

## CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT.



### THE SILVER DOLLAR.

How can we make a silver dollar turn quickly and continuously on its axis? "Very easy," says some one, pulling out a silver dollar and standing it on its rim. He places the index finger of the left hand on it, and flips the coin with his right hand. The dollar will turn with such velocity that the eye cannot follow it. This will last



For some time, until the motion gradually decreases, and finally stops. Not bad, but we can do better. We borrow the silver dollar, mark the ends of its diameter carefully, and place it on the table. Then we lift the coin with the help of two needles, inserting the needles at the two marked points, bring it close to the mouth and blow at it. The coin will turn, driven by the

saw, split and pile up the widow's half-cord of wood and to shovel a good path.

When they had done this, so great was their pleasure that one of them, who had at first said he would not go, proposed that they should go to a carpenter shop near by, where plenty of shavings could be had, and that each should bring an armful.

They all agreed to do this, and when they had brought the shavings, they went to their several homes, more than pleased with the fun of the evening.

The next morning, when the tired widow returned from watching by the sick bed and saw what was done, she was indeed surprised, and wondered who could have been so kind.

Afterward, when a friend told her how it was done, her earnest prayer, "God bless the boys!" was enough of itself to make them happy.—Our Dumb Animals.

### ENCHANTED HANDKERCHIEF.

This handkerchief is just the thing for young magicians to possess. It has the power to make things disappear. You use it to cover some borrowed article—a coin, say, or a card—pull the handkerchief quickly away, and lo! the borrowed article has completely disappeared.

The handkerchief is prepared as follows: Get two pretty good sized men's handkerchiefs, both exactly alike. In the middle of one of these cut a slit about four inches long, which get your sister to hem round the edges to prevent its becoming larger. Now ask her to lay one handkerchief



### FOR THE HOUSEWIFE

**Baked Bluefish.**  
Clean, wash and dry the fish; mix half pint bread crumbs with two tablespoonfuls melted butter, add half teaspoonful salt, a speck of pepper, and stuff the fish; then put it in a baking pan; baste with melted butter and add half cupful boiling water; dust the fish thickly and bake in a quick oven for three-quarters of an hour, basting several times; serve with tomato sauce and potato balls.

**Asparagus Soup.**  
Boil two bunches fresh, tender asparagus in water with one slice of onion and one tablespoonful salt thirty minutes; throw away the onion; remove the asparagus and cut off the tender part and pound to a paste with a little water; add to it a lump of butter rolled in flour and one-half teaspoonful sugar; mix over the fire until it melts; now add all to the boiling water, in which the asparagus was cooked; then beat the yolk of an egg in half a pint of cream or milk and add to soup; season with salt and pepper, and as soon as it comes to boiling point strain and serve; cut one stalk of asparagus in thin slices and add the last thing.

**Chop Suey.**  
Bone a small chicken and cut the meat into half-inch strips; peel and slice an onion; soak a dozen mushrooms in cold water a few minutes, then drain; cut up a stalk of celery and six Chinese potatoes, washing them well first; prepare the rice by putting a cupful into boiling salted water, and when the grains are soft drain the water off and set the saucepan in the oven to dry the rice; cook the chicken in a big spoonful of hot butter well done, but not dry; add the sliced onion and fry to a nice brown; add the mushrooms and a small cupful of Chinese sauce (this sauce takes the place of salt); add a cup of boiling water and cook fifteen minutes; stir in the celery and cook ten minutes; add the potatoes and cook three minutes longer; rub a spoonful of flour smooth in a little cold water and add to thickener; boil up once well and serve with the hot rice.

### HINTS FOR THE HOUSEKEEPER.

Cut-steel buttons and buckles may be polished with powdered pumice stone slightly moistened and applied with a soft brush or cloth.

To blacken tan leather boots and shoes, rub every part of the boots well with a juicy potato cut in thick slices, and when dry, clean in the usual way with blacking, taking care to put the blacking well on.

