has this taken place, that there has not been time for any great change to be effected in the specific characteristics of these animals.

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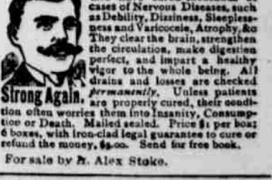
HORSE CLIPPING

Have just received a complete set of machine horse clippers of latest style '38 pattern and am prepared to do clipping in the best possible manner at reasonable rates. Jackson St. near Fifth, Reynoldsville, Pa.

A Necessary Precaution.

A couple of fishermen went out from El Dorado, Kan. They had a jug of pretty good whisky and a six-shooter, with which they intended to shoot at a mark in case the fish might not bite. They left their equipment on the bank of the creek while they went away to hunt a boat. When they returned they found this note pinned to the grub basket: "Dear Gents—We have taken your jug and pistol. We didn't want the pistol, but thought you might be thirsty enough to follow us up and shoot for the drinks."

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