

EXPERTS AS TO A BOY'S AGE.

Doctor and Barber Disagree and the Court Sides With the Barber.

A youth clad in the shabbiest garments imaginable, but wearing a one-karat diamond ring, furnished a problem in the criminal court that required the wit and ingenuity of experts to solve. It was necessary to ascertain the lad's age and before a satisfactory estimate was made several attorneys, a barber, a veterinary surgeon and a judge had passed judgment unsuccessfully. The boy is known to the police as "Doc" Silcote. He was before Judge Baker on the charge of having stolen 284 pounds of bullion from a freight car on a Union Pacific side track near the smelter.

When arraigned Silcote entered a plea of not guilty. His attorney informed the Court that he desired to withdraw the plea and admit his guilt. If he were of legal age, as alleged in the complaint, the admission of guilt would send him to the penitentiary; otherwise he would escape with the reform school.

"Doctor, come here," commanded the court. "How old are you?" "I never knew," replied the lad. "It's going to be hard work to tell this boy's age," observed the Court. "Do any of the complainants know anything about him?"

Detective Vizzard, of the Union Pacific Railroad Company, attempted to prove that Silcote has been stealing so long he must be more than sixteen, but the Court would not accept deductions for evidence. One of the attorneys then jokingly made a remark that was taken seriously.

"There's a man skilled in horse-craft," he said, pointing to a veterinary surgeon among the spectators. "Bring him up," instructed the Judge, "and let's see if he can give us a clue."

The veterinary expressed the opinion that Silcote is more than sixteen, as he had several teeth youngsters do not enumerate among their molars.

As a precedent for expert testimony had been established, an attorney for the defense asked leave to call a barber from the crowd to express an expert's opinion on Silcote's beard. The barber thought he must be younger than sixteen.

The Court ruled finally that Silcote is under legal age and cannot be sent to the penitentiary. He will be sentenced to a term in the reform school. —Omaha Bee.

Fun Has a Valuable Side.

"Show me a man who does not appreciate humor," said John Kendrick Bangs to me, "and I will show you a man who is morbid, cynical, unresponsive to every call of nature. Such a man is worse than a pessimist, and more to be pitied. Take some of the greatest and most successful men in the world. Humor has always played an important part in their lives. Often a funny incident has marked the turning point of a great man's career. Often some ridiculous condition has been the impetus of a new start in life."

Mr. Bangs is right. Did not Columbus's apparently hopeless task of standing an egg on end make thinkers of the wise men who sat around him? Was not George Washington credited with being a master of the truth because he once saw a boy punished for trying to jest with his father, and finally became, as Mr. Bangs facetiously remarks, so "he couldn't tell a lie if he saw one?" And didn't Johann Gutenberg invent the printing press by working out a theory which found its origin while he was playing leap-frog with some other boys on damp ground? The impression made in the soil by the boys' feet is said to have given Gutenberg his first idea of the impression that could be made by types.—Robert Mackay, in Success.

Bull Moose Fights a Locomotive.

The Pacific Express was half an hour late in reaching Brandon, Manitoba, a few days ago, and the delay was caused by one of the most curious happenings ever known in Manitoba.

The train was traveling at a slow rate of speed and had just reached the Brandon mile board when the engineer saw a giant bull moose standing on the track. He tooted the whistle and showed up his train, but the king of the forest refused to move. He was not to be bluff by any red-eyed animal with no more horns than a locomotive.

He was bent on fight, and tossing his antlers in the most defiant manner flashed toward the engine. The engineer saw him coming and opened up the throttle and went at him. It was only a fight of a minute. The bull's horns became wedged in the pilot and he belowed and kicked, but to no avail. The train pulled up and the remains were cleared away.

One Way of Learning.

"Oh, papa, we are studying infinitives," said a little ten-year-old. "So?" said her father. "Yes, and they are awful easy," said the child. "Just to and an 'action word.'" Said the father, "Going to school, eh?" "Yep," said the child. "Whipping two boys?" "That's it," said the child. "Growing too cold?" "That's another," said the child. "We are going to take up particles next. We understand 'em all." And the little maiden finished her dinner in blissful ignorance that there is anything difficult in grammar.

The school represented in the above is a good school, and the child will come out all right; but supposing she depends on what she gets in the sixth grade grammar class for her success—she will not have any.—School Education.

HORTICULTURAL HINTS



EDITED BY THE RURALIST

Treating Pear Blight.