To fill cracks in plaster, mix plaster of paris with vinegar instead of water and it will not "set" for twenty or thirty minutes. Push it into the cracks and smooth off evenly with a table knife.—What to Eat.

Milk can be sterilized at home. Absolutely clean bottles are necessary. Soak them in soda and hot water before using, and scald just before the milk is put into them. The milk should be perfectly fresh. Fill the bottles, cork them tight with anti-septic cotton, lay them in cold water; heat slowly to the boiling point, boil for an hour and let them cool in the water. Do not uncork until the milk is to be used.

Boston baked beans are now served as a salad. The quantity of oil to be used depends on the quantity of pork used in cooking the beans, and for sedentary people it is well to omit the pork. In this case three or four tablespoonfuls of oil may be used for a pint of beans. Stir into it half a teaspoonful of paprika, a few drops of onion juice and two tablespoonfuls of vinegar. Mix this through the beans and turn them onto the serving dish. Cover and let them stand half an hour in a cool place. The salad may be garnished with pickles and slices of tiny cucumber pickles, and a teaspoonful of finely cut chives may be added if desired.

It is almost time to begin to think of moths, for the time to remember them is before the first one appears. With these pests prevention is not only better than cure, but it is absolutely essential. Moth balls, tar paper, the most expensive cedar chests, are useless after one wretched insect has found a lodging in a garment. Therefore, before the moths appear, take the necessary precautions. Beat and brush furs and woollens, not overlooking a single pocket or fold, and when perfectly certain that not a moth or an egg is there, pack the garments away where moths cannot reach them. That is the whole secret. Furs should be sent to cold storage, which is safe and cheap. As a matter of precaution, it is well to reserve one closet, which line with tar paper, covering the cracks around the door and stuffing up the keyhole. Hang or lay away winter garments in here, and enjoy an additional feeling of security.

**An Unhealthy World.**  
Somebody who likes to fool with figures has found that there are 20,000 different medical remedies on the market. It is significant, too, remarks the Chicago Record-Herald, that most of the manufacturers of them are rich.

**Age of European Cities.**  
Rome is 2984 years old, Marseilles claims to be 2500 years old and Cassel, in Prussia, 1000.

## Self-Consciousness

By the Editor of the Woman's Home Companion.

THOREAU characteristically says: "If you want to know a man's faults, ask his friends. They will not tell you, but they know." It is because we believe so thoroughly in America and Americans that we interest ourselves in trying to find out our faults. One such occurs to us to which it seems worth while to call attention. This is our self-consciousness—a thing which does a vast deal toward hindering the freedom of the individual. It is this continual consciousness of self that makes us Americans so fearful of what our neighbors think of us, that hampers us in our thought, and that makes us less able to act as our right reasoning would dictate. The Englishman, for instance, sails along, calmly ignoring the whole world. This attitude is provocative of much humor at his expense, but does he not do better by himself than the man who is continually looking from right to left to see what people about think of him? The latter is so busy that he has no time to realize himself. "Mind your own business and endeavor to be what you were made," says the quotable Thoreau. That is what we need to have drummed into us from day to day. How people take our jokes, how they like the cut of our frocks or our coats, what they think of our sitting in the second balcony instead of the orchestra of a theatre, whether they think we are affected because we acknowledge a liking for Browning—these are minor matters indeed; but it is over just such trifles that many of us waste precious moments and more precious brain matter. Let the man and the woman shake himself or herself free from the coils of what "they say" or "how it looks." Let them be big enough not to bother about such little things. Let them think less about their own persons, and more how to enjoy, and profit by, and be good in the big, interesting world of people and things which is all about them.

