Dy W. G. FITZ-GERALD.

The mixture of medicine and miracle is familiar to us in books of travel dealing with remote and savage resuch as Zululand, Morocco, Asiatic Turkey and China, where the family "practitioner" squats by the roadside selling amulets and charms, love philtres, mysterious protection against invisible enemies, and cures for all ills, even more weird than those of the witches in "Macbeth."

But who would look for witch and wizard doctors at this day in civilized France? It need hardly be said that their habitat is beautiful old Brittany -that paradise of artists, where the world has stood still for centuries and all conditions of life are in some respects as backward as they were in the twilight days of King Arthur and his knights. Even the marriage ceremonies, with their barbaric open air feasts and dances and the queer "pursuit" of the bride, are survivals of paganism when marriage by capture was in vogue.

The Bretons speak a tongue of their own, and in many villages of the Department of Morbihan French is entirely unknown. Everywhere one comes across quaint old manners and customs, for the people are filled with superstition and cling to the manners of their forefathers with positive fanaticism.

This is nowhere more in evidence than in the matter of the village doctor or doctress-grave persons laconic in speech, and supposed to be filled with all knowledge of the heavens and the earth and things that are under the earth.

Their treatment is in some respects little less drastic than that of the witch doctors of Northern Siam (the Laos States), where all ailments are supposed to be due to demons in the patient, who has his back most cruelly lacerated with tigers' claws that the evil spirit may find a way out.

In villages like Concarnau or lovely old Quimperle one meets the Breton magician-doctor at his best. It may be the patient is a fisherman who has badly sprained his back on a lugger, and knows no peace until the doctor is sent for. The treatment in many cases is given in the open air, for a number of reasons. First, the roars and yells of the victim, much diminished by space, do not so greatly distress his relatives; and, moreover, the scene draws a small crowd of respectful spectators who are vastly impressed by the wonderful skill or occult knowledge of the operator.

The wizard doctor of Brittany has bedside manner" to speak of. He is sent for for a specific object, and strives to attain this in the most direct and vigorous manner possible, well knowing that unless his herb potions are appallingly nauseous and drastic in result and his bone setting a matter of agony little faith would be put in him and his payments in cash and kind would dwindle to the vanishing point as murmurs against his feeble methods slipped from village to village.

A matter like neuralgia, being difficult to cure in any showy or dra-matic manner, calls for the "magic wand," with much cabalistic muttering and "laying on of hands," more or less after the manner of the apostles. Some of these so-called doctors though causing intense pain to the patient, undoubtedly attains its ob-

The women doctors are usually old, with a primitive knowledge of the effects of certain herbs upon the system, and their specialty is the treatment of children and women. Their methods would excite dismay in New York, London or Paris, but a most touching and implicit faith is put in them, even when they act as dentists by the old string and chair method. Fees are frequently paid in grain, hay, native costumes and silver ornaments, but the women also often pay the witch doctors by means of their own hair.

It should be explained that there is a regular hair harvest in Brittany, and the girls and women do not mind much parting with their back tresses, because the native Breton bonnet conceals the loss.

The doctors also practice a certain kind of hypnotism, especially in the case of nervous affections, and frequently succeed in persuading a patient (even with blows, curses and causing anxiety to his friends and relatives!

Mud poultices, cats' fur, dogs' hair, human blood, parchment with mysterious words written on it-these are some of the "remedies" which the quack doctors of Brittany commonly use, and which are believed in by the patients with the faith that moveth mountains. The more successful of se village practitioners employ assistants, especially in dislocation cases, where the patient is likely to put up a stout resistance to the drastic and painful methods employed to put the bone back into its place.

