FOR LITTLE FOLKS.

A LITERARY MONKEY.

The Remarkable Way in Which He Sharpened and Used a Pencil.

The girls and boys of a certain school were given a day's outing at the zoological garden for the purpose of studying natural history from personal observation.

Such fun as they did have, to be sure! There was a great flutter and flurry and a hurried snatching up of wraps and lunchboxes when the teachers came to the door and announced that the cars were waiting to convey them to the garden.

A great many curious and amusing things happened during the day, but little Mary Horton declared that her experience was the funniest of all.

She was standing before one of the monkey houses with a number of other girls and boys who were busy "taking notes," for the pupils were expected to relate their experiences in the form of a composition.

One bright eyed little monkey watched the young students very intently and appeared to be deeply interested in them. Finally he thrust his hand through the bars and tried to reach them. He evidently wanted something.

One of the children handed him a peanut, but this did not satisfy him, for out came the hand again. Mary, who was standing near the railing, leaned over and offered him her lead pencil, saying laughingly, "Perhaps this is a literary monkey who would like a pencil to play with."

But the monkey did more than play with the pencil. He was delighted with it, and it must have been what he was trying to get, for no sooner had he taken hold of it than he jumped over to the wall of his cage and began to make marks up and down the wall.

An amused and approving crowd had gathered about the cage by this time, and the monkey, in the excitement of "showing off" his accomplishment, broke the point from the pencil.

The cunning monkey immediately perceived that the pencil had ceased making marks. He paused, looked at it in a puzzled manner, then came over to the bars where he could have a better light and re-examined it for a few minutes, and then—you will hardly believe it, but it is an actual fact—he seemed to discover where the trouble lay, for he began to bite off the wood with his sharp little teeth till he had quite a long point of lead.

He held it up in triumph to his audience, as much as to say, "Don't I know how to sharpen a pencil?" To satisfy himself that the point was all right he tried it on the ledge. Finding that it wrote again, he turned back to the wall and resumed his scratching.

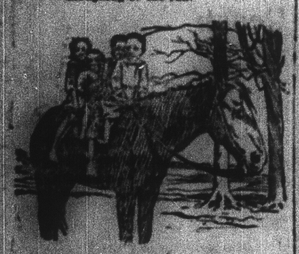
During his literary labors he broke his pencil five or six times, and every time he did so he stopped and "sharpened" it anew.

When he had the pencil worn to quite a small point, he appeared to think he had distinguished himself sufficiently for one day, for he very gravely returned the pencil and, giving the delighted crowd a knowing wink, he returned to a corner of his cage.

He could not be induced to repeat the performance, but he graciously condescended to accept a few of the cakes and the peanuts that were fairly showered upon him.—Youth's Companion.

Four Little Blackbirds.

Four little blackbirds,
Sitting in a row;
Playing circus rider
With old horse Joe.
Daddy in the cotton patch,
Singing in the sun;
Mamma in the cabin door,
Laughing at the fun.



Topsy, Cæsar, Liza, Pompie,
Grinning every way at you,
Holding tightly to each other—
Wonder what old Joe will do!
Old Joe knows just what is coming,
See the twinkle in his eye!
Pretty soon he'll kick and scamper.
Then, my goodness! My! Oh! My!
—Chicago Record.

A Clever Kite Flier.

In the year 1880 a bright boy in Washington, who was interested in kite flying, succeeded in keeping his kite in the air for two whole days. Some scientists heard about it and came to the conclusion that if a boy could do such kite flying it could be turned to account for making records of the condition of the upper atmosphere. Since that time several many grown men have become interested in kite flying, and many new and wonderful kites have been made—kites that will fly out of sight, and kites big enough to lift a man from the ground. And, more than this, prizes have been offered by the Boston Aeronautical society for the best articles on kite flying and kite experiments.

In this way a boy's toy has become an arm of science.

Chinese Boy of San Francisco.