The only effective method of treating pear blight is to cut out and burn all affected branches. Cut off several inches below the diseased part and disinfect the knife or saw with kerosene or carbolic acid, before cutting another branch, so as to avoid all danger of spreading the disease.

How the Best Trees Are Grown.

Some fruit growers are of the opinion that the best trees can be had from seed planted where the trees are to grow, and then top grafting them with the desired varieties, disturbing the soil as little as possible, except to keep it clean. They advocate that the forest tree thrives because its roots are never disturbed, and protection is afforded by the leaves which cover the ground in winter.

The Benefit of Mulching.

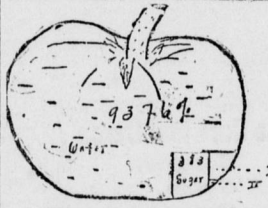
Experienced fruit growers who have tried mulching raspberries, blackberries and strawberries, in comparison with rows not mulched, report that the rows that were mulched gave double the amount of fruit. They also stood the drought much better and the vines and canes were more vigorous. The increased crops more than paid for the mulching, while one year there would have been no crops at all but for the mulch.

Setting an Apple Orchard.

In setting an apple orchard would place them at distances apart of thirty-five to forty feet one way and thirty-three to forty feet the other way, being governed by the habit of growth of the variety selected. The spreading trees like the Greening and Baldwin will be near enough together when full grown if they are forty feet apart each way, while those of upright habit of growth would not be crowded if not more than thirty or thirty-three feet apart. Yet when both are set in the same orchard it is better to have the distance about forty feet one way and then the upright growers can be placed together in the row. If it is desired to utilize the ground more fully, pears, peaches, plums or quinces may be set between the apple trees in the rows, with the expectation of having them cut out when the apple trees had grown so as to need the space. Of the forty foot space between the rows about thirty feet can be used for growing hoed crops while the trees are young, thus not losing the use of but one-fourth of the land before the trees begin to pay for that which they occupy. The fertilizer and cultivation given these hoed crops would also be beneficial to the growth of the trees.—American Cultivator.

Composition of the Tomato.

The extensive use of the tomato for the table has resulted in many inquiries concerning its food value. Professor Harry Snyder, of the Minnesota experiment station, presents a series of analyses, the results of which are shown in the accompanying illustration. Of course the greater part is



water. Of the nutrients sugar is by far the largest amount, being 3.33 per cent. There is a wide range in the different samples. Some specimens contain less than one per cent, and others as high as four and a half per cent. The protein content is low, and amounts usually to one-half per cent. The fat amounts to about one-half per cent, or practically the same as the protein.—American Agriculturist.

The Transportation of Pollen.

A matter of importance to fruit growers is an experiment made at the Vermont Experiment Station on the transportation of pollen of fruit blossoms. There is a general belief that pollen is transported from tree to tree by winds or bees. Experiments show that the pollen is carried almost exclusively by insects, and that the wind has but little to do with it. Prepared glass slips were placed in the plum orchard, so as to be exposed to the wind from all directions. The slips were examined with hand glasses (on April 24 and 25), the wind blowing five miles an hour. This was at the height of the pollinating season, the slips being placed at all points, and in the midst of the orchard, as well as at various distances from the ground, and also close to the trees, one slip being right under a tree. In twenty-four hours it had caught one pollen mass. Some of the slips caught none, while but few were caught on any. The experiment was very carefully conducted and demonstrated that, so far as plum trees were concerned, bees and other insects are necessary for carrying the pollen to the blossoms.

SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY.

The Russian ministry of communications has decided to adopt petroleum for generating power on the locomotives of all the railways.

The French forest inspector at Lamur has found a way of making wood, by means of dry distillation and high pressure, impervious to water and acids, and a perfect electrical non-conductor.

Large balance wheels for engines and other machines running at high speeds are made in Germany by winding steel wire of rectangular section on a steel wheel having a grooved circumference. The wire insures the wheel against bursting in case of abnormal speed.

Sir Henri Joly, the lieutenant-governor of British Columbia, with the assistance of the Natural History society of that province, is taking steps to import large quantities of song-birds from England and eastern Canada. It is believed that they will be rapidly acclimated, and will thrive in British Columbia.