In some of the very smallest of Breton villages, however, the man or woman doctor adopts this honorable profession only as occasion may arise, and as a kind of "side line." old woman who keeps a tiny store- land) Guardian.

both of them with an hereditary knowledge and a taste for the cure

It must be borne in mind that even these "occasional" doctorsenjoy their meed of respect and local renown, and are frequently called upon to cure a sick baby or growing child, or even to treat an adult person with strange drugs of their own brewing, of course entirely unknown to the pharmacopoeia, and seriously applied. For the physician in most cases believes as implicitly in the treatment as the patient himself; the former has seen these weird remedies applied all the days of his life, and well knows they have come down from time immemorial.

It is the doctor, too, who is frequently employed as a "go-between" in initiating the elaborate and complicated ceremonies that mark a Breton wedding .- New York Tribune.

BACK TO NATURE.

Wealthy Swiss Woman Lived in the Woods and Acted Like an Ape.

Scientists are greatly interested in a woman who has reverted to the seven years of solitary wandering in and more neglected among us. lonely mountains, has forgotten the Lady's Pictorial. civilizing influences into which she was born and has regained the super acute sense of hearing and the tree climbing power which prehistorie man possessed.

She is a widow of a wealthy merchant of Geneva. Some time before her husband's death she deserted their luxurious home in this city and vanished utterly. Some whispered that she was jealous of a certain opera singer. Others gossiped that she gambled and had contracted debts of which she dared not tell her husband. Again, it was said that for her eccentricities she had been immured in a neighboring asylum.

It is known now that the woman. who was delicately reared, went away. She wandered into the thick forests of Hautesavoy, a most sparsely settled country. There she has existed for seven years, munching nuts and berries, seeking refuge in lonely grottoes against the winter's rigors.

Growing bolder at last, she penetrated to the outer edge of the forest. Her appearance, almost demoniac, terrified the peasants, who told the police of the wild vision that had presented itself. She eluded the police by darting into the thickets, which they could not penetrate, or by swinging herself from one of the tree branches far above the ground.

Even when they captured ner the police could learn nothing from her. She mumbled a jargon. She has been positively identified. Her husband left a fortune to her, but it is not likely she will enjoy it, for she has been incarcerated in an asylum .-Geneva Correspondence Chicago In-

The Philosophic Grocer.

A retail grocer of Burlington displays on his store walls some trenchant placards. He is a recognized adept in rhyming and effective ad. writing, especially in adapting current events to that end, but those quoted herewith display some homely philosophic thought. This placard is placed directly over

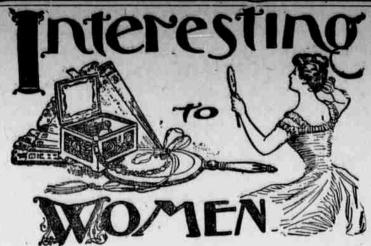
the clock, where all who look for the time of day will see this also: "What time is it? It's time to quit lying, Some people lie when they know the truth would be better." Here are some others: "If you get out of humor, before you swear count five. It works; we've tried it; you try." "Do unquestionably have a rude notion of you know the hardest thing in the bone setting, and their treatment of world to do? Do unto others as you sprains and simple fractures, al-If you put good crackers into good soup, it will improve both." "Honesty may be the best policy but it keeps some people poor all their lives. But cheer up, Bill; you'll have wings while others are singed.' "What's worse than a rotten egg? We don't know, unless it's the fellow who brings it to market." "We don't know which is the bigger fool-the one who orders a cake of yeast delivered, or the one who delivers it."

Materializing the Flying Dutchman.

A strange sea phantom, which very probably has helped to create the legend of the Flying Dutchman, is stated to have been run to earth by the Argentine Government. Many vessels have reported after rounding the Horn that they have sighted what seemed to be a derelict vessel, or one in need of assistance, sailing in through the straits with decks awash. Vessels have run aground while trying to get near this mysterious apparition, under the belief that there must be a navigable passage for it to sail in. Now it has been finally contumely) that there is nothing at identified in Le Maire Strait, one of all the matter with him, and that he a number of jagged rocks, which at ought to be ashamed of himself giv- five miles distance has the appearing up work these hard times and ance of a bark running under short sails. Probably the white sails of the visionary vessel are produced by the sea bird whitened upper parts of the crag; the same course has often | Corelli's charge. led to the lonely islet of Rockall, which lies out in the Atlantic to the that they buy supplies of paint and west of the Hebrides and was the grave of a Norwegian emigrant ship a year or two ago, to be taken for a vessel under full sail.-Westminster foods and lobsters. The only differ-Gazette.

