Only ten per cent, of the sugar w consume is grown in this country,

This is an estimate in the Atlanta Constitution: The wealth of the S. in 1860 was \$4,000,000,000, and in 1890 about the same. The war co has just about recuperated.

Tests of modern rifles are being made by using human corpses for targets. "This sounds brutal," muses the San Francisco Examiner, "but it really is less brutal than making the tests on bodies that are not corpses in the be ginning."

M. Gault states that the Rus sians, since their occupation of the district embraced by the valleys of the Syr Daria and the Zarafshan, have given a very great development to the cultivation of cotton, and have introduced several American varieties of the plant, notably the upland. At first the natives were so prejudiced against the new plants that the experiments failed, but the Russians persevered, and, whereas nine years ago Turke stan produced only 3300 poods of cotton worth \$1433, the quantity exported in 1890 was about 2,000,000 of an estimated value of \$7,000,000.

Word has been sent to the courts of Europe that the Shah of Pasia intends to visit Berlin, St. Petersburg, Berlin and Vienna next spring. He will start on his journey in May or June, and will remain in Europe several months. The rulers whom he is to honor are in an unhappy state of mind already on account of the proposed visit, alleges the New York Tribune. No living sovereign, in all probability, is a more unwelcome guest than the Shah, but his cousins in Europe are obliged to receive him with all the honors due to his rank. Entertaining him is more expensive than entertaining any other monarch. His retinue is almost a legion.

One of the latest and most popular developments of New York society is the lady lecturer, who talks to an audience exclusively feminine upon the topics of the day. These "talks," as they are called, are held only in private listened to with the most intelligent interest by a score or more of women who have clubbed together to engage some wellinformed woman to post them, viva voce, upon all subjects with which they chould be conversant. This is a charm ing way to acquire knowledge, and one which will undoubtedly grow man will undoubtedly grow more and more popular among those who either have not the time or the inclination to study for themselves.

That typical Arizona town, Yuma will probably soon be lifted from Ari zona into California, where, it is claimed, it has always rightly belonged. Up to about fifteen years ago the point was often contended between the local authorities both sides the disputed line, but since the arrest, in 1877, by the Arizona authorities of a San Diego (Cal.) tax collector who tried to collect taxes in Yuma, the question has been dropped. The land office authorities have always evaded the question. Recently William Hycks was indicted by the Federal grand jury for selling liquor to Indians in Yuma. He denies the jurisdiction of the court to try his case, citing the authority of the treaty of Guadaloupe Hidalgo and the recent reports of the international boundary commission to show that Yuma is in California. It is thought out there that Hycks may win his case and that the town will soon be Yuma, California, instead of Yuma,

The dismantlement of World's Fair structures has in one respect proved a godsend to the poor of Chicago. In Jackson Park there were recently 2000 wagon loads of excellent firewood which the officials were glad to get rid of. The Chicago Relief and Aid Society obtained permission to cart the wood away, and put up the following sign on the park fence near the Sixty-second street gate: "Free Wood for the Poor." Any person with a horse and wagon is now admitted to the park and allowed to take away all the wood his wagon will hold, the only condition being that he shall present a per-The pile of debris through which the wood is scattered has a length of 300 yards, a width of 100 yards and a height of twelve feet. It consists of baskets, boxes and The man in need of fuel has only to delve in this pile to get as ser viceable kindling wood as could be found anywhere. The applicants are foreigners for the most part, and judg ing from their ragged coats and pinched faces, they could get the means of warmth for their families nowhere

asked a little child one day. Assect a little child one day.
A shild intent on joyons play.
'My little one, pray tell to me
Your dearest wish. 'What may it be?'
The little one thought for a while,
Then answered with a wistful smile;
'Mue thing that I wish most of all
Is to be big, like you, and tall.'

I asked a maiden sweet and fair, dreamy eyes and wavy hair; hat would you wish, pray tell me true at kindly fate should bring to you?" With timid mien and downcast eyes And blushes deep and gentle sighs. Her answer came: "All else above, I'd wish some faithful heart to love."

