THE MAIL IN CHINA.

A PECULIAR METHOD OF DELIVERING LETTERS.

The Government Does Not Carry Letters—Private Mail Carriers and Their Arduous Duties—A Clumsy Arrangement.

THE Government of the Celestial empire sends its official dispatches by special couriers, but would deem it altogether out of its sphere to bother with the mail of private citizens. In eastern China a tolerable efficient substitute for our postal system has, however, been organized by private corporations that might be described as local and general express companies. Nearly every city has a mail contractor, who undertakes to deliver letters and small packages within the municipal limits of his burg and of the neighboring villages. The larger cities occasionally interchange a mail pouch, and their contractors keep a sort of directory of firms of the maritime provinces.

The general express companies do a much more extensive business. They deliver verbal messages, letters, bags of specie, and small consignments of merchandise at any accessible point of the empire, and have their agents in every iron-road village and at the principal landings of the great inter-provincial waterways.

They, too, take charge of local letters, and in the ardor of competition the two rival organizations resort to all kinds of strange expedients. Not content with receiving consignments (with or without prepayment of charges) at their headquarter offices, they send collectors from house to house and keep runners, who, like our newsboys, haunt the street corners and make a rush for every customer lifting his hand or his eyelids.

If the agents of the locals should call at a new home and find that his rival of the generals has got ahead of him he will at once try to bribe the domestics and thus recover the inside track for the next race. Should a private errand boy leave a house with a letter or a package a runner will promptly attempt to take him in tow, and, if necessary, purchase his connivance with an offer of sweetmeats.

The collectors of both companies are generally expert penmen. "Letters, sir," inquired the L. man, sticking his head through the window of a ground-floor parlor.

"Ye-s," drawls out the possible customer, chewing his writing stick; "but I'm not done yet. Can you wait, or call again in an hour?"

"Do let me write it for you," suggests the representative of the L; "it will only take me a minute, and save a gentleman like you the trouble of blacking his fingers. No extra charge, sir; it's a pastime, but those G. fellows are too lazy to accommodate a customer. Let me come in, sir," etc., till he gets the job and a few extra coppers for "tea money," in spite of his protest.

But the G. man is apt to get even if a letter should be returned to the sender as undeliverable. "That shows what they know about their business. Why, Ah Chow moved to Nanking a month ago and lives in a house three doors below the White street corner of the cabbage market. Let me have that letter and I'll get you an answer in a week. Those L. fellows don't know anything outside of their own hash-mill routes. No prepayment needed; you can settle after you find out that the letter has been delivered."

Long-trip messengers of the general express travel pairwise, and are miraculous adepts in the art of reconciling a minimum of expense with a maximum of speed. They will take a hand in the navigation of river boats, load themselves with extra consignments of all but the most unreasonable overweight; they will volunteer to deliver messages or execute commissions, and thus secure many a free ride besides the honest good will of the wayside population; they will entertain a company of travelers with songs and anecdotes, retail the gossip of their headquarters city, and can repay their tidbits with topographical information.

The charge for long-range letters is pretty high, but the carriers can be relied upon to earn their wages. They will make their way across all obstacles short of a military blockade, and if the recipient of the message should be unable to write his name they will get some responsible official of the neighborhood to sign the receipt by proxy.

As a rule the inhabitants of highway side towns deem it a matter of honor to aid a mail carrier in possible emergencies, ferry him across swollen rivers, or, in case of sickness, carry him on muleback to the next town ahead, and the North China Herald published the story of a letter that had been sent to the far western Province of Yuman, where the messenger died in consequence of extreme fatigues in crossing the snow-covered highlands. He had contrived to find the address, but found himself obliged to intrust a traveling peddler with the receipt, that was forwarded from hand to hand till it reached its destination in far-off Tian Sing (on the Bay of Pechili) after the laps of seven months.

In time of civil war thousands of mail-bags are smuggled through the blockade lines in the double walls of river boats or in parcels of innocent-looking merchandise. Letters of special importance are sent with more extraordinary precautions. Instead of being written on paper (apt to betray itself by rustling under the fingers of the searching hand) they are traced on white linen with indelible ink, rubbed over with a paste that can be washed out in warm water, and then sewed into the inner folds of an old blouse—a boatman's blouse if possible, for the messenger travels in disguise, and takes care to dirty his garments enough to modify the cupidity of a robber.