Should Have Tried Heaven.

Witness was at the nouse at about 3 o'clock on the previous afternoon, and he saw Priestley through the window. He rang the bell and the maid answered the door, but doclined to open it, and told him to go to a warm place. He had been there it, and all other facial evils that they about four times previously, and had Thus it may be a small farmer or an not seen Priestley.—Southport (Eng. ist. New York club women fiatly and mentation of the hat.



Plea for More Dancing. It seems a very great pity that determined effort cannot be made to make dancing more popular. Nowadays, when exercise is a kind of religion to men and women alike it is odd that one recommended by all doctors, and recognized all the world over and in all ages as an attractive pastime, into which the art of fascinhabits of the highest apes, who, in ation largely enters, should be more

One Way to Earn Money.

One of the least expensive and easiest ways of earning a living for a woman to adopt is that of dyeing. In small towns where people have no city faculties it is a paying investment to start a dyeing establishment. It's wonderful how many old gowns, coats, odds and ends, and even carpet rags every housekeeper has that she wishes dyed. One of the principal advantages of this sort of work is the small investment that is required to be made. Several 10-cent packages of dye of staple colors are all she needs to start with.

After one gets accustomed to the work it is fascinating as well as profitable.-Chicago Tribune.

Expressionless Faces.

It is being said of the faces of preesnt-day women that they lack expression. Artists sometimes tell us that they value wrinkles. Lines in the faces how character. How expressionless are often the photographs of celebrated men and women from which all characteristic lines have been effaced! If a miniature has to be copied from them, the painter is in despair; he gets no likeness. So when all faces aim at blankness the result will be monotony. Would not this be deplorable? It must be left for the women themselves to decide whether their faces shall be natural, lined, and interesting, or fashionably smooth, expressionless, and fixed.—The Lady.

Plea For the "Not Outs."

An English writer commends the American practice of letting the "not outs" have a good time. What does an English girl betwen twelve and sixteen know of the joy of living, she asks. "She is more often than not snubbed all around, and left to her own devices—and her governess'. She is persistently overworked, and, I am sure, ever-gymnasiumed. Growing in stature as fast as she can grow, she is yet made to burn the candle of learning and athletics at both ends. Can't we have some pity on her, and let her have a little fun of the right sort? The age of fifteen is an impressionable age, when girls are apt to get a little sad, a little neurotic, unless brightness and movement of a healthy sort are introduced into their lives."-New York Tribune.

Her "Strict Mourning" is White.

specific term. Anybody who thinks it means you must wear your heart upon your sleeve in a black symbol is ignorant of the subtleties of fashion. For instance, the Countess of Suffolk (Daisy Leiter that was) is said to be "in strict mourning" for her sister, Lady Curzon, yet she went driving the other day in Washington in a white cloth suit, made with a pony jacket and deep flounces on the demi-trained skirt. A narrow band of crepe edged the left cuff and a narrow band of crepe finished the flowing white chiffon veil. Friends say Daisy Leiter has gone off in looks, and that she will never gain the reputation for loveliness enjoyed by her sister. As a young girl, Mary Leiter was thought only "pretty," but as a matron she developed into a celebrated beauty.-New York Press.

Do They All Powder?