I asked a mother, tried and blest, With babe asleep upon her breast:
"O, mother fond, so proud and fair,"
What is thy inmost secret prayer?"
She raised her cain and peaceful eyes,
Madonna-like, up to the skies:
"My acarest wish is this," said she,
"That God may spare my child to me,"

"Anat God may spare my child to me."
Again, I asked a woman old,
To whom the world seemed hard and cold
Pray tell me, O thou blest in years,
What are thy hopes, what are thy fears?"
With folded hands and head bent low
She answer made, in accents slow:
"For me remains but one request:
It is that God may give me rest."
—Emile Pickhardt, in Boston G'obc.

## THE SURPRISE PARTY.

DY HELEN FORREST GRAVES.



good Parson Potter used to be when I was a child!"

Ten dollars!" echoed the deacon.
"In money!" Be my ears a-deceivin' of me?"

"Yes, ten dollars—and in money.
It's my own, isn't it, to spend or keep, as I please?"

"It's a downright flingin' away of money!" gasped the deacon. "Ten dollars! Is the gal crazy! Why, I declare to goodness, it's enough to make a man's hair stand on end!"

"Here we are!" cried Clara, joy onusly springing over the wheel, "And the firelight shining out into the road, as if the old back-log had never left off crackling since I was here last, and Prince barking, and the big red lily in bloom on the window-sill! Oh, it does seem so nice to be at home again!"

Mrs. Cummings hurried, smiling, to the door; but the deacon looked sour enough as he drove around to the barn.

"I hadn't thought o' going!" faltered Mrs. Cummings.
"But you must go, mother!" said Clara, with the bow of ribbon twisted of the deacon. "The deacon turned as many colors" of the deacon. "The doctor said he could hev or conjight of those dead trees and brush on Catamount Pond. Our possible to the door; but the deacon looked sour enough as he drove around to the barn.

"I hadn't thought o' going!" faltered Mrs. Cummings.
"But you must go, mother!" said Clara, with the bow of ribbon twisted."

The deacon turned as many colors. The deacon turned as many colors.

red Mrs. Cummings.

"But you must go, mother!" said
Clars, with the bow of ribbon twisted
around her finger.

"Thain't nothin' to take."

"Bat you must go, mother!" said Clara, with the bow of ribbon twisted around her finger.

"I hain't nothin' to take."

"There's that loaf of plumcake that you baked for Sunday's tea. Nothing in the world could be nicer."

"I've got a piece o' blue gingham—three yards—that I hain't made up into aprons yet. Would that do?" wistfully questioned the poor woman. "It would be just lovely!" protested Clara.

And then she confided to her mother the secret of the ten-dollar gold piece. "You see," said she, "I feel somehow as if I were paying a debt to these dear old people, who have worked so hard all these years for so pitiful a salary. And I've put the money in the little, flat shopping-bag all —just like the one I gave you, dear—and I shall slip it itto Mrs. Potter's kland. Won't she be surprised when the recover to or the deacon stood motionless as the Sphinx. Then he was a little buzz and hum of gossip in the air.

"There was a little buzz and hum of gossip in the air.

"Mrs. Potter has been cryin' ever since," said the Widow Purkiss. "She somehow can't get over it. A sone time since she was married. And from little Clara Cummings that teaches school over to Green's Mills. For a second or so the deacon stood motionless as the Sphinx. Then he was a little to the bureau drawer, Polly."

"There's that loaf of plumcake that you be bureau drawer, Polly."

On the outer doorstep he paused, however. There was a little buzz and hum of gossip in the air.

"Mrs. Potter has been cryin' ever since," said the Widow Purkiss. "She somehow can't get over it. A sone time since she was married. And from little Clara Cummings that teaches school over to Green's Mills. For a second or so the deacon stood motionless as the Sphinx. Then he was a dying dolphin. tested Clara.

And then she confided to her mother the secret of the ten-dollar gold piece.

"You see," said she, "I feel some-how as if I were paying a debt to the seed ar old people, who have he pulled the ragged buffalo robe over his knees, setting the det ten the old lard in front of him, and in the det the the old plate with the extreme had. Won't she be surprised when she comes to open it?"

Lara Cummings, has been added to her mother the seer of the ten-dollar gold piece with the extreme had a salary. And I've put the money in the little, flat shopping-baging that the street of the seer to of the ten-dollar gold piece with the extreme had a salary. And I've put the money in the little, flat shopping-baging the comes to open it?"