To some parts of the vast empire letters are forwarded only at the risk of the sender. On the border of Thibet the highlands become pathless in winter, and 600 miles due west of Canton there is an enclave, or State in the State, defended by independent hill tribes (the rebels of Seng Miow), who for centuries have defied the Tax Collectors of the Government, and rarely permit a stranger to cross their border alive. But a still more impracticable territory is that of the southern frontier, where the rainy season turns every lagoon into a lake, and fevers are rife in midsummer. That district, on the Gulf of Tonquin, includes valleys of exuberant fertility, but travelers must take what luck there is, and in the jungles of the Song-Kai River a French exploring expedition a few years ago came across the remains of a mail carrier who seemed to have fallen a victim to wild beasts or the jungle fever, but who before dying had taken the precaution to hang his mail bag across the limb of the tree near the foot of which the explorers found his skeleton.—San Francisco Chronicle.

The monumental mean man dwells in the Quaker City. He shouted from his window the other morning, "Ha, milkman! You needn't leave but a pint this morning,—my wife died last night."

The Dynograph Car.

The dynograph car has started from the Grand Central Station on is annual inspection trip over the New York Central Road. This car is the invention and property of P. H. Dudley, and it makes semi-annual trips over three or four Eastern railroads to ascertain and record on paper the exact condition of the rails and roadbed. The car, which is forty feet long, was built expressly for Mr. Dudley, and it is the home of himself and wife, as well as his workshop. It represents, in its present state of efficiency, the study and devolment of twenty years.

Mr. Dudley has perfected an ingenious electrical instrument which by a system of little glass tubes filled with ink and tapering to fine penlike points will trace on paper as the car moves along at any rate of speed everything that it is desirable to know about the condition of the roadbed. The paper used is about twenty-four inches wide and it passes from one roller to another, both the rollers moving in connection with the wheels of the car. A strip of this paper eight feet long is used to each mile traversed, and the points of the little glass tubes mark on the paper the alignment of each rail, the degree of curvature as well as the elevation of each curve, the speed at which the car is moving, and the condition of the surface of the rail. Every variation of onesixteenth of an inch and over is recorded.

Connected with the registering and tracing instrument in the car is a contrivance which automatically ejects a drop of blue paint upon each joint in the track, where the end of one rail is onesixteenth of an inch or more out of gear. At the end of a trip the exact number of such faulty spots is found recorded on a slip of paper. Trackmen are sent out on the various sections after the car has passed and the loose joints marked by the blue paint are properly adjusted.

Mr. Dudley has fitted up very comfortable quarters in his car for his wife and himself, including a well-equipped kitchen, library, and sitting room, in which Mrs. Dudley has her piano. Mr. Dudley is an Ohio man, but is well known here and elsewhere as a scientific student. He is a member of the Academy of Sciences and is Vice-President of the American Microscopical Society. His dynograph car is of much service to the railroads on which he operates it.—New York Times.

Fun Over a Senator's Lost Whiskers.

Senator Mitchell, of Oregon, recently offered up as a sacrifice to the sun the luxuriant whiskers which have heretofore ornamented or rather concealed the lower part of his face. Since that time he has met with a series of adventures growing out of the fact that few even of his old acquaintances were willing to acknowledge his identity with the luxuriantly bewhiskered gentleman they had known in other days. And this is not to be wondered at, as the loss of his beard has made him look at least fifteen years younger and has changed his appearance to an astonishing degree. When he arose in his place in the Senate to offer a bill Senator Manderson, who was in the chair, looked at him in bewilderment for an instant and then said in a hesitating sort of way: "The Senator from—." The Oregon man knew what was the matter and smilingly helped the President pro tem. out by suggesting "Oregon."

At this Senator Frye looked around and also failing to recognize Mr. Mitchell, asked: "Is the gentleman a member of the Senate?" A smile went around among those who noticed the incident, and as a measure of precaution Senator Mitchell was escorted about the chamber quietly and reintroduced to those of his colleagues who had not met him since he parted with his whiskers.

Senator Mitchell was stopped by the Senate doorkeeper and forced to give an account of himself. He went over to the House to see Representative Herrmann of Oregon, and at the door had to tell who he was before he could get in. When he found Mr. Herrmann that gentleman did not show the least sign of recognition, and Senator Mitchell talked with him several minutes before the Representative discovered who it was. They then put up a job on Representative Burrows, to whom Mr. Herrmann introduced the Senator as the Rev. Mr. Ford, an Oregon clergyman of the Swedenborgian persuasion. Mr. Burrows immediately gave a religious pitch to his voice and a pious turn to the conversation, falling a complete victim to the trap set for him. Representative Payne, of New York, was victimized in the same way.—Washington Star.

Looking Out for His Interests.

