

AD INFINITUM.

(Dr. Dampwoll, of Berlin, announces that he has found an aquatic insect which preys upon the anopheles mosquito. He is endeavoring to create artificially the expectation of destroying the mosquito and the host of germs which infest his body.)

THE ASS AND THE LION.

Translated From the Portuguese of Antone Leandro's "Old Time Tales."

By WILLIAM S. BRUCE, M. D.

HERE once lived in Portugal, about two days' journey from Lisbon, a miller who had an ass, which like other asses, had very long ears, thick lips and a voice that made the whole country resound.

He looked all around him to see if there was anything to be feared and then boldly ascended the mountain, where at his pleasure he grazed upon the fine grass before him, thanking God that he had been delivered from the hands of the wicked and cruel tyrant of a miller and put in sweet grass up to his knees to sustain his miserable life.

While he was satisfying his appetite, a proud lion approached, who marvelled greatly at the boldness of the ass in having come to feed upon the mountain without license. And having never before seen such an animal, the lion was afraid of him and dared not pass him at first.

On the other hand, the ass, seeing the lion, was so much alarmed that his hair bristled and stood up. He no longer dared hold his neck to eat the grass, nor even move from his place. Finally, the lion, growing confident, approached the ass and said to him: "What are you doing here, comrade? What has made you so bold as to come here? Who are you?"

To whom the ass replied: "And who are you yourself that ask me this?" Then the lion, astonished at this proud reply, answered: "I am the king of all the animals." "What is your name?" demanded the ass.

"They call me Lion. And what is your name?" "The ass with restored confidence, replied: "They who know me call me Brancalion." "What is your name?" asked the lion.

"I am the ass," replied the lion. "I am the ass," replied the lion. "I am the ass," replied the lion. "I am the ass," replied the lion. "I am the ass," replied the lion.

"And how did you take it?" said Brancalion.

The lion told him all he had done, his arts, his ambushes and his ruses. The ass interrupted him: "O fool, brainless creature that you are! From morning until now you have not ceased to run, and hustle, and brush through the thickets, and chase over the mountains, to take what little you took. And I, lying here and taking my pleasure, have caught and eaten so much that I am just ready to burst, as you may easily see. And to prove to you that I am not telling idle stories, I have kept this fat hind as a morsel for you, which for the love of me, I beg you will accept."

The lion thanked the ass for the hind and then went away, resolved never again to present himself before the ass. While on his way he met a wolf running very fast, and he called to the lion to stop him with the inquiry: "Where are you going so fast, comrade wolf?"

"On important business. I must be at a certain place this very hour, so don't trouble me," replied the wolf. But the lion, believing that the wolf was rushing into danger, begged him to go no farther.

"Not far from here," said he, "Brancalion, a very large animal, with monstrous ears, and a hide thick enough for a shield. His voice is like thunder; any beast would fly before it. Then he does the most wonderful things. He is a monarch before whom all must bow."

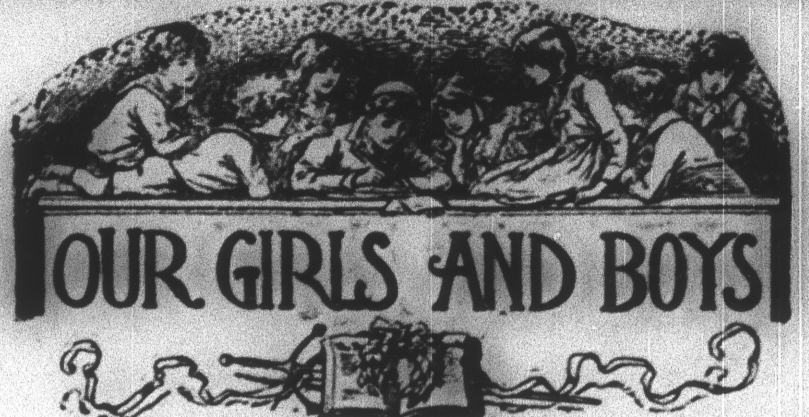
The wolf knew that the lion spoke of the ass, and said to him: "Don't be afraid. It is only an ass, the most contemptible animal ever created, good for nothing but to bear burdens and blows. As for me, I have eaten in my time more than a hundred of them. Come with me. We may go safely, as I shall show you."

"Go, my friend, if it seems good to you," said the lion; "for my part, I am satisfied with what I have seen." But the wolf prevailed on the lion to accompany him on condition that they should not separate from each other; and to make this sure, they tied their tails together. Then they started towards the ass, who seeing them at a distance, and being afraid was just about to fly, when the lion, pointing him out to the wolf, exclaimed: "See, brother! See him coming straight for us! Let us not wait, for he will kill us. I know his fury."