Lara Cummings, however, had an andifor to their sweet filial confidences of whom she little knew.

The deacon, hanging up his old harness, back of the kitchen door, had the air was full of the faint, sweet perfume of dead leaves. And Clara, nestling close to her father's side, remembered the days of her childhood when she went nutting on Barrack Mountain amid just such sweet scents as this.

"It is cold," assented Clara, her blue eyes intently fixed on the evening star.

"The very thing!" he muttered to himself.

"And then she confided to her mother the secret of the ten-dollar gold pieces.

She hundle were paying a debt to the seer to of the ten-dollar gold pieces.

"It is cond, as shopping-baging a debt to the seer to of the ten-dollar gold pieces.

"The search of the ten-dollar gold pieces.

"It is sould!" her put the money in the little, flat shopping-baging a debt to these dear old people, who have one to these dear old people, who have one to these dear old people, who have one the secret of the ten dollar gold pieces.

"It is single." Salary the secret of the ten-dollar gold pieces.

"It is single." Salary the secret of the ten-dollar gold piece

when she went nutting on Barrack Mountain amid just such sweet scents as this.

"It is cold," assented Clara, her blue eyes intently fixed on the evening star.

The dencon was grim and hard featured, with a nose that reminded one of Cape Cod on the map, and a complexion like a badly-tanned piece of leather.

Clara was plump and pretty. with skin like a rose-leaf, long-lashed eyes, and a dimple which no one had ever been able exactly to locate.

Clara might grow old one of these days, but she never would grow into the pattern of the deacon. "What's days, but she never would grow into the pattern of the deacon." What's that air is your lap, Clara? A band-box? I didn't buy nothin' that would likely be packed in a bandbox."

"No, I know you didn't," said Clara, a bride glean of mischief coming into her eyes. "It's a honnet for mother. There's the surprise party, you know, at the parsonage of trim up something deacent is for her to wear."

"A bannet!" The deacon jerked the reinity sould be parsonage. But women hain't no lead of anything but bread and cheese, seein's lar a way that had nearly collided Old Dick with the churchyard wall. "Ain't your mother got a bondown at the parsonage of the parsonage of the parsonage on the shelf for breakfast to-morrowed the parsonage of the parsonage of the parsonage. But women hain't no lead the reins in a way that had nearly could be packed in a bondown at the parsonage of the parsonage. There wan't no need of anything but bread and cheese, seein's for her to wear."

"A bonnet!" The deacon jerked the reins in a way that had nearly could be parsonage. But women hain't no lead the reins in a way that had nearly could be parsonage. But women hain't no most and the could be parsonage of the parsonage of the parsonage of the parsonage of the parsonage. The counting wall. "Ain't your mother got a bondown the parsonage of the parsonage

eacon?"
The deacon turned as many colors

For a second or so the deacon stood motionless as the Sphinx. Then he turned and went back into the house. "I guess," muttered he, "ther ain't no use in my goin' home to git them cattle foddered. I may as well stay an' eat my supper. It's like to cost me enough." Clara's face was radiant when she come to breakfast the next morning, and yet it was a little overclouded like the sun behind a golden November mist.

ber mist.

"Father,' said she, "two such strange things have happened! Aleck Harrison has asked me to be his wife."

Harrison has asked me to be his wife."

Mrs. Cummings leaned over and kissed her daughter.

"And," added Clara, "our two leather reticules somehow got mixed up last night, an l instead of the tendollar gold piece I had intended, I gave Mrs. Potter mother's bag with a hundred dollars in bills in it. Of course you intended it for a surprise, for the gold piece was gone out of the other bag. Father, dear, it was a noble act, and I shall explain it all to Mrs. Potter."

"No, don't do that!" precipitately uttered the deacon. "Jest let things be as they are. I—I'd ruther not hev more said about it!"

And he could not repress a sepulchral groan.

of which is a problem and particles of the body first in the which is a problem with an one had over the search of the particles of the solid more within the control of the particles of the par

stumers Are Busy All Winter—Lay-ing out the Route—Vast Labor In-volved in Reorganization.

Volved in Reorganization.

