

Another "new vocation" for women has been started by a New York widow, who proposes to make a business of furnishing bachelor apartments. But is any business to be encouraged which will make things easier for bachelors? asks the Louisville Courier-Journal. Is not the only furniture with which a widow should furnish bachelor's apartments a widow?

No matter what other countries may think of women as sea captains, England does not favor them, officially at least. Recently Lady Ernestine Bradenell-Bruce made an application to the Board of Trade for a certificate giving her the privilege to sail her own yacht as master, but the Board refused it on the ground that "no application for such a certificate had ever been received from a lady."

A statement is going about that one in every ten of the people of Hawaii have the leprosy. "This is an exaggeration," says the San Francisco Chronicle. "The ratio is about one in one hundred, and the disease is chiefly confined to the natives, who do not avoid the plague where such a course would interfere with their family or social relations. It is rarely that a white man succumbs to leprosy, and one may live in Honolulu for years without seeing a case of it."

London has about 700 firemen, while New York has about 1,300 in actual service of all grades. London pays its firemen \$516 a year, while New York pays \$1,000, \$1,200 and \$1,400 a year, according to the length of service, while the officers receive salaries in proportion. The total expenditure for maintenance and outlay of all kinds for the London fire department in the year ending March 30, 1893, was \$750,000. This also includes what was disbursed for pensions. The cost of maintenance of the New York fire department for about the same period was \$2,305,645, without the payments which were made for pensions.

The municipal authorities of Paris are just now engaged in the suppression of an altogether novel form of food adulteration which is assuming phenomenal proportions, says the New York Tribune. Real oysters are expensive in Paris, and so, with the object of suiting slender purses, artificial oysters on the half shell have been invented, which are sold at twenty cents a dozen, and they are so cleverly made and look so nice and fresh that, once lemon juice or vinegar has been added, they cannot be distinguished from the real article, especially when white wine is taken in connection therewith. The only genuine thing about these oysters is the shell, the manufacturers buying second-hand shells at a small cost, and fastening the spurious oyster in place with a tasteless paste. The municipal laboratory has not yet proclaimed the ingredients of which these bogus oysters are composed, but has announced that they are of a harmful character.

What field of research is too insignificant for the enterprising statistician to explore? This question is suggested to the Atlanta Constitution by the almost infinite array of figures which some clever genius in this line has marshaled out, showing the universal popularity of the inconspicuous hen egg. As the statistician in question is, a German, the figures which he cites apply to that empire alone, but from the light which they throw upon the subject generally, some idea may be obtained as to the hen egg's popularity in other countries. Basing his calculations upon the showing for 1896 the statistician figures out that 50,000,000 hens in Germany during that year laid not less than 3,500,000,000 eggs, but that even this enormous quantity was not sufficient to supply the national demand. Imports for that year, in addition to the home product, aggregated 720,000,000 eggs, purchased from Russia, Austria-Hungary, Italy and Holland. Most countries are fortunate enough to produce hen eggs in sufficient abundance to fully satisfy their home demands, and why Germany has never been able to do this is something which cannot be readily explained. Importation is not calculated to improve the character of such products, and the fact that Germany is obliged to import them must be accepted as conclusive proof that she has exhausted every effort to satisfy her demand in the home market. On the basis of what Germany consumes annually, the statistician from whom we quote reasons that the world's consumption of hen eggs must closely approximate the prodigious aggregation of 600,000,000,000 eggs annually!

NICARAGUA CANAL.

DESCRIPTION OF A GIGANTIC PROJECT.

The final fate of the Nicaragua Canal project will shortly be decided, says the New York Herald. The United States gunboat Newport has sailed away with a commission of engineers appointed by the Government, and their report as to the feasibility of the waterway between the Atlantic and Pacific will determine whether or not the United States shall control this great but still embryonic enterprise.