The wolf burned with the desire to attack the ass. "We must," he said to the lion, "be quick, or we shall be killed. He is only an ass." But the lion, more frightened than ever, plunged through the most tangled thickets and leaped the widest ditches. While he was breaking through a thick hedge, a thorn tore open his left eye. Such was his fright that he thought the herd came from Brancalion; and still crying out, exclaimed to the wolf: "Didn't I tell you rightly, comrade? Run! Run! Run faster! He has already put out one of my eyes."

And still flying he dragged the poor wolf against the sharp rocks, and through the most dangerous places, till the poor creature died of his bruises and other hurts. When he left the lion believed himself in safety; he said to the wolf: "Comrade, I think we may now untie our tails; what do you say?" Hearing no answer, he turned and saw that he was fastened to a dead body.

"Ah, comrade, I told you he would kill you," he exclaimed; "but you were obstinate; you would not believe me. See what it has cost me! You have lost your life, and I my left eye." Then, untying himself, he abandoned the dead wolf and went to hide himself in dense and dark caverns, leaving the ass possessor of the mountain, from whence it has come that the ass dwells among the haunts of men, and the lion in savage and uninhabited places. But men, as well as lions, are sometimes deceived and over-reached by false pretensions.—Waverley Magazine.



OUR GIRLS AND BOYS

FUNNY ALPHONSO. Alphonso sits beside me with a blue inquiring eye. A host of questions silently propounding, And presently a storm begins and round about me fly.

I ask him for a basket to accommodate replies. In other words, I beg that he will bear me. He listens to each answer with a pair of roving eyes. For something else, I plainly see, has awakened his surprise. And all his thoughts are far away, And nothing I can do or say, Will keep them near me.

From bud to bud of knowledge like a butterfly he goes. And lingers not around them for a minute. But off again, unsatisfied, to find another rose. And if you meet Alphonso and will ask him what he knows, He'll turn on you a through-the-look, Then glancing through his "wisdom book," Find nothing in it.

Now those who will ask questions should be patient for replies. And when you find Alphonso, please to mention That wisdom asks for knowledge or it never really comes. But wait to hear the answer ere it seeks a new surprise. For all who reap the harvest fair That truth is rearing everywhere Must pay attention. —Chicago Record-Herald.

PAPER GAS WORKS. Twist a large piece of wrapping paper into a cone and make a small hole in the side near the point. Hold it with the mouth obliquely downward and set fire to the rim. A jet of gas produced by the distillation of the paper will issue from the small hole and will burn if a lighted match is put to it.

HOW SNAKES SPEND WINTER. The snakes are retiring for the winter now, but they make little preparation for their long sleep. They simply crawl into holes in the ground, fissures in rocks, or beneath the roots of trees, and there remain in a torpid condition until the warmth of spring awakens them. Sometimes a lot of them gather in a hole some distance from the surface of the ground, roll themselves into one large ball, and thus pass the winter. Such a ball is sometimes composed of hundreds of snakes so closely interwoven as to be quite difficult to separate.—Woman's Home Companion.

INGRATITUDE. "Yes, Towser, after I've served this family faithfully for ten years they've given me and bought a phonograph." —New York Journal.

TO MAKE A PAPER STAR. The five-pointed star which is seen upon the uniforms of military men is called in geometry the regular pentagon star. Its construction with the aid of the ruler and compass is long and complicated, so complicated, in fact, that the description of the process would be useless. But for those who wish to make the star quickly there is a better way. Take a simple band of paper in which make a knot as indicated in the two figures on the left of the design. At the top is seen the commencement of the knot. Then draw it, holding the band of paper very flat and fold it

Farm Topics

A CHEAP CHIMNEY. A very serviceable chimney for many purposes can be made of glass tile. Get tile of the proper size and set it endwise on a flat stone, building up the chimney with as many lengths of the tile as are needed. Where the stovepipe is to enter use a T length. It is cheap and safe, and does not look lumpy.

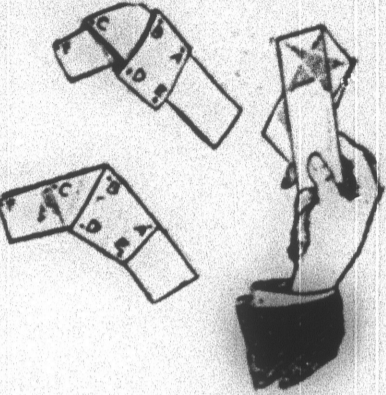
PRESERVING POSTS. The State Department reports an English patented process of preserving timber and posts. The treatment consists in boiling the wood in a solution of sugar. Upon the evaporation of the water at a high temperature the pores and cracks in the wood are filled with solid matter and the timber is vulcanized, preserved, seasoned and rendered largely impervious to water. A series of experiments have shown that the life of ties, posts, etc., was prolonged by this process.