No century in history has been without severe earthquakes in southern Italy. Thousands have perished there. Vesuvius adds to the danger of that land, and the town of Torre del Greco, which lies under the mountain, may meet the fate of Pompeii and Herculaneum any day. It has been partially destroyed several times.

In the new switch tower in the Grand Central yard, New York City, the windows are of green glass. It is a great protection to the eyes of the employes, and enables them to keep their vision at its normal strength at all times. The switch tower contains 176 levers, which operate the switches and signals by compressed air.

The reports of the test of the new 12-inch naval gun at the Indian Head proving-grounds are most encouraging, and claims are advanced that the highest velocity ever attained by a 12-inch gun was achieved. The projectile for this gun, which is one of 40 recently ordered for new battleships and heavy cruisers, weighs 850 pounds, and is fired with a charge of 300 pounds of smokeless powder. The pressure at the breech developed in these tests was 16 1/2 tons to the square inch, and the muzzle velocity of the projectile was 2854 feet per second. The previous record for a gun of this size is stated at from 2500 to 2600 feet per second.

INSECTS IN METAL.

The Ingenious Device of a Frenchman for Reproducing Them.

Did you ever see a copper caterpillar, a silver centipede, or a nickel gnat? Yet these and many similar objects can be had, if not for the asking, at least for a reasonable amount of money, at several places in New York. Who discovered the curious art is unknown, but it was introduced into this city by an eccentric Frenchman who said that he had elaborated the discovery of some chemists in Paris. M. Paul Despotte, for such was the man's name, declared his secret to be as follows: He first lampened the luckless insect, leaf or flower and then blew on it with a blowpipe. The object thus dusted was placed in an electrolytic bath, and upon it the metal was precipitated by the galvanic current. The object was then transferred to a second bath, from which all the organic matter was dissolved by an alkali. The metallic shell which remained was slightly heated, touched with some kind of shellac, and the thing was done. The inventor carried with him quite a collection of these preparations. The most interesting of all were a mosquito in gold and a hairy geranium leaf in copper.

The delicacy of the work was extraordinary. Under a powerful magnifying glass the little organs which are invisible to the human eye were seen perfectly reproduced in metal. The discovery does not seem to have been utilized to any great extent so far as trade is concerned, but has been taken up by many amateurs. This fall an ingenious girl up town first covered the back of her hand with black lead and then plated it with metal. She removed this, which was a perfect cast, and used it as a matrix, in which she deposited a second coat of metal, which she finally mounted on a piece of satin. Her hand, as may be supposed, was pretty, and when reproduced its copper made a work of art as novel as it was attractive.—New York Evening Post.

Why Altitude Helps Consumptives.

The splendid results of high altitude in the treatment of tuberculosis have not been due to any curative constituent of the atmosphere or any peculiarity of temperature, but entirely to decreased barometric pressure upon the external surface, compelling a greater expansion of the chest, opening up a larger surface for the interchange of gases and consequently a greater oxygenation of the blood. It is self-evident then that the forced distention of the lungs and bronchi in those who live in high altitudes alone confers immunity against the disease. The exercises available to produce better respiration are very numerous and varied, but the underlying principle is simply to bring into more vigorous play the muscles which expand the thorax and at the same time excite deep, full and free breathing—to bring the vital force of the lung to its maximum.—Parker Murphy, in Albany Medical Annals.

Germany holds first place in canary rearing with 250,000 birds a year. One hundred thousand of these go to America.

A cord of pitch pine under distillation gives the following substances: Charcoal, 50 bushels; illuminating gas, about 1,000 cubic feet; illuminating oil and tar, 50 gallons; pitch or rosin, 124 barrels; pyrolygneous acid, 100 gallons; spirits of turpentine, 20 gallons; tar, 1 barrel; wood spirits, 5 gallons.

The Best Prescription for Chills and Fever is a bottle of GROVE'S TASTELESS CHILL TONIC. It is simply iron and quinine in a tasteless form. No cure—no pay. Price 50c.

Launceston in Tasmania has its electric lighting system derived from a river that forms one of the city's boundaries.

The Spirit of the Drug Cures disease. Hoxsey's Croup Cure contains that subtle power rendering it an infallible remedy for Croup, Pneumonia, Diphtheria, 50c.

California sends \$1,000,000 worth of canned fruits to Germany a year, and more are wanted.

Germany has a life insurance association of 1,000,000 members which, in seven years has paid over \$300,000 to the families of members.