A New York business man visited Boston on a business trip and was about to return when he discovered that there was one account for $100 which he had overlooked, says the Boston Herald. He consulted the landlord of the hotel at which he was a guest, who knew the debtor, and thought it a doubtful case; but added that, if it was collectable at all, he knew of a professional collector, a tall, raw-boned fellow from Vermont—who, by the way, was just then dunning a lodger in another part of the hall, and who he thought would "worry it out" of the man if anyone could. He was called up, introduced to the creditor, and shown the account.

"Wall, Square," said he, "'taint much use tryin', I guess. I know that critter. You might as well try to squeeze ile out out Bunker Hill Monument as to try an' c'lect a debt out of him. But, anyhow, Square, what'll ye give, sposin' I dew try?"

"Well, sir, the bill is $100. I'll give half—yes, I'll give you $50—if you collect it."

"'Greed," replied the collector; "thar's no harm in tryin' anyhow."

Some time afterward the creditor chanced to be again in Boston, and in walking up Tremont street encountered the enterprising collector.

"Look ahere, Square," said the collector, "I had considerable luck with that bill o' yourn. You see, I stuck to him like a dog to a rat, but for a week or so 'twasn't no use—not a bit. If he was home he was 'short;' if he wasn't home, I couldn't get no satisfaction. 'Bymby, after going sixteen times, said I, 'By gum, I'll fix you!' says I. So I sot deown onto the doorstep, and sot all day an' part of the evenin', and then I begun early next day; but about 10 o'clock he gin in."

"Ah," said the creditor, "he paid up, eh?"

"Wall, yas; he kinder ponied. He paid me my half, an' I gin him up the note."

Emperor William's Crown.

Emperor William, of Germany, has designed an imperial crown for himself with the assistance of the well known painter, Emil Noepler. It is to be composed of pure gold, entirely covered with large diamonds and pearls, surmounted by a cross which is to be studded with some of the finest diamonds of the famous Hohenzollern family collection of jewels. The crown was to have been formed after the pattern of the first royal crown of Prussia, but the Emperor ultimately decided to have it made to fit his own head.

CHILDREN'S DRESSES.

The dresses of children are now so picturesque, yet so devoid of elaboration, that it is a satisfaction to note them. Little dresses of China silk in pale pink, blue, Spanish yellow or pure white, are made with the utmost simplicity, a slight decoration of lace or the application of velvet ribbon being all the garniture that is used or required.—Brooklyn Citizen.

THINGS WORTH BUYING.

There is real economy and much luxury in linen towelling, castile soap, loaf sugar, fast prints, flannels, cloth and dress goods that are warranted all wool, good shoe leather, full regular hosiery and custom made wraps, jackets, coats and cloaks. Cotton black velvets and satins, "loaded" silk, jute fringes and tinsel trimmings, imitation kid gloves, plumage from barn yard fowls and furs from domestic animals all come under the term shoddy, and are not worth the labor necessary to form them into a wearing apparel.—New York World.

WHERE NONE BUT WOMEN VOTE.

Woman suffrage is a fact in the Canton of Zurich, Switzerland. There all married women, and virgins of mature age have the right to vote for midwives. The male sex is excluded, the females having the monopoly of these elections. Candidates for the position of midwife are, however, approved and nominated by the medical authorities of the State, no vote being counted that is cast for a candidate who has not been indorsed by the doctors. The medical commissioners being all of the male order, the right to vote of the females suffers a considerable restriction by this right of nomination possessed by male doctors.—Chicago Herald.

A CARE OF FINE LACE.

The love of lace is a pretty idolatry and inherent in the woman of taste and refinement. Something about its cobwebby meshes appeals to her heart, and she handles her Mechlin and caresses her Venetian point with genuine affection. The connoisseur knows full well that fine lace should be washed as seldom as possible, but when it becomes necessary it is done by her own hands, or at least directly under her supervision. A hot soapsuds with rain water and glycerine soap is prepared. The laces are rolled on a glass bottle under a band of linen, and are put in the suds to remain twelve hours. The suds is renewed three times; the bottle is plunged into soft, clear water and immediately taken out. Each point of the lace is pinned down under fine muslin and ironed on the wrong side. When finished each flower is raised by means of a tiny stick of wood, or, better still, of ivory. To bleach laces, expose them to the sunlight in soapsuds. The points are then dried on a cloth to which they are pinned. Then rub carefully with a sponge dipped in the suds of glycerine soap. Rinse them in alum water to remove the soap. Lace that is not badly soiled may be cleaned with bread crumbs. Valenciennes should be folded, sewed in bag of linen and soaked in olive oil for several hours. Afterward boil the bag for fifteen minutes in a hot suds made from any pure soap. Rinse well in a thin rice water, then open the bag and pin down the lace to dry. All laces should be ironed under muslin. To cleanse silver laces or braid one may put them in a sack and boil in suds, rinse in cold water and apply a little spirits of wine to the tarnished places. Black lace may be cleaned by dipping in beer. It should be pressed in the hands without wringing and ironed while it is partly wet. Cream colored laces should be boiled an hour in soapy bluing water. This operation should be repeated twice, though the third time there should be no bluing in the water, and the lace should not be rinsed, but put in gum water in which a little brandy and alum is dissolved. Then it should be lightly powdered with sulphur flour and ironed while damp. Quite apropos of lace, it may be stated that lace luncheons or teas are now a fad. Ladies who have an extensive collection of valuable laces invite their friends to inspect their treasures. In one corner of the invitation card is engraved the word "lace," and if the guests have any choice laces hidden away in silver paper they are liable to bring them forth and wear them to this womanly corner of Vanity Fair.—Once-A-Week.