## Our School Histories Bad

By President Woodrow Wilson of Princeton University

THE first page of almost every school history there is printed a map of the present-day United States. That is the first mistake. If you tell the student at the start what the United States has become, you make it impossible for him to realize the feelings of those settlers back in the seventeenth century. The student in his historical voyaging should approach this country in the same spirit as did the old discoverers; it should

as far as possible be an unknown land for them. You can't enjoin children back into the seventeenth century. They have lived in the nineteenth century—worse luck—and they know the high building, the railway, the telegraph and the steamboat. This shrunken world that we live in nowadays is bound together by rail and wire; it is not the boundless world of the seventeenth century.

The key to the proper method of teaching is to get the children back into the atmosphere of those old times. Let them imaginatively come in the caravans of Columbus believing that they are to discover the East Indies, let them sail on the Half Moon and believe with Hendrik Hudson that they have discovered the Northwest Passage.

Let the children realize that those old Puritans in their knee breeches and steeple hats were Indian fighting frontiersmen just as much as the Westerner with his slouch hat and bucking bronco. The key to American history is this man of the frontier.

And down to the year 1890, the right place to feel the pulse of American life was on the frontier. I say down to 1890, because our census makers then announced that they could no longer find a frontier.

Let the children get a sympathetic impression of these men and they will better understand the spirit of their country than if you talk to them of political liberty. There is not one of you that knows what political liberty is. I'm sure I don't. Until we got the Philippines, we thought that political liberty resided in certain institutions. The Philippines are enjoying liberty, too, so we are told, but by another method. Tell the children what our forefathers came to this country for and what they fought for, and then tell them that the Filipino, denied these self-same things, is still enjoying liberty, and you have given the children a tough morsel for their mental digestion.

I do not believe that the true history of America, the history that will give us a living picture of our past, will be written in our generation. We are doomed to be creatures of our own day, and it's a dull day. It's all hurry, all bustle, and no refreshment; a day of cold steel and hard fact. We are in such a hurry that we no longer have time to sit down and dream dreams, and no people make any intellectual advance unless they do dream their dreams.

## The Pleasure of Visits

By Andrew Lang

IT is a pleasant sensation to wake up in the morning and feel that one is a guest. Strange wall papers and strange furniture surround one's bed, and there is a strange view out of the window. All the jostling demons of worry, anxiety and responsibility, whether domestic or professional, who stand ready to crowd upon our consciousness vanish in the unfamiliar environment. We have got away out of the claws of the usual, and lie blissfully waiting for a knock at the door which shall have an unfamiliar sound.

Downstairs we find new faces, new pictures, strange books, a fresh standpoint. Life has a new savor. We taste it everywhere, in the atmosphere and in the conversation, even in the bread and the salt. Our first sensation is that everything depends upon somebody else. It has nothing to do with us, what ever happens. But presently the old truisms of our childhood—that every situation in life has its duties—comes back to our mind, and though with our waking thoughts we cast off those of the home dweller, we must immediately prepare to take on those of a guest—at least if we are constitutionally conscientious, which, alas! all guests are not. They may, indeed, be divided by this conscientious test into visiting sheep and visiting goats.

The motto of the conscientious guest is Mme. Mohl's well-known saying: "It is a shame to eat another man's bread and give him nothing in return." Such a one should be a joy to his hostess, but in the holiday world of hosts and guests, as in workaday life, good intentions do not always insure success—the conscientious sometimes fall where the unconscientious succeed.

## Perfect Love is Above All Things

By Mrs. H. A. Mitchell Keays

BELIEVE in a great love and in great loves. I believe that a woman is far happier washing dishes and cooking and cleaning house for the man she loves than in the palace of a millionaire where love is not.

My husband had nothing but a little mission church out West. We had to pay our own rent out of the small salary. It was a hard struggle, but we were very happy. I had come from a family that was well provided with this world's goods. I had received the finish to my education in Germany, yet the great happiness of my love made it pleasure for me to do even menial work in the little home that I had come to.

Commercialism in love is too terrible for social position, for personal advancement—it is wicked.

Are these people who marry for money really happy? Do they get the real good out of life? What sort of children do they give to the world?