Ah Gan wore a pale blue quilted blouse reaching to his knees, and his sleeves were so long that his hands were rarely to be seen. He had on red silk trousers, loose above, but tightly wound around the ankles, while his richly embroidered shoes were provided with white painted soles nearly two inches thick. A round skullcap, surmounted by a red button, completed this most elegant costume. No wonder he was pleased with himself and proud of his dazzling appearance.—Theodore Wores in St. Nicholas.

Girls and Home.

Technical training for girls in the arts of the home is very much needed in this country, says a New York writer. Abroad it is carried on extensively. Hundreds of institutions are maintained by private subscription, others are managed by the proprietors of large manufacturing establishments, who see in the training of the mothers and daughters better labor results in the fathers and sons, and, still more, are conducted by municipalities. Many of these schools have perfect courses in housekeeping. The pupil begins at the bottom round of the ladder, learning how to manipulate the tools of cleaning, washing, ironing, dishwashing, waiting at table and all the rest of the household detail. She learns to market and make out a palatable menu and is taught the nutritive constituents and economical values of each food served.

She must keep a record of her expenditures and waste. She learns to buy and make clothes, and when she enters her own home is fitted to be its keeper. All through Germany the schools are growing in number. Holland, Belgium Wurttemberg, Bavaria, Austria, Switzerland, France and Italy have thriving schools, intended for the most part for the children of laboring people. In the United States the work has barely been begun in the few kitchen garden schools which can be counted.

American Women Abroad.

The latest American women to make their mark in foreign lands are Miss Alice Luce, who is a native of Maine, and Miss Ida J. Hyde, who hails from Cincinnati, but who has been identified of late years with Cornell and Bryn Mawr. Each has received a Ph. D. from Heidelberg, and is the admired of many admirers. There is a great difference among universities abroad in regard to their treatment of women.

In Oxford and Cambridge they are allowed to study, but cannot compete with the men. This is very fortunate for the latter, as in the past ten years there have been over 30 women who did better and higher work than any of their male colleagues, and who, had they been admitted to the regular examinations, would have taken the prizes that were awarded the men. In Switzerland women are about as welcome as in the United States, the University of Zurich being the most noted in Europe for the facilities it offers to the sex.

The German universities are about as conservative as the English. They put more obstacles in a woman's way to start with, but after they once do admit a woman they are very just and permit her to receive the same degrees and honors as are accorded the men.—New York Mail and Express.

Panniers In Style Again.

Panniers, those delightful, useful fripperies made famous by Dolly Varden and associated forever with demure little Dresden china shepherdesses, are again worn. Their place is on evening gowns, and the design comes from no less an authority than Worth. The plain, undraped skirt is growing a bit wearisome, and this happy suggestion of relief will be enthusiastically taken up. Perhaps it is the prelude to the actual overskirt, which was thought to have been well gotten rid of some four or five years ago. At all events the pretty little side draperies have returned and they are welcome. The Worth designs show almost exact reduplications of the familiar Dolly Varden patterns—the skirt is a little short, not very full and with a quilted effect in front, and the panels full and fluffy, meeting at front and back. To be quite in conformity with the new style the skirt should be of plain material and the panels of figured.—Philadelphia Times.

A Child's Gown.

A pretty little gown for a child, called the tot dress, is formed of a rich shade of crimson French cashmere. The front of the rather short waist is trimmed with large flat cream white cashmere revers edged with narrow, dark red gimp laid in two straight rows. The revers form a large sailor collar at the back, and in front border a pointed plastron of the white cashmere striped horizontally all the way down with the gimp. The sleeves, full to several inches below the elbow, are gathered into deep white cuffs bordered with the gimp. The kilted skirt has a wide hem, brier stitched at the top with cream white silk.—New York Post.

Office Girls.

They are introducing office girls in Chicago, and those who have them in their employ are very well pleased with them. They say that the office girl is superior to the office boy in many particulars. In the first place she does not smoke cigarettes. As a rule she has absolutely no taste for dime novels. She is usually bright, quick and energetic, and ever so much cleaner and neater than any boy can be. Testimony upon this point is almost unanimous, and most of those who have tried office girls declare that never again will they have an office boy around the premises.—Boston Herald.