Records show that it became a seri-

ously through the jungle country until locked up to the level of Lake Nicaragua. This will be about 110 feet above the mean low water level in the Caribbean Sea, and is called mean lake level. On entering Lake Nicaragua the channel across the lake runs straight toward the point on the opposite shore where the cut to the Pacific begins. The lake is less than fifty miles wide at its broadest point and is deep enough at a distance of half a mile from the shore to float



MANAGUA (NICARAGUA) STREET SCENE.

ous matter in the last century, but no definite plan of action was ever adopted until a few years ago, when work on the route was actually begun.

But this canal through the isthmus is not a thing which can be accomplished readily, and there is some divergence of opinion in regard to the best place on the isthmus through which to cut it. The French have been working through the narrower strip near Panama, but so far there is no immediate promise of success in the undertaking.



STONE IDOL, RUINS OF QUIRIGUA.

The American company has chosen the longer, though apparently less difficult, route through the State of Nicaragua. On this line the natural water courses will be used extensively, and it is supposed by many to be, consequently, a more practical undertaking than the one through the higher hills near Panama.

At the eastern entrance of the canal is the settlement of Greytown. After proper dredging and lights have made the harbor navigable a ship approaching from the eastward will not



ROUTE OF THE PROPOSED CANAL.

find the navigation difficult. At the present time, however, the shoal water and the low country, partly hidden in the almost continual rain, make the approach rather dangerous. On entering the ship will proceed along an almost straight cut until the Dechoa district is reached. Here an enormous dam cross the natural bed



HEADLAND AT BRITO, PACIFIC OUTLET TO CANAL.

of the San Juan River marks the first point where remarkable skill in engineering will be displayed. The ship will be turned into the natural bed of this large stream, and will proceed

the largest ship. Here the sailor will have a breathing spell after his cruise overland, and after being locked down to the quiet waters of the Pacific, the vessel will be free to proceed to her destination with a full realization of how well the quiet ocean deserves its name.

The commission appointed by the President to go over the proposed route during the winter of 1897-8 is to decide certain questions in regard to the cost and feasibility of the project, as suggested by the canal company. It is composed of three of the ablest men in the United States for deciding these matters, and is supported by a number of naval officers, civil engineers and assistants. Two men-of-war will aid the expedition and will assist in the hydrographic work in the harbors on the east and west coasts. The shore parties will have to go over many of the old lines, and, as the jungle has cut their way through, as before, with the machete.

The Commissioners will return to the United States in the spring, and



ENTRANCE TO CANAL, GREYTOWN.

as their report will probably be final as to the interest the Government will take in the project, the civilized world will await them with some impatience to know if the greatest of Republics will decide to control the gateway to the Pacific.

Leaves as Good as Fruit.

A French druggist, named Jasque-min, has conceived the idea that the flavor of fruits of shrubs and trees generally is generated in the flowers of these plants, and passes from them into the fruits. The fragrance which the leaves of the black currant bush give off, especially after a little rubbing, and which is so very similar to the taste of the berry, has led this man to adopt this opinion. He goes further, and says that the pleasant taste of the apple, pear or grape is prepared in the leaves of the respective plants, although he admits that it

is hardly noticeable with these, and by far not in the same degree as with the black currant. Jasque-min places apple leaves in a water containing from fifteen percent of sugar; then he adds yeast. During the process of fermentation there is an odor of apples, and when the fermentation is finished and the yeast has settled, a straw yellow liquid is obtained which possesses the fine "bouquet" of the fruit of the respective trees from which the leaves were obtained. With vine leaves the results are still more prolific. A beverage tasting, and smelling strongly of wine is obtained, and finally brandy may be distilled from it which is equal to the best cognac.

Ingenious Street Lamp.

Street lamps can be mounted on a new telescopic post to make them easy to reach for trimming and filling, a setcrew engaging the central shaft to hold it in a position with pulleys and weights set in the post to counter-balance the lamp.

A PROVISION KING.