FASHION NOTES.

Bonnets of white lace and pansies are popular.

Silver nets about six inches square and fringed with tiny silver balls are worn by some young women in the hair.

The most fashionable china is pure white with scalloped edges, and has the monogram of a single initial engraved on one side.

Rough, coarse, woolen materials, woven with uneven threads, are very fashionable for long mantles and walking dresses.

The long sleeved garments are useful for the cooler days. Lisle thread unions are in ecru. The cottons come in ecru and bleached.

Wicker tea baskets containing silver-plated teapot, tea caddy and all the accompaniments for tea on a journey are used in England.

Breakfast jackets are made of flowered delaines and nainsook and trimmed with Valenciennes lace and ribbons the exact shade of the pattern.

The Princesse gowns are open at one side to show an underskirt of different color, and the bodices and sleeves are slashed with puffings of the same color, or opened in some odd fashion and laced across with cord.

There are many girdles of all sorts of passementerie and gold yet shown, and many of them have one long end which hangs straight down in front to the bottom of the skirt. These girdles give a style to almost any costume.

Petticoats of dark or black silk, black satin and surah are suitable for every day, as well as better occasions, and are trimmed at the edge in the most varied and charmingly dainty way, the trimming being replaced as soon as worn out.

A pretty novelty for the baby is a jacket made of white China wash-silk, embroidered with blue forget-me nots in each corner and on the sleeves, and these little jackets, instead of being scolloped like the flannel ones, are hemmed and feather stitched.

There are some new ideas as to sleeves which will be carefully observed as a date-mark The latest of these is the wide, loose sleeeve coming below the elbow, and then finished not with the usual cuff, but a deep flounce or two frills of guipure or other kind of handsome lace.

POPULAR SCIENCE.

Naturalists say that a single swallow will devour 6000 flies in one day.

Teak wood contains an oil which prevents the rusting of nails driven into it.

There is a river in Kansas which varies in width during the course of the year from three feet to seven miles.

Professor Rogers says that every pound of coal contains a dynamic force equal to the amount of work a man will do in a day.

A French artist, M. Marey, has succeeded in photographing a flying insect. The time of exposure was only 1-2500th of a second.

A marine biological laboratory is about to be established on the island of Jamaica in honor of the fourth centenary of the discovery of America.

A block of carbon fourteen inches square represents the amount of that material in the bodily make-up of a man of the average of 155 pounds weight.

Cyrus Thomas claims to have discovered the key which will unlock the mystery of the Maya codices and, probably, of the Central American inscriptions.

Through a pneumatic tube seven hundred miles in length letters are whirled between Paris and Berlin in thirty-five minutes—at the speed of twenty miles a minute.

In using what is known as the Canadian method of boring oil wells, a well 1090 feet was bored in 228 hours, or an average of 4.78 feet per hour of actual work.

According to Dr. Hansen the red in flowers is a single pigment soluble in water and decolorized by alcohol, but capable of being restored by the addition of acids.

Blaudyte is the name given to the new material made of Trinidad asphalt and waste rubber. It resists the heat of high pressure steam and lasts well in the presence of oil and grease.

A disease peculiar to Japan is known as kake, which is thought to be the result of a rice diet. The disease is a slow degeneration of the nervous system and steadily increasing weakness of the patient.

Some prominent German engineers maintain that the application of test loads to bridges has never yet led to the detection or defects which could not have been found by calculation and inspection.

Sir Benjamin Baker has recently shown that a crack or nick on the surface or edge of a bar of steel does not always indicate its liability to fail by the gradual spreading of the nick and a probable breaking under a very much smaller load than a sound bar.

The difference between the so-called "chemical" focus and the visual focus of a telescope may be little or it may be half an inch. In either case the photographed image will be decidedly out of focus if allowance for this