UST around the block from the New York Herald office is a building occupied by the propurers of a big circus. They are busily engaged in preparing for the summer campaign, and a Herald reporter, who has been through the building, gives this account of the work on hand:

work on hand:

I am led up stairs and find on the next floor a corps of women busy on new uniforms and trappings for man, woman and beast. Rich plush and gold bullion galore are scattered about on the tables. The pretty spangles that will glitter in the ring next summer are being sewed in place, the elephants are getting new jackets of royal purple and gold, the camels must be fitted out afresh for the street parade, the gay trappings of horse and rider must be renewed. For a season of out of door mishaps leaves most of these so much waste. An entirely new outfit must be calculated upon every year. Some of these trappings are very expensive. The gorgeous elephant and camel coverings cost from \$500 to \$600, and as high as \$1000 has been paid for a single elephant outfit. The brilliant uniforms used in the ring and on parade must also be renewed. That work is going on up here. Mrs. White, the circus wardrobe woman, has charge of it. Under her experienced eye, from twenty to thirty seamstresses are employed all winter. Several of these women go with the show all summer as repairers and wardrobe assistants.

On great shelves and tables, for the whole length of this building are piled the new trappings. On the floor above is the same outlay of gorgeous uniforms, blankets, hats, boots, and everything necessary for the male and female appearance next season. For the costumes of the spectacular production, such as was given last summer, are varied and great in quantity, a ballet of two or three hundred women being not the least. All of these costumes are made here in the winter under the direction of Mrs. White.

The hardest and most important work of the show business is now in progress. The animals and their trainers and keepers are housed at Bridgeport, but the real work of the season is in full blast in this old building in the heart of New York, unseen and unknown, so far as the rest of the world is econcerned. Upon the thoroughness, skill and intelligence with which this work is performed depends the success of n

perience and judgment in making win ter wraps and clothes of all kinds fo winter wear in summer and things for summer wear during the winter, so the

WINTER WORK IN A CIRCUS, A complete knowledge of transportation facilities is necessary to begin on

A complete knowledge of transportation facilities is necessary to begin on. The capacity of the road, the tunnels and bridges that might interfere with the high loaded circus cars, the facilities for getting away after the show to the next place, the character of the country—whether manufacturing or agricultural—if the former, then the condition of trade and the pay day of the workmen; if the latter, then the condition of the crops—the probable condition of the weather.

Unlike the conditions under which the ordinary dramatic company is formed, the circus company, for the most part, has never been seen by the man who pays its members and in whose service they are until he sees them at the initial performance in the ring. They are brought from all parts of the world; many of them speak only a foreign tongue, and most of them never saw or heard of each other before. They may be known by reputation to Mr. Bailey or through his foreign agents, but his first sight of them must necessarily be in the ring. If they fall below his standard or have not proved to be as represented, they are shipped back to their homes by the next steamer at his expense.

SELECT SIFTINGS.

## SELECT SIFTINGS.

Oninces came from Corinth The cantelope is a native of America Melons were found originally in

The estimated yield of pecans in this country is 8,000,000 bushels. France and Italy raised 33,000,000 bushels of chestnuts for home use and

The American people in 1892 drank the decoction from 640,000,000 pounds of coffee.

Russia raises 1260 pounds of grain and fifty-one pounds of meat to each inhabitant.

inhabitant.

The tomato is a native of South America and takes its name from a Portuguese word.

The United States are said to have 140,000,000 geese of the kind which are used for food.

In France sixty-seven per cent. of the people live on rye bread, only thirty-three per cent. on wheat bread. In many parts of India oxen still serve as carriers of merchandise, and buffaloes are kept for milk and ploughing.

The first tunnel for commercial purposes was executed by M. Riguet, in the reign of Louis XIV., at Bezieres,

The onion was almost an object of worship with the Egyptians 2000 years before the Christian era. It first came from India. Why birds don't fall off the roost is because they can't. When they sit down the muscles of the lower leg

SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL.

The average man uses twenty-nine

A scheme has lately been devis ase electricity as a fertilizer of

The largest meteoric stone was found in Greenland and weighs 50,000

pounds.

The purer the water the more active it is in corroding and pitting iron or steel plates.

The water that trickles into the Comstock mine, Nevada, near the bottom of the shaft is heated nearly to the boiling point.

the boiling point.