Philip D. Armour, the Chicago Pork-Packer, Began With Little Capital. Philip D. Armour, of Chicago, says the Times-Herald, of that city, unquestionably deserves a niche beside the greatest of the historic captains of American industry. As a speculator he has been most successful in the investment of his capital in productive concerns that have been of widespread service to society. He has handled, produced, stored and distributed food stuffs to all America and all Europe, and he has been liberally remunerated for his work, because he has been and is now a rich man.

Like many of his kind, Mr. Armour began the struggle of life with nothing in the way of capital. The first capital he got he dug out of the ground in the form of gold from the placers of California. His first venture in industry was as a pork packer in Milwaukee. The war wave came along and carried him in a very short time to the possession of great wealth. The

Remarkable Feat of a Kanaka Swimmer

There is a native living in Nawiliwili, district of Lihue, on the island of Kauai, whom every one knows as Johnny, but whose family name is Kualakai. This latter name he has had tattooed on his arm, together with the picture of a deceased sweetheart. In appearance he is a typical native, muscular, with the appearance of an athlete.

Johnny is a remarkable good swimmer, and, it is said, was at one time very much addicted to the habit of stealing ducks. His method was very simple. He would hide in the duck-ponds and would, from time to time, dive out where the ducks happened to be, snatch one or two from the surface, push them into a bag, swim back again to the rushes, there to take breath for another sally. In this way he succeeded in making quite a comfortable living. However he has given up his crooked ways, and now resides like a peaceably inclined citizen, relying on work that is given him from time to time.



PHILIP D. ARMOUR.

foresight that has ever characterized him led him to Chicago and he then began to build up the great business of which he is master to-day. He has bought and sold various properties. As director and owner of producing industries he has been most successful. As a mere trader—a buyer and seller—he has rare pluck and sagacity, and he has added to his store very largely by this means.

Mr. Armour makes no display of wealth. He dresses simply, lives in a plain house, is interested in education, and has a way of wiping out the debts of small churches of all creeds that amazes the impecunious congregations thereof.

Consul Versus Captain.

While Sir Richard Burton was Consul on the west coast of Africa the merchants were put to inconvenience by the captains of the ships discharging their cargoes and steaming off again without their correspondence. They appealed for help to the new Consul. Burton examined the contracts and found that the "captain of a ship must stop at a port eighteen hours' daylight for that purpose." When the next ship came in the captain looked into the Consul's office and said: "Hurry up with my papers, I want to be off!"

"You cannot go, I have not finished my letters," returned Burton, and referred him to the contract. The captain repeated his intention of leaving the port immediately.

"Very well," returned Burton. "I'm going up to the Governor's, and shall shot two guns. If you go out one minute before your eighteen hours' daylight expires I shall send the first gun right across your bows, and the second slap into you. Good morning."

"The captain did not go out till half an hour after his eighteen hours' daylight had elapsed, and as long as Burton was there all the captains were equally careful.—Weekly Telegraph.

Saving a Sixpence.

Patrick, a thrifty tradesman in the neighborhood of the Dublin docks, was, as the story goes, a man who never spent a penny more than he needed to spend; but he was, nevertheless, as good a man at the making of an Irish bull as any that lived between Bantry and Ballycastle.

Having one day occasion to send a letter to Glasnevin, Patrick called a messenger and asked him his price for going such a distance.

"It'll be a shillin'," said the man. "Twice too much!" said Patrick. "Let it be sixpence."

"Niver," answered the messenger. "The way is that lonely that I'd niver go it under a shillin'."

"Lonely, is it?" said Patrick, scratching his head. "Naith, an' ye're roight. Now, man, I'll tell ye what we'll do; make it sixpence, an' I'll go wid ye to kape ye company!"—Youth's Companion.

A Ten-Mile Tunnel.

A tunnel ten miles long, which will be the longest in England, is to be cut through Shap Fells by the London and Northwestern Railroad, in order to shorten the west coast route to Scotland.

There lives in Devonshire, England, a man seventy years old, whose father, ninety years old, and grandfather, one hundred and ten years old, are still living.