I have three sons. I hope they will marry poor girls, if these are the ones they love, rather than the richest women in the world. They can be poor all their lives, and yet be happy. Love, I believe, is the greatest thing in the world. The love of a good man for a good woman is the noblest thing I know. It makes the world. Everything should give way before it. I took my husband from his mother. I expect my sons to be taken from me by their wives. It is right that it should be; the love of man and wife is utterly different from the love of mother and son.

A great love knows no sacrifices. It can accomplish wonders. It can work out self-denials that seem almost superhuman. It can suffer and struggle and be cast down and yet be happy, for perfect love is above such petty things.

## STORMS AND HEALTH.

Changes of Temperature Which Have Their Echo in Fevers.

Physicians have for many years recognized the fact that atmospheric electricity disseminated by thunderstorms keenly affects human beings, and investigators have shown that positive electricity produces vigor and a feeling of general good health, while, on the contrary, negative electricity has a depressing effect. We are submitted to these contrary effects according to the state of the atmosphere, sometimes negative electricity dominating, at others the positive, it being possible to determine the electrical condition by means of delicate instruments.

A German meteorologist, Dr. Schliep, claims that it is possible to determine approximately the condition of the atmosphere by comparing the curves of the registering barometer on one hand with those of the thermometer and the hygrometer on the other. Dr. Schliep states that when the barometer and hygrometer ascend the atmosphere is charged with electricity, while the electricity of the air is positive when the barometer ascends and the thermometer lowers.

A naval physician, Dr. Jolly, has applied the Schliep rule in Madagascar, and by comparing the instruments he has been able to fix the changes of the electrical conditions, changes which vary during the day and night. During the dry season there was never an excess of positive electricity, Dr. Jolly observing that both in his own case and that of other subjects the best condition of health corresponded to the positive discharges, while during the periods of negative dominance there was weakness and lassitude. These changes also have their echo in the state of general health, notably in fevers.—Baltimore American.

### Russian Housekeeping.

An English woman residing in the interior of Russia thus describes her housekeeping experiences: "As moist sugar is unobtainable on the steppes, one is obliged to break up a huge two-pound or three-pound lump into pieces and crush it in a pestle and mortar. I believe that currans may be procured in big towns, but they would be very expensive, and the English residents in country villages, who do not care for the smoke-flavored Cossack butter, make their own by shaking cream in a big bottle. The Cossack women are capital laundry women, though their washing appliances are somewhat primitive. They use large, low wooden troughs to wash the clothes in, and boil them in open boilers. The system of mangling is rather curious. First, they wrap the things carefully around a wooden roller, like a pastry pin, then press it up and down a board scored with nicks, loosely laid on the table. Consequently, this makes a clatter, more deafening, if less irritating, than the tuneless squeak of the British mangle. Although the summers are intensely hot in Cossack land, yet the mistress of the household has less trouble to keep milk and other foods sweet there than in England, for every house above the rank of cottage has its icehouse, which is refilled during the latter part of the winter with huge blocks of ice brought, perhaps, many miles across the frozen steppe from some distant lake or river in the bullock carts."—New York American.

### General Kuropatkin's Fearlessness.

General Kuropatkin's hold over men is due to his reputation for absolute fearlessness. Five years ago he received the information that the great powder magazine at St. Petersburg and that at Toulon, France, were to be blown up within twenty-four hours. The general was in bed when he heard the news, but he at once got up and started for St. Petersburg without losing a moment. He summoned all the staff of the magazine and went on a round of inspection. He found everything in order, and as a proof of his satisfaction ordered every one in the magazine to take three days' holiday and to leave at once. He then collected a new garrison and a new staff and set a ring of sentries all around the magazine. The consequence was that nothing happened to the St. Petersburg magazine, but that at Toulon was blown up the next day.—Chicago News.