A Woman Edits It.

According to law, no woman can publish a newspaper in Japan, but a tiny rift was recently made in this prohibition. The young women connected with the Methodist Girls' school in Nagasaki, Japan, started a little quarterly, and then learned of the law, to their dismay. A concession was made, however, in their favor, the government taking the ground that a school paper purely religious and educational was different and that a woman might edit it.

Women Growing Still Nicer.

Are women becoming more marriageable? Somebody writing in London Woman flatters them that they are. The writer declares that they are not so ready to rush into matrimony certainly, for their lives are no longer stunted and empty, and they are perhaps inclined to subject suitors to a little more mental criticism. Moreover, men are, happily, not so eager to marry young. "I think we shall find as the world goes on more happy marriages to rejoice our quality of benevolence, for the reasons that I have just stated are deep and powerful incentives to happiness. If only each sex would more fully realize the honor done to it at the altar by the other! The nicest, most chivalrous hearted men sometimes say that half their pleasure in a wife consists in taking care of her, yet one cannot help agreeing with the saying of some writer that 'a woman, in order to give her hand with dignity, must be able to stand alone.' The gift is then complete, open hearted and generous—a meet return for the honor, grace and reverence which have been freely paid to her."

Money Making Schemes.

New ways for women to earn money multiply so constantly that one wonders if any specialty, however small, may not be turned to commercial account. One of the last heard of is that of providing soup materials. In a neighboring city, a woman who made such very excellent soups that she was famed among her friends for them tried, when adversity overtook her, to utilize what she called her "one talent" to enhance her income. She took orders for soup stock, serving it in jars, and found some profit in doing so.

Amateur photography takes on very easily the professional money earning characteristic. Perhaps its newest manifestation is the visiting photographer furnished by some of the women's exchanges, who will come to the house to take any picture desired, from a wedding cake to the last cozy corner arranged. Her most frequent models, however, are the children of the family, taken in all sorts of poses and against all sorts of backgrounds.

Embossed Velvet.

Embossed velvet is one of the novelties of the season, and will be worn for very handsome trained gowns and for elaborate wraps. It is a quite different stuff from the old fashioned stiff and ugly embossed velvet, whose patterns were usually large, unnatural palm leaves and queer geometrical designs.

The new ones have moire or satin grounds, in all the delicate velvet designs being in black, the embossed velvet designs being in one or more colors, and in a fine graceful trail of vines and blossoms.

A white moire, delicately traced over with the embossed velvet, in wood browns and greens, is charming, as are pompadour bouquets, in colors and then striped with narrow bars of embossed claret colored velvet.

Moire grounds in all the shades of the ultra fashionable gray are embossed with black velvet figures and plaided taffeta silks are splashed with broken lines of embossed black velvet very effectively.—New York World.

Cold and Finger Nails.

Many women who have pretty hands are constantly annoyed in cold weather by the rough appearance of their finger nails, caused by the fact that they break and split.

The intense cold causes the nails to become brittle, and it seems impossible to trim them so as to make them smooth.

The possessor of such nails should cut them with well sharpened manicure scissors, and the nails must never be cut or filed unless the fingers have first been soaked in warm water.

The brittleness may sometimes be lessened by rubbing almond oil thoroughly into the nails and finger ends on retiring at night. An old pair of kid gloves must then be pulled on.

The housekeeper whose nails break easily should never stir anything on the hot range without first slipping on a loose glove, as the dry heat from the fire will make her nails more brittle than ever.

Charlotte B. Long.

Miss Charlotte B. Long of Minneapolis has executed some novel work that is calling forth favorable comment in her city, and in Sioux Falls, where she teaches drawing and painting in All Saints' school. Recently, while crossing a muddy street in that Dakota city, she found progress difficult because of the stickiness of the mud, and, knowing it was hard enough when dry, she gathered up a double handful, took it to the institution and from it made a bust. Encouraged by the result of her first effort, Miss Long produced a number of other works from the plastic native soil which are pronounced highly meritorious.—Woman's Journal.

A Tribute to Mrs. Peavy.