PUTNAM FADELESS DYES are fast to sunlight, washing and rubbing. Sold by all druggists.

Cincinnati is the only municipality in the United States that owns and operates a railway system. It is valued at \$33,500,000.

Dyspepsia is the bane of the human system. Protect yourself against its ravages by the use of Beeman's Pepsin Gum.

An interesting chair in the newly restored church called the Garrison Church, at Berlin, has been ordered by the kaiser to be placed in his pew there. It is a simple wooden affair, and bears the following inscription: "King Frederick William I. once sat on this chair during divine service."

The value of all Kansas products for 1900, including animals slaughtered, is placed at \$187,796,406.

Uncle Sam Aims

to buy the best of everything which is why he uses Carter's Ink. He knows what's good.

American apples are becoming known in France as well as in England and Germany.

Piso's Cure is the best medicine we ever used for all affections of throat and lungs.—Wm. O. ENGLISH, Vanburen, Ind., Feb. 10, 1900.

There are no statutory holidays in Mississippi, Kansas or Nevada.

Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup
Cures a cough or cold at once. Conquers croup, bronchitis, grippe and consumption. 25c.

DROPSY NEW DISCOVERY gives quick relief and cures worst cases. Book of instructions and 10 days' treatment free. Dr. H. H. GREEN'S SONS, Box 2, Atlanta, Ga.

YOU'RE WEAK Instead of Strong! Make Yourself a New Man!

DR. GREENE'S NERVURA

BLOOD AND NERVE REMEDY.

Will Give You the Strength and Vigor of Perfect Manhood. Restores, Vitalizes and Invigorates Weak Men.

Old before his time! A broken-down, miserable wreck—weak, nervous, discouraged!

The world to him seems a place of mist, peopled with ghostly beings, whose fitting to and fro about their daily tasks serves but to irritate him. He sneers at healthy amusements, and finds no comfort or pleasure in life.

He is sick and he does not know it. He drags about, and therefore thinks he is well. He is despondent and peevish, and weak, and he does not know that there are merely signals—some from the stomach crying for aid—others from the nerves beseeching strength—still others from the great life-current—the blood—meaning that it is so impeded and clogged with impurities that it cannot move.

He, and all others like him, will find immediate relief in Dr. Greene's Nervura blood and nerve remedy. This is just what it was intended for. It never fails to make weak men strong and vigorous, puts new life, vim, strength, power and energy into them.

Dr. Greene's Nervura is New Life, Hope and Strength for Weak Men.

Mr. JOHN D. SMITH, electrician for the Thompson-Houston Electric Co., of Lynn, Mass., says: "When a man has been sick and is cured it is his duty to tell others about it, that they, too, may get well. Three years ago I had been working almost eight and a half days, could not (at regular) and not only a few hours sleep at night. No man can stand that long, and I soon began to be prostrated. I could not sleep when I tried, and my food would not stay on my stomach. I was in a terrible condition, and was much alarmed. I went to doctors, but they did me no good. Learning of the wonderful good done by Dr. Greene's Nervura blood and nerve remedy, I determined to try it. It cured me completely of all my complaints. I eat heartily and sleep well, thanks to this splendid medicine. I believe it to be the best remedy in existence."

Dr. Greene's Nervura is the One Great Restorative Which Cures.

Dr. GREENE, 35 West 14th St., New York City, is the most successful specialist in curing nervous and chronic diseases. He has remedies for all forms of disease, and offers to give free consultation and advice, personally or by letter. You can tell or write your troubles to Dr. Greene, for all communications are confidential, and letters are answered in plain sealed envelopes.

LION COFFEE

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THE lion does picket duty for you and prevents adulteration and impurity from entering into your package of

LION COFFEE

When you buy an unbroken package of **LION COFFEE** you have coffee that is absolutely pure, strong and invigorating. A single pound makes 40 cups. No other coffee will go so far. You will never know what it is like till you try it. **LION COFFEE** is not a glazed compound, but a pure coffee and nothing but coffee.

Watch our next advertisement.

In every package of **LION COFFEE** you will find a fully illustrated and descriptive list. No housekeeper, in fact, no woman, man, boy or girl will fail to find in the list some article which will contribute to their happiness, comfort and convenience, and which they may have by simply cutting out a certain number of Lion Heads from the wrappers of our one pound sealed packages (which is the only form in which this excellent coffee is sold).

WOOLSON SPICE CO., TOLEDO, OHIO.