One of the African Steamship Company's vessels recently steamed for sixty miles near Senegal through locusts that thickly covered the surface of the water. of the water.

of the water.

A substance that is expected to excel ivory—in point of cheapness only, of course—is being made out of milk, coagulated, mixed and submitted to tremendous pressure that renders it absolutely solid and durable.

absolutely solid and durable.

The average quantity of salt in the open water is about 3½ per cent. It has been estinated that the total amount in all the ocean area is equal to \$4,419,360 cubic miles, or fourteen and one-half times the entire mass of the continent of Europe above highwater mark, mountains and all. water mark, mountains and all.

A sort of antidecay apparatus has been invented for preserving pictures. It is a glass tray with solid back, and the picture is put inside and hermetically scaled. The air is then exhausted with an air pump, with the result that in this vacuum the paint will preserve its pristine freshness pretty well forever, unless the thing leaks.

will preserve its pristine freshness pretty well forever, unless the thing leaks.

By exposing hen's eggs to the vapors of alcohol for periods ranging from twenty-six to forty-eight hours, M. Ch. Fere has ascertained that their development is much retarded and often results in the production of monstrosities. In some instances alcoholized eggs of nearly a hundred hours were hardly as far developed as normal eggs of twenty hours.

A curious method of resuscitation in vogue among the miners of Scotland in the case of insensibility from exposure to choke-damp, and which is said to be very efficacious, is as follows: The half-suffocated man is placed face downward over a hole freshly dug in the earth and allowed to lie until he showed signs of consciousness. The idea involved in this proceeding is that the fresh earth draws the foul gas out of the lungs.

Trees are felled by electricity in the great forests of Galicia. For cutting comparatively soft wood the tool is in the form of an auger, which is mounted on a carriage and is moved to and fro and revolved at the same time by a small electric motor. As the cut deepens wedges are inserted to prevent the rift from closing, and when the resis nearly cutthrough an ax or hand saw is used to finish the work. In this way trees are felled very rapidly and with very little labor.

# The Steamship of the Future.

The Steamship of the Future.

Sir Nathaniel Barnaby, the late Chief Constructor of the British Navy, has given the weight of his high reputation to the possibility of constructing a ship for Atlantic navigation which will be 1000 feet long and 300 feet broad, with engines of 60,000 horse power and an ocean speed of fifteen knots. This ship he described as a "steel island," which will be incapable of entering any dock, at any rate as at present constructed, having several engines working side by side. He thinks that a draught of twenty-six feet of water need never be exceeded. "I do firmly believe," said Sir Nathaniel, "that we shall get the mastery over the seas, and that we shall live more happily in a marine residence, capable of steaming fifteen knots an hour, than we can ever live in a seaside town." This project is not, however, intended to shorten the duration of a translantic voyage, but to make it more tolerable while it lasts. Most of the efforts hitherto made to deal with the problem of Atlantic navigation have aimed at speed as the first essential, and have left out of account the possibility of making such mechanical provisions against mal de mer as would enable the most squeamish of passengers to contemplate an Atlantic voyage with perfect equanimity. In this direction the achievements of the sat half century have been truly marvelous.—Manufacturers' Gazette.

## Hygienic Value of Perfumes

Bygienic Value of Perlumes.

Dr. Anders, of Philadelphia, a few years ago made the interesting discovery that the ozone in the atmosphere, the element which is the great purifier, was mainly supplied from blooming flowers—and for this reason blooming plants were healtful in dwellings as well as attractive. Some interesting experiments with the odors of flowers have been made in the old world, and it is found that many species of microbes are easily destroyed by various odors. The odor of cloves has been known to destroy these minute creatures in twenty-five these minute creatures in twenty-five minutes; cinnamon will kill some species in twelve minutes; thyme, in thirty-five. In forty-five minutes the common wild verbena is found effective, while the odor of some geranium flowers has destroyed various forms of microbes in fifty minutes. The essence of cinnamon is said to destroy the typhoid fever microbes in twelve minutes, and is regarded as the most effective of all odors as an antiseptic. It is now believed that flowers which are found in Egyptian mummies were placed there more for their antiseptic properties than as mere ornaments or elements in sentimental work.—Meehan's Monthly,