

Care of Nails.

Some persons insist that the finger nails are signs of character. The slender tapering nail, they say, indicates a refined nature which is sometimes accompanied by a shrewish temper.

Nails may be greatly improved, both in shape and color, by proper attention. The best appliance is a nail brush used in water softened by the addition of a little borax, and really fine toilet soap.

In well-brushed and well-cared for nails the little curtain-like rim which surrounds them is well pushed or rolled back, displaying generally a delicate little crescent at the root. The skin of the finger should never be allowed to grow up on the nail.

In paring and trimming the shape given should always be as long an oval as possible. To cut a nail squarely off gives the finger end a stubby look. The corners should be carefully and closely cut, the center left rather long, so as to give the long oval shape.

In cleaning the nails the knife should never scrape off the inner substance of the nail, as this renders the edge opaque and muddy in appearance, whereas it should be transparent.

The nail is susceptible of a high degree of polish by rubbing with the towel when drying the hands.

The habit of biting the nails is one against which children should be carefully guarded. It is ruinous to the very structure of the nail, and once acquired, is one of the most difficult habits to break. This is evidenced by the fact that some men and women, but more especially men, have a habit of biting their nails when reading or studying, of which they are perfectly unconscious.

Words of Wisdom.

He who is never guilty of folly is not so wise as he imagines. Prosperity unmasks the vices; adversity reveals the virtues.

An indiscreet man is like an unsealed letter—every one can read it. Some persons mistake noise for argument.

They that govern most make least noise. He that too much fears hatred is unfit to rule.

The first ingredient in conversation is, truth, the next good sense, the third, good humor, and the fourth wit.

Envy is a passion so full of cowardice and shun that nobody ever had the confidence to own its possession.

The time for reasoning is before we have approached near enough to the forbidden fruit to look at and admire.

He who is false to the present duty breaks a thread in the loom, and will see the effects when the weaving of a lifetime is unraveled.

Items of Interest.

There are sixty-four cities in the United States having a population of over 30,000.

San Francisco contains 31,000 more men than women in a total population of 233,956.

The pearl oyster is found in the Persian Gulf, and on the coast of Morocco, Ceylon and Japan.

Of the 60,000 male adults in Illinois, 400,000 drink beer, wine and whisky, and of these 40,000 drink to excess.

During the past fifteen years the United States government has spent over \$22,000,000 in fighting and watching Indians in the Western States and Territories.

The American dollar contains more silver than the like coin of the British empire, Germany, France, Russia, Austria, Holland, Belgium, Italy, Spain, Switzerland, Greece and others.

A new found for iron and steel has been found. In Germany quite a number of steel sleepers are in use, and in England the advisability of substituting wrought iron for wood sleepers is being seriously discussed.

That part of the country known as the Northwest, composed of nine States and one Territory, has a population of 12,184,664. Of the increase since the last census one-third of the amount lies in these States.

Even so inflammable a thing as cotton can now be used for the construction of fireproof buildings. It is converted into a paste—by chemical treatment—which becomes as hard as stone. It is molded into large slabs, and designated as architectural cotton.

A GOOD YEAR FOR LOCUSTS.

Professor Riley Predicts that the Locusts will Swoop Down Upon the Country Next Summer—Interesting Facts About These Insects.

This is to be a good year for locusts. In the Southern States they will be particularly abundant, and it is more than probable that the woods in Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia will resound with their rattling song. This will be unwelcome news to the farmers and florists, who know, from sad experience, the destructive character of these insects. It will be remembered that in the summer of 1868 the locusts were particularly abundant in this locality. There was hardly a foot of ground in the woods and fields which was not completely perforated with the holes out of which the insects had come. They were everywhere and ate up everything, causing an amount of damage which is still fresh in the minds of agriculturalists. They will not appear this season in such great quantities, but in the year 1885 this vicinity will be again afflicted by an abundant visitation.

"There are two breeds of the locust," said Prof. Riley, of the agricultural department, to the Post reporter, who called upon him for information; "one appears every thirteen years, and the other every seventeen years. By a coincidence both broods are to appear together this year, but not in the same places."

"In what localities?" "The seventeen year locust will be particularly plentiful in Marquette and Green Lake counties Wisconsin, and may also appear in the western part of North Carolina, in Northeast Ohio, and a few in Lancaster county, Pa., and Westchester county, New York. They will also be abundant in the neighborhood of Wheeling, and will probably extend down into Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia. Of this, however, I am not quite sure. The thirteen year brood will, in all probability appear in Southern Illinois, throughout Missouri, with the exception of Arkansas, Indiana Territory, Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia and North and South Carolina."

"What is the difference between the two broods?" "Do you mean in appearance? Very little, and one is very apt to confound them."

"Are the locusts to be depended upon as recurring in regular periods?" "Yes, sir. Observations extending for more than 200 years prove that they never fail. The earliest appearance of the periodical cicada, or locust, so far as we have any record, occurred at Plymouth, Mass., in 1634. Each seventeen years they have appeared again without fail. The naturalist calculates as confidently on the future appearance of the locust in a given month, in a given year, for all time to come, as the astronomer does an eclipse or a transit on some particular day; and he may go back in time when none but savage men dwell on this continent, and feel confident that the woods of New Jersey rattled with the hoarse cry of this insect in the month of June, seven years after the birth of Christ, just as they did in June 1877."