### Lost His English.

A recent traveler in Arctic Siberia, Mr. Vanderlip, a gold hunter, tells the following of his return to civilization: "I found that half a dozen of the officers and men of the steamer which my employers had sent for me had come to hunt me up. The captain dismounted and I tried to address him in Russian, but he said: 'You forget that I speak English.' Now, it may seem scarcely credible, and yet it is true, that for a few moments I was totally unable to converse with him in my native tongue. I had not used a word of it in conversation for months, and my low physical condition acting on my nerves confused my mind, and I spoke a jumble of English, Russian and Korak. It was a week before I could talk good, straight English again."

### Hidden Tattoo Marks.

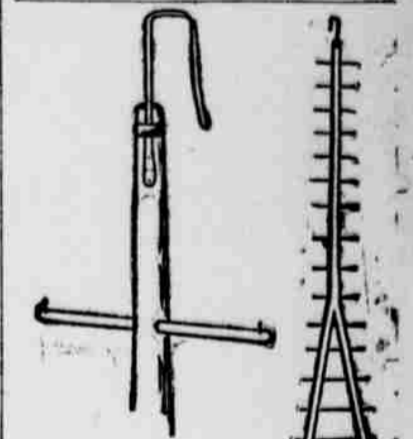
An escaped convict was on trial before a French court, and the question turned upon his identity with a prisoner known to have been tattooed. There was no appearance of colored marks upon his arm, and the question submitted to M. Leroy, the medico-legal expert, was whether the man had ever been tattooed. M. Leroy applied strong friction to the skin of the man's arm. This had the effect of bringing out white lines as electricities, with a slight bluish tint. By this means the word "Sophie" was plainly legible in white marks on the reddened skin. This proved the identity of the convict.

## HORTICULTURE



**HOME-MADE FRUIT LADDER.**  
The average fruit ladder, as found in most orchards, is not particularly desirable, mainly because it is not designed for this particular work. The broad top of the common ladder makes it almost impossible to get it among the branches in a firm position. Where one has considerable fruit to gather, a special ladder constructed after the plan of the one in the illustration will be found not only useful, but will save considerable time in the fruit-gathering season.

A pole, preferably a green one from the woods, should be secured, having it of the desired length. The largest end should be split up about three feet and a brace inserted to keep the



THE HOME-MADE LADDER.

sides apart. The ends which stand on the ground should be sharpened or covered with sharpened pieces of iron, which any blacksmith can fashion and attach. Bore holes one and one-half inches in diameter in both sides as far apart as the rungs are to be placed. The rungs should be formed of some tough wood so that they may not be made too bungling. At the top of the pole a strip of strap iron is fastened with a long hook so that it may be passed over the branches of the tree. The illustration on the right of the cut shows how the hook is fastened on. This ladder will cost but a small sum, and if well made will last for years. It would be a good plan to have several of them of different lengths.—Indianapolis News.

### HORTICULTURAL NOTES.

Got a good sprayer? If not, why not?

When did you last manure that orchard?

Any insect eggs on the apple trees? Scrape them off.

Any blighted limbs on the pear trees? Cut them off away below.

One peach tree having the "yellows" will infect the whole orchard.

Get up a club for purchasing fruit trees—get 'em cheaper that way.

The time to prune trees is when you are ready. You should be ready now.

Just as late as not the orchard has not had a forkful of manure for two years.

Have you removed the old rough bark from the trees yet? If not, why not? The earlier this is done the better, then wash the bodies and large limbs with lye, and see how the trees will renew their youth.

The practice of filling out the old orchards with young trees is very questionable. Better select new ground for the young trees, renovate and care for the old ones until their usefulness is past, then remove them.

Many trees, otherwise vigorous, have large holes occasioned by the rotting of limbs too closely sawed off. Remove the decayed wood clean as possible, and fill the holes solidly with water-lime cement. This will often preserve the trees for years.