Cropping Orchards.

While taking a short trip through our County a few weeks since, I noticed a bearing orchard planted to corn, and I set the owner down at once as a man who did not attend our fruit institutes or horticultural meetings, or he would have known better and escaped the consequences. The corn was shaded and therefore sickly and slender looking, and as we had been having an extended spell of dry weather, both corn and orchard showed the effect. We are glad that such instances are rare, and that the majority of the fruit-growers of Oceana County are intelligent men, men who are earnestly striving to learn and adopt all the best methods for successful fruit culture. Yet there are those who think there is no harm in cropping a young orchard from one to two, three and even four years; and often the crop has little reference to the good of the trees.

Our most successful fruit growers say that after two years neither crop nor orchard will pay. The first one or two years the tree occupies but little space and the ground may be planted, but it is advised to plant potatoes, melons, squashes or some like crop that will not shade the trees. After three or four years the roots of the trees occupy fully twenty feet space and no other crop should occupy the ground. One must know something of the roots, their manner of growth, etc., to cultivate successfully. Yet different soils admit of different care.

Careful study and observations are necessary, to be successful in the orchard; and once in a while a good lesson is learned from experience. We had one such lesson and that one was enough. It was in the early days of fruit growing, that, being short of ground to crop, oats were sown in the plum orchard. The trees blossomed full, and until midsummer hung full of plums; but an extended drouth coming on, the plums, many of them, after a little time commenced to shrivel up and drop off—none of them coloring up as usual. In fact, the crop was almost a complete failure, while several of the trees died outright; but it taught us a lesson—there have been no oats in the orchard since.

What is taken from the soil of a bearing orchard will just as surely be deducted from the profits.—Jennie M. Wilson of Michigan.

Care of Bees in Winter.

If the bees are properly placed in winter quarters, which should be done before winter is on, there is but little to do during the winter. As a matter of fact, no meddling with bees in any way must be done in cold weather, and the only time we can work with them in safety is during a warm day when they are flying. If bees get a good fly once a month they are likely to keep in good condition, but if cold weather continues along for weeks and months without any let-up, the bees are not in any way protected.

Bees wintered out in thin hives, as a matter of necessity, must draw heavily on their stores to keep the required amount of animal heat, and with such in every case, they must have frequent flights, or dysentery results, and the loss of such colonies follows.

Those that are well protected can withstand much more cold and do not become affected thus, and are in condition to bear much longer confinement. It is impossible to accomplish anything in the way of remedies when they become thus affected, and only warm weather so that they can fly freely will cure it.

All stock of every kind should be excluded from about hives in winter, and the hives should not sit near a road-way, or near a railroad. Heavy losses of bees have been reported where they have been kept close to a railroad by the frequent jarring of the hives, thus arousing the bees to activity, which always results in their consuming stores heavily, and this, connected with long confinement on account of cold weather, is sure to result in disease.

Good, healthy stores have much to do with wintering also, as some varieties of honey are not as good as others.

The condition of the honey in the hive has much to do with the healthfulness of the bees. A large amount of unsealed stores is very damaging in winter. This is true from the fact that the moisture that arises from the bees in cold weather contaminates the honey in the open cells, thereby rendering it unhealthy. Hence it is of importance that all the honey is sealed in the combs, or at least all reserve stores. Bees need good attention in early spring, as they are then breeding as rapidly as they possibly can, or that their condition will let them, and very frequently they become short of stores, and a little timely feeding will save them.—A. H. Duff.

Hints on Dairying.

There is sometimes difficulty in getting the butter to float in a mass on the top of the butter milk, so that the latter can be readily drawn off without carrying the butter with it. A little brine or a handful or two of salt stirred into the mass is said to be a remedy. The milk may be drawn off through a strainer, or the butter skimmed off from the top of the butter milk and returned to the churn—

provided the milk is drawn into a clean vessel.