"Where does the locust reside, so to speak, during his absence from the face of the earth?" "He is then under the earth, in the shape of a worm, living on the sap of young rootlets. In following these they penetrate very deep into the ground, sometimes going as far down as ten or twelve feet. The season for their appearance and disappearance differs somewhat with the latitude, though not so materially as one might suppose. They appear a little earlier in the South than in the North, but the last half of May can be set down as the period during which they emerge from the ground, in many parts of the country, which they generally leave by the 4th of July. As is the case with a great many other insects, the males make their appearance several days before the females, and also disappear sooner. Hence, in the latter part of the cicada season, though the woods are still full of females, the song of but very few males will be heard."

Do not the females sing?

"No, the musical organs are possessed only by the males. This fact was embodied in an ancient rhyme.

"Happy the cicada's lives,  
For they all have voiceless wives."  
"How is the music produced?"

"The rattling noise is produced by a system of muscles in the lower part of the body, which work on the drums under the wings by alternately tightening and loosening them. The general noise on approaching infested woods is a compromise between that of a distant threshing machine and a distant frog pond. That which they make when disturbed mimics a nest of young snakes or young birds under similar circumstances—a sort of scream. They can also produce a chirp something like that of a cricket, and a very loud shrill screech, prolonged for fifteen or twenty seconds and gradually increasing in force and then decreasing."

"Is it true that the locust stings?" "There is a widespread fear of the locust sting," answered the professor; "every time there is an abundance of locusts you hear of people being stung, and newspaper accounts of such accidents are by no means infrequent. I have known people who denied themselves the pleasure of eating blackberries and other fruits, because they feared these fruits had been poisoned by the eggs of cicadas; while others believe that they poison the water. So far as I can find, all these reports are false or greatly exaggerated, and the great majority of them are pure imagination."

"Are they not capable of doing an immense amount of damage?" "Yes, sir, they have destroyed whole apple orchards and vineyards. The worst of it is that there is no way to get rid of them when they make their appearance in large numbers and have attained full size and powers of flight. The only possible method is to allow poultry and hogs to devour them just after they come up out of the ground and are in a helpless condition."

"There is a good deal of superstition," remarked the reporter, "about the W on their wings."

"I have noticed that," Prof. Riley answered, "some ignorant persons are gilly enough to believe that it portends war. It occurs alike, though not to such a marked degree, on all other cicadas, and if people must have an omen let them take the two W's for warm weather, and it will not be likely to disappoint them."—Washington Post.

Our Fish Interests.

We interviewed Dr. J. G. Bryan, of Washington, N. C., who was in this city yesterday, on the subject of fish and the fishing interest. He says unless some kind of protection is given to the propagation of fish, that they will be entirely exterminated in a few years. He thinks that the present embargo of two lay days during the week is insufficient, and really does but little good, the increase being hardly perceptible. He recommends that no fishing be allowed during the month of May, this being the spawning season. As an evidence of the success of this proposition, he says that during the late war, when there was scarcely any fishing at all, the increase of fish was almost incredible, and that at one of his fisheries, soon after the war, he made a "catch" of over sixty thousand fish at one haul, being more than he has caught at the same place and with the same seine for the last two years together. The only remedy for this is to leave enough for seed. Mr. Clay said, very truthfully, "that we must not cut up the seed corn." The probability is, that if there is no fishing done during the month of May, they will soon be restored to their former numbers. The Doctor believes that artificial propagation will not flood our rivers with fish, though it should be fostered, as it gives us new varieties and adds to our luxuries.

Dr. Bryan is the largest fisherman on Pamlico River. He shipped year before last over \$10,000 worth of fish, including shad, rock and perch, to Northern markets. He has had an experience of more than forty years in the fishing business. He thinks well of what is known as "Dutch nets," says they have an advantage over seines, as those who use them are not so much exposed to the water; besides, they do not impede the channel and prevent the free passage of fish.

We are informed that a cross between the rock and shad fish was effected during last season. What the name of this new hybrid is we cannot say, but would suggest the name of shadrock.—News & Obs.

Of the twenty-eight new iron furnaces completed in the United States last year, six were located in Virginia and five in other Southern States. Four new furnaces are now in course of construction in the South, and three more are projected.

There is a marble lamb on the tombstone of an old Galvestonian, and when Gilholy saw it for the first time he exclaimed: "How appropriate! Was he of a gentle disposition?" "Whew, I guess not. He would shoot in a minute, but he always overfed himself on spring lamb and green peas. That's what killed him, I reckon."

Judge Buxton having been mentioned in connection with Garfield's cabinet, the association of Tennessee Republicans at Washington have taken strong grounds against him, denouncing him as disloyal during the war and recalling that the Judge declared just prior to the Presidential conventions that were Grant or Blaine nominated he would vote the Democratic ticket.—News & Obs.

One of the curiosities (Republican) developed by the census is that Ohio, in the late Presidential election, cast 20,071 more votes than she had male citizens over twenty-one years of age, and Indiana cast 29,933 more votes than there were voters in the State. This will probably account for these two States giving Republican majorities, and it also accounts for the reason why the Republican Congressmen of these States want the apportionment made on the basis of voting instead of population as is required by the constitution.—Boston Centinel.

ADMINISTRATOR'S SALE!

On Thursday the 17th day of March next, at the late residence of John Berger, I will offer for sale the personal property belonging to his estate consisting of horses, cattle, hogs, corn, wheat, oats, hay, farming tools of all kinds with the well selected kitchen furniture, and one half interest in a three-story brick house, and a large lot of land. Terms of sale—CASH. All persons having claims against the estate of John Berger are notified that they must present them to me on or before the 20th day of February, 1885, or this notice will be deemed in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to the estate will please make early settlement. WM. M. KINCAID, Adm'r of John Berger, Feb. 19th, 1885. 2w

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