Some of us, no doubt, had many apples rot or otherwise go to waste under the trees last fall. Embrace the first opportunity now, to clean up all remaining refuse and burn it. Insect pests and disease are lurking there, and will rise up to condemn us.

If disease of the tree or fruit was present last year, it is liable to be present in aggravated form this season. If such was the case, then by no means neglect spraying with the Bordeaux mixture while the trees are still dormant; then as many times afterward as circumstances may dictate.

Some of the apple trees, no doubt, are expensive boarders; taking up both the ground and soil fertility without making any adequate returns. Graft such trees, if vigorous enough, to useful varieties. If too old for this and they still refuse to respond to good treatment, then they better be removed.

The provision against spraying with poisonous mixtures is not only merciful but wise. The bees are not only our friends as honey producers, but without doubt, are nature's most active agents in fertilizing the blooms. They attract our valued friends by the thousands; and to poison their sources of supply would be cruel in the extreme. So this must be done before and after their harvest time.

Eight hundred tons of sulphur were used in France last year in making matches. The daily consumption was three per head of the population. Match making is a monopoly of the French Government, to which it yields an annual revenue of \$5,000,000.

## PICTURE PUZZLE.



WHERE IS THE MILLER?

—Brooklyn Daily Eagle.

pressure of the air, with remarkable velocity, and will remain in motion, as a little blowing from time to time will keep its speed from slackening.

But how can we find the diameter of the coin in the right moment? This is very easy. Take a piece of paper and draw, with the help of a compass, a circle, approximately the size of the silver dollar, and draw a straight line through the centre. Placing the coin in this circle, we can easily mark the ends of the line on the rim of the dollar.—Los Angeles Times.

### HAVING SOME FUN.

"Now, boys, I will tell you how we can have some fun," said Frank to his playmates, who had come together one bright moonlight evening for sliding and snow-balling.

"What is it?" asked several at once. "You will see," said Frank. "Who has a wood saw?"

"I have." "So have I," replied three of the boys.

"Get them, then, and you and Fred and Tom each get an axe, and I will get a shovel. Let's be back in ten minutes."

The boys all started to go on their several errands, each wondering of what use wood-saws and axes and shovels could be in play. But Frank was much liked by all the boys and they fully believed in what he said and they were soon together again.

"Now," said he, "Widow Brown, who lives in that little house over there, has gone to sit up all night with a sick child."

"A man brought her some wood today, and I heard her tell him that, unless she got some one to saw it tonight, she would not have anything to make a fire with in the morning."

"Now we could saw and split that pile of wood just as easily as we could make a snow man on her door-step, and when she comes home she will be greatly surprised."

One or two of the boys said they did not care to go, but most of them thought it would be fun.

It was not a long and tiresome job for seven strong and healthy boys to

upon the other and sew together the edges. If the work is done neatly the whole will appear to be nothing more than a single handkerchief, especially as, when you draw it from your pocket, you shake it out, with the unprepared side toward those who are watching you.

Next, taking the card in the left hand, you cover it with the handkerchief, at the same time slipping it into the pocket-like arrangement between the two.

So, you see, when you ask some one in the audience to "hold the card covered by the handkerchief, please," and then jerk the whole from his hand, the effect will be that the card has disappeared.—New York American.

### HOW THE MINK HUNTS.

If you will follow a mink's track in the snow any winter day it will usually lead you before long, says a writer in Country Life in America, to the mute story of a tragedy—just some trampled snow and a red stain. The whole method of the mink's hunting is told by the snow. We see how it follows a rabbit, taking every precaution not to betray their presence while the wretched creature feeds, for then it is alert; how it follows bunny to where it sleeps beneath a log, an upturned root on the snow-covered top of a fallen tree, and then stealthily creeps on the unsuspecting prey. How sometimes the rustling of a dead leaf warns the rabbit, who leaps forward perhaps just in time to avoid the furious onslaught of the mink, though more often too late, and the red stain tells us that the rabbit has been eaten where it expected to sleep.

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