SALT IN POULTRY FOOD. Many people labor under the mistaken impression that no salt should ever be put into poultry food, simply because highly salted food, such as salt fish or old pickled meat, always kills chickens. As a matter of fact, no living thing can get along entirely without salt, says Prairie Farmer. Chickens can always get salt in summer by eating grass, which absorbs a certain amount from the soil. But in winter it is different. During cold weather all prepared chicken foods, such as mash and boiled vegetable mash, should be salted in about the same proportion as for human food. If this is done, the poultry will be both healthier and more productive.

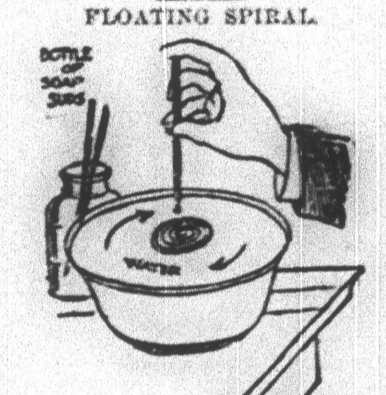
CARE OF LAMBS. In the case of twins, it is well to place them with the mother in a small, separate pen, for a day or two, in order that they may become acquainted, and to avoid the danger of one of the lambs straying away, which may cause trouble. When lambs are born weakly, more care is required, and unless the shepherd is with them to see that they are suckled soon after birth, they are liable to become chilled and die. If the lamb is too weak to stand up and suck, it should be held up and some milk milked into its mouth, when it will soon take the teat and help itself, or the ewe may be gently laid upon her side and the lamb brought to the teat on its knees and side, and helped as above indicated.—The Cultivator.

CALF FOOD. A mixture which has been very largely used, and with excellent results, by an extensive breeder, consists of two parts of barley meal and wheat meal to one part of ground linseed. To this is added a pinch of carbonate of soda, say, at the rate of one ounce of the soda to every peck of the mixture. This meal is prepared by being washed with a little cold water until it reaches a creamy consistency, and then warm water is added until the meal reaches about blood heat. It may be used either as an addition to the skim milk, or as a complete substitute for milk, after the calf is five or six weeks of age. The addition of cooking soda is made with the object of counteracting any tendency to scour or undue looseness of the bowels.

A HANDY COVER. During rainy and stormy weather in sugar season there is always a great deal of trouble from rain in the sugar buckets which have covers for any devices which may be suggested. Among the many ways suggested the following proves to be very profitable. Take a piece of board or shingle about fourteen inches long and one-fourth inch thick; round one end out to fit the



FLOATING SPIRAL. A spiral of fine wire will float if it is well oiled and laid gently on the surface of water. Then if a drop of a strong solution of soap is applied to the centre the spiral will make several turns in the direction shown by the arrow—that is, in the direction in which a clock spring turns when it is being wound up. When the motion has ceased the application of another drop of soap will renew it and the process may be repeated many times. Alcohol or strong distilled liquor may be used instead of soap with similar results.



ROPE DANCER. Cut out of cardboard and color the figure of the dancer and fasten it by one foot with sealing wax to the head of a large needle, the point of which is stuck in a cardboard circle as close as possible to the stage. Out of a larger piece of cardboard cut a circular hole of just twice the diameter of the first card. If the small card is placed within the hole in the large one and made to roll around its edge it will be seen that the needle and the figure move in a straight line along a diameter of the large circle and that the dancer turns completely round once during each complete trip back and forth. If a thread is stretched just behind the figure on a level with her feet she will appear to be dancing to and fro upon it.



CONTRIVANCE. Why do girls like to look at the moon? Because there is a man in it. What table hasn't a leg to stand on? Multiplication table. Why is your eye like a man being whipped? He is under the lash. What is the riddle of riddles? Life, because we all must give it up. Why does a cat wag his tail? Because he wants to. Why should a girl be well stamped? If she isn't the mails won't take her. Which is the most ancient of trees? The elder tree. Why is a dinner on board a steamship like Easter day? Because it is a movable feast. What trade would you mention to a short boy? Grow sir (grocer). Why is a plumcake like the ocean? Because it contains so many currents. Why is a city in Ireland likely to be the largest city in the world? Because each year it is Dublin (doubling). A new device to prevent locomotive wheels from slipping magnetizes the drivers so that they stick to the rails.



GEESSE FOR BREEDING. If you intend to keep only a part of your flock of geese, and wish to sell the rest, be careful to select the ones for breeding purposes that paired together the spring before. Geese are queer things, and if you sell one of a pair they are very apt not to mate at all the next season, and the eggs will not be fertile. A gander will sometimes have two mates, but not often. Eggs of young geese should never be set. They are small, and the goslings will be weakly and are not apt to live, and if they do they will be very inferior. I have found the most profit from selling all my geese in the fall but about nine or ten to raise from the next spring. Last season from five geese and four ganders I hatched about forty goslings. Two or three young geese should be kept each year to take the place of the old ones, that is if you have any very old geese. I have kept them four and five years and they were just as profitable as younger ones.—Ella Catron, in New England Homestead.