Mrs. A. J. Peavy, the outgoing state superintendent of public instruction in Colorado, has received a recognition accorded none of her predecessors. Her administration has been indorsed by the State Teachers' association, and the recommendations sent by her to the legislature have also received the approval of the teachers in convention assembled. It is generally conceded that no member of the late administration was so efficient, so conscientious, or so devoted to the general good as Mrs. Peavy.—Woman's Journal.

Mrs. Livermore Re-elected.

Mrs. Mary A. Livermore has been reelected president of the Beneficent Society of the New England Conservatory of Music. During the year ending in June, 1896, the society lent $1,288 to 34 students, of whom 20 were women. These loans, in small sums, are made without interest, and on the understanding that the money is to be returned as soon as the beneficiary is self supporting.

How to Lift the Skirt.

The mode of lifting the skirt has changed considerably. Last year, when skirts were very wide, a brave young maiden took a handful on each side and plunged across the street, as though preparing for a desperate leap.

This year the skirts are narrower, easier to handle them. The maid or dame lean back and takes her skirt gracefully in one hand. The point at which she seizes it is nearly half way down the center of the back, nor is the skirt drawn to one side, but is pushed up, disclosing beneath a dainty underskirt.

Another matter which it discloses—and of which the maid seems oft oblivious—is the condition of the bottom of the skirt. Nothing ruins the appearance of a skirt more than when it is worn at the bottom. Yet how many are sadly neglected.

When a skirt needs rebinding, take the velveteen, or whatever finish it has, off entirely, even if it is but worn in spots. The brush the skirt carefully and hang it in the air for several hours; sponge and press the bottom of the skirt, and it is ready for rebinding. If the facing is worn, it is best to renew that, with alpaca or percaline, about 12 inches in width.

For binding, velveteen is most serviceable, although there is a fad at present for mohair cord. If cord is used, it is fastened to the edge after the skirt is entirely finished. If velveteen, the skirt is faced, not bound with it, unless there is need for an additional inch of skirt length.

In this respect Dame Fashion demands little more than that perfect neatness reign at the bottom of the skirt.—Detroit News.

No Corsets Allowed.

The swimming pool connected with the new gymnasium at Pratt institute is the first to be opened to women in Brooklyn.

This swimming tank is 44 feet in length, 15 feet wide and is lined with white porcelain tiles. It is supplied with water from an artesian well, which fills the tank with fresh water daily. On the left of the main hall are the dressing rooms, needle baths, measuring and massage rooms. Each girl has her own locker, where she keeps her "Jim" suits, etc.

The course of gymnastic exercises has been arranged with the aim to secure a symmetrical development of the body, to increase the strength of the muscles, the circulation and the respiratory powers and to gain agility and grace. The exercises are designed to remove much of the embarrassment, nervousness and faltering characteristics of those who have not a well developed control of the body.

The work consists of Swedish educational gymnastics, including free standing exercises, running, jumping, vaulting and the use of the horizontal ladder and of inclined and vertical ropes. Exercises with clubs, wands, dumbbells and

A NEW SOCIAL LEADER.

She Intends Her Sway to Include the National Capital.

Mrs. Charles F. Sprague, wife of Congressman Elect Sprague of Boston, will be a notable figure in Washington society. She is the leader of the best society in Boston, and that is saying a great deal. She is the richest young matron in the city of wealth which is her home. Her grandfather, William F. Weed of Philadelphia, left her a fortune of $16,000,000, which has increased rather than grown smaller with time. Mrs. Sprague is a very handsome blond. She has a regal air, and her naturally distinguished appearance is enhanced

by the exquisite taste she displays in her gowns. Her dresses, from the faultlessly fitting tailor made walking gowns she wears in the street to the gorgeous creations in which she is garbed in society, are at once the admiration and the despair of her friends.