Repeat the pouring in of cold water to an amount sufficient to float the butter, gently agitating the mass and drawing off the water until it runs clear. If one or more of these washings is in weak brine it will dissolve the caseous matter and thus aid in separating it from the butter. Strong brine hardens and fixes the caseous matter.

After washing, let the butter stand in the churn, without gathering, until all the water has drained out that will, it dropping very slowly or not at all; then sift on the salt at the rate of one ounce to the pound more or less, as may be demanded by the market for which it is intended—sifting on a little at a time and stirring it in, or incorporating it with the butter by gently rocking the churn to and fro.

It is best to use a sieve in salting for the purpose of keeping out dirt, pan scales, lumps, etc., which most salt contains. Use none but the best salt made for dairy purposes. Salt should be as carefully kept as flour—in a dry, sweet and clean place, away from kerosene, fish and other rank-smelling articles.

By salting butter in the granular form all working is avoided, and the "grain" is preserved perfectly. If the right kind of salt is used it dissolves at once, covering every particle with a saturated brine. It is only necessary to press it together in a solid mass either before or when packing it for market.

Beware of salt that does not dissolve immediately. It is liable to remain undissolved and make the butter gritty, unless an extra amount of water is left in the butter, which would be a fraud.

Be sure to use enough salt to saturate the water remaining in the butter, even if you have to work out some of the brine. If you do not the butter will contain only a weak brine and will not keep well.

If just enough water and no more is left in the butter to dissolve the salt, so that no brine is worked out, the weight of the salt is added to the weight of the unsalted butter.

No "brine-salting" method so called, or other method of salting butter, yet made public, is equal to the method here described, or as economical. It is practical and scientific brine-salting. Butter may be taken out of the churn and salted in a bowl or on a table.—Farm, Field and Fireside.

A Sad Story.

During a Euclid paper at a recent examination for London University, a presiding examiner noticed that a young man was constantly referring to something concealed under his blotting paper. "Cribbing" is especially common in Euclid papers, and in consequence examiners have the bad habit of keeping their eyes very wide open indeed. This particular examiner quickly swooped down and insisted on seeing the inside of the blotter. The young man blushed and stammered, but all in vain. At last, with great reluctance, he produced the photograph of a very beautiful young lady, with large, lustrous eyes. "This," he faltered, with crimson cheeks, "is my affianced bride. Whenever I am inclined to despair, I have only to look at her face and I am instantly inspired with fresh ardor." The examiner retired abashed and touched, with moist eyes and rosy cheeks, but the examinee heaved a sigh of relief, for beneath the likeness of a well known burlesque actress there remained concealed a very choice collection of Euclid's most baffling figures.—Toronto Empire.

Whiskers For a Pillow.

That history repeats itself has just received another proof. Some years ago the men of a Bavarian regiment, of which Prince Maximilian was chief, in order that they might show their devotion to him, cut off their mustaches and sent them to the princess, who had just become a mother, that she might use them as a pillow. Something very like a repetition of this has just taken place at Rappoistweller, in Alsatia. The chief of the fire brigade was a few days ago presented with his first child, a boy. The firemen thereupon called a meeting, at which it was decided to make the baby boy an honorary member of the corps, and the men subsequently cut off their mustaches and beads to form a pillow for the baby's use.—Chicago Chronicle.

A Poser.

When the late Mr. Bradlaugh was once engaged in a discussion with a dissenting minister, the former insisted on the latter answering a question he had asked him by a simple "Yes" or "No," without any more circumlocution, asserting that every question could be replied to in that manner. The reverend gentleman rose, and in a quiet manner said: "Mr. Bradlaugh, will you allow me to ask you a question on those terms?" "Certainly," said Bradlaugh.

"Then, may I ask have you given up beating your wife?" "This was a poser, for if answered by 'Yes' it would imply he had previously beaten her, and if by 'No' that he continued to do so.



Cholly Spoonbrain—"I did the most brilliant act of my life at the Dullards last night." The Old Man—"What did you do, light the gas?"