Statements of hotel managers in New York indicate that Marie Corelli will not find her "ideal womanbood" and natural-beauty literary heroines along the Great White Way. While women are indignantly refuting the attack made by the English novelist pertaining to wigs, pads and beauty dyes the hotel managers make statements that tend to support Marie

The hotel men with one accord say powder, eye pencils, hairpins and other beauty accessories the same as they buy their stock of breakfast ence in these purchases of widely different variety, they generously admit. is the lessened quantity of the form-

The managers say behind the barricaded doors of their private offices. "withut fear of contradiction." that New York women are addicted to the paint and powder, the eve-pencil hapare accused of by the English novel-

vigorously deny the imputation, and there you are,-New York World.

Don't Fuss Over New Frocks. "In this season of princess styles and delicate fabrics that woman is

wise who doesn't worry about infinitesimal errors in the fit of her gown, provided the essentials are correct and smart," said a designer in a Fifth avenue establishment yesterday. "Fine materials," she explained, "cannot be handled and rehandled by a number of sewing girls without bearing a resemblance to a purchase from a second-hand shop. It is sufficiently difficult to keep a two-piece garment fresh and dainty looking when many corrections are to be made, but with the princess gown the difficulties double. Since it is all in one piece, several girls must work away at the waist, while two or three more, seated opposite, sew on the skirt. Naturally in the effort of each to get her work into the easiest position and the best light, the garment comes in for more pulling and jerking than is good for it. One of our customers ordered a violet velvet gown a few weeks ago. Walst and skirt were trimmed richly with handsome white lace over white chiffon, This woman insisted on at least six fittings, and at each she suggested a new alteration in the garniture. Re-When that gown finally was farwarded to her it looked as if it had had several weeks of hard wear. -New York Press.

Mending Wrinkles. The best method of mending a silk gown is to use the ravellings from the material itself, first of all, because there can be no doubt as to your having the exact shade—which is not apt to be the case even with the most closely matched silk-and secondly because the twist is the same and the stitches do not show, as they will if the stitches are taken with a thread more tightly twisted than the woven fibre. The place should afterward be pressed with a heavy iron. The iron, of course, should only be warmed, as a hot one would leave an imprint of its shape.

Again, ravellings of woollen gar ments are the only threads that will make a darn which can be concealed perfectly. From the roll of pieces you have take one that will give ravellings eight or ten inches long. If the whole to be darned is very irregular or large baste it into as good shape as possible with a fine thread, which may be withdrawn after the work is completed more easily than a coarse one could be.

A very good plan is to lay a book of piece of pasteboard under the hole, which will enable you to draw the edges together smoothly and flatly. A small piece of pasteboard held under the rent while darning is as great a help as a darning ball to the heel of a stocking, says Woman's Life.

Do not mend a kid glove with sew-"Strict mourning" is far from a ing silk, for the silk cuts the kid and shows the repair more plainly. Fine cotton thread will give a much more satisfactory result. If a glove is torn put a piece of silk of the corresponding shade under the torn part, baste carefully so as not to reveal the stitches, and then draw up the rent with cotton thread.

Fashion Notes.

Black hats are worn with colored

Colonial buckles continue a popu lar decoration for dressy low shoes. Very pretty are the lace blouse coats with square fichus or collars hemmed with chine silk.

Two or three shirrings just below the bust on silk matinees suggest the Empire style pleasantly.

Buckles of oxidized silver mounted with bright peridot are among the handsome fastenings for belts and

As a rule, low tones have prevailed, gray, mauve, fawns and plum shades, rather than black or the more brilliant hues.

Narrow velvet ribbon the color of the waist may decorate the stock of white linen to be worn with an afternoon shirtwaist.

Red velvet, ivory satin and cloth, and gold buttons and embroidery are combined in a sumptuous opera wrap for a New York society woman.

Light Persian silk made very or nate with sections and bands of lace edged with folds of plain color silk is favored for separate dressy waists.

Narrow silk rufflings and plaitings ready to put in place upon intricate bodices and skirts are beaded with tiny plaid silk folds or bright colored silk braids.

Ribbon or braid applique finds a place upon the upturned, rolling brim of a jaunty velvet turban, a feather pompom with slender upstanding spikes contemplating the simple or

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