Mrs. Sprague is a superb hostess. Her great wealth enables her to have just what she desires when she entertains, and in these little enterprises she is ably assisted by Mr. Sprague, who is a man of good judgment, fine taste and pleasant manners. Mrs. Sprague is, as has been noted, the leader of Boston's Four Hundred, to which position she made her way over Mrs. Jack Gardner, who had ruled queen of the Hub for several years. Mrs. Gardner did not give up her throne without a struggle, but her rival was younger, handsomer and more winsome, and finally captured such hearts as were necessary to make her the queen. The Spragues, with their daughter Marion, took possession of their Washington home Feb. 1.—Washington Letter.

The Late Princess Bismarck.

"The countess stood there, hesitating a moment," writes George W. Smalley while describing his first visit to Prince Bismarck, a few years ago, in The Ladies' Home Journal. "I thought then, as I have thought since, of the part she had played in her husband's life. Her present intervention had evidently surprised the count; it was very much in the manner, thus far, of Mrs. Gladstone, whose superintendence over her husband has been, especially during the last 20 years, of a very close and anxious kind. Countess Bismarck never, I think, aspired to much direct influence in public affairs. Her face was not that of a masterful woman, nor yet pre-eminently of one born to bear sway in courts or drawing rooms, but above all things sympathetic, kindly, amiable and attractive. Her manner was of great sweetness. She moved and spoke gently. In all her bearing, in the tone of her voice, in her attitude as she remained there, still appealing to her husband, though silent, there were both affection and refinement."

Beauty on the Stage.

"I am inclined to think," says a man who has had a great deal to do with the stage, "that three-quarters of a woman's chance of getting a start as an actress depends upon her personal beauty. It is not that alone, however. There are some women who will not attract in spite of their beauty. I have seen that frequently in the course of my life. A woman who has a large degree of beauty without the power of attracting makes a decided impression at first, but it is soon gone. I am not sure but it is a certain roundness of mental and physical development that makes a woman attractive. The feeling that she possesses it gives her an equilibrium which is pleasing in itself. That a good appearance is a benefit on the stage can be seen in many cases where there are both men and women holding prominent positions who cannot act and who depend only on their looks."—New York Times.

Mrs. Wallace's Advice.

Mrs. Zerelda G. Wallace, the stepmother of General Lew Wallace, now in her eighties, yesterday addressed the Woman's Christian Temperance union of Indianapolis the other day on the subject of woman suffrage. "I advocate it," she said, "not because woman is wiser or better than man, but her voice is essential to the voice of the whole. I think men have done wonderfully well in establishing a republican form of government, and yet have left half the people out of it. I shall urge women to confine their efforts to prohibition and suffrage and leave off working for Armenia and other things of a philanthropic nature which need not be mingled with our work. We dissipate our force by taking up too many things."

Color Combinations.

Not only in the dinner toilets, gowns of ceremony, and also in elaborate street costumes, but likewise among ball dresses this winter, are noted surprising color combinations. Blue, green, pale petunia and yellow were recently seen in conjunction on an imported ball gown, trimmed with brown fur and lace. Another gown was of green and gold brocade, shot with pale rose color, with sleeve puffs, medici collar and girdle of mauve velvet. The bodice draperies were of pale ecru chiffon, silk embroidered in tiny heliotrope and ingenuette blossoms, framed with an elaborate passementerie of jewel beads.

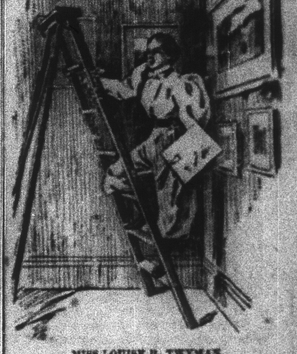
WOMAN'S WORLD.

A CLEVER CHICAGO DECORATOR WHO WORKS IN BLOOMERS.

A Fortune For Dress—The Woman Who "Sees to Things"—How to Lift the Skirt, Where No Corsets Are Allowed—Girls and Home—American Women Abroad.

Out of a possible three or four women decorators in Chicago the youngest and cleverest is Miss Louise R. Twyman of Hyde Park. Although she is a charming young woman, scarcely 22 years of age, still she is one of the pioneers among women in interior decoration—in the thoroughgoing ladder and scaffold work on walls and ceiling.

It takes a certain kind of energy, perseverance and pluck to mount a lofty scaffolding and work for a number of hours, with uplifted arm and head bent backward, decorating a flat and unvarying expanse of ceiling. It takes a kind of physical endurance and grit that not many women ever demonstrate. To paint a tiny piece of canvas held comfortably before one is a summer dream in comparison. Women all over the world have gained distinction where the means were easy, talent considered, but few have gained it in this most difficult phase of art—interior decoration. It took a Chicago girl to venture into this



MISS LOUISE R. TWYMAN.

untried realm and come forth triumphant with colors flying. It took a young woman like Miss Twyman to make a success of the undertaking.

Yet even at 22 she is not a novice. Her first work was begun six years ago, when she was still a student in the Hyde Park high school. Since then her work has matured wonderfully and shows none of the shallowness of the ordinary fresco painters. But at 16 she gave unusual promise. From her childhood, in fact, she evinced a strong tendency toward decorative work. At 7 years of age, it is said, it was her custom to lie prostrate on the floor and plan little designs for her own gowns. She not only dictated the quaint fashion of her frocks, but even suggested rare and striking combinations of color that proved early the art instinct.

The tendencies of her childhood, fostered and directed by her father, Joseph Twyman, a man of enviable reputation as a decorator, have ripened into the serious profession of her womanhood. It is to that father that she owes her first inspiration. And it is to his guidance and masterly teaching that she owes a great part of her success. Father and daughter work together and find in one another a sympathy and dependence that is an unusual and beautiful relationship. Miss Twyman is a thoroughly progressive and modern young woman. Consequently she disdains the idea of wearing skirts while performing her duties on a stepladder. While at work she wears a pair of blue denim bloomers that are now the pride of her heart. One glimpse of them would reveal the whole secret of their worth. They are completely covered with a confusion of paint dabs in many colors. Their association and contact with the brush have made them priceless to Miss Twyman. They have acquired such wonderful dashes of coloring that they rival Joseph's coat in variety, and are far more interesting studies than any pair of artistic sleeves in town that are used in lieu of paint rags. Such is the shortest cut in courting the muse.—Chicago Times-Herald.

A Fortune For Dress.

In speaking of the enormous sums spent annually by some of the society women of New York, such as Mrs. John Jacob Astor, Mrs. Herman Oelrichs, Mrs. Lorillard, Mrs. Belmont and others of the same set, the statement has been made that several of them spend from $20,000 to $25,000 for their winter wardrobes alone. Mrs. O. H. P. Belmont is said to have spent $25,000 for her wardrobe the present season. How this can be done will be seen from the following list:

Ten gowns for ball and opera, $5,000; 10 bonnets, $950; 1 sealskin cape, $400; 2 fur muffs, $150; 1 ear muff, $120; 1 opera cloak, $300; 1 opera cloak, $350; 6 pairs walking shoes, $90; 4 pairs dancing shoes, $48; 4 pairs kid slippers, $60; 3 dozen long gloves, $280; 4 dozen gloves for driving and walking, $144; 10 tea gowns, $2,500; 6 dressing gowns, $500; 3 riding habits, $400; 14 corsets, $430; 12 pairs silk stockings, $60; 4 dozen pair lisle stockings, $144; 2 pairs bedroom slippers, $20; 4 suits silk underwear, $200; 10 suits woolen underwear, $300; lingerie, $1,500; 4 dozen handkerchiefs, $45; 3 dozen handkerchiefs, $48; 2 dozen handkerchiefs, $36; 3 dozen handkerchiefs, $36; toilet articles, $1,000; tea gowns for walking and driving, $1,000; 3 bath robes, $160; 3 fans, $75; 3 pairs riding boots, $75; 2 bicycle suits, $300; 2 traveling outfits, $200; 2 winter wraps, $200; 2 winter wraps, $150; 3 skating outfits, $275; trimmings, ribbons, etc., $300; 4 umbrellas, $48; 1 sable trimmed wrap, $1,000; 2 dinner gowns, $1,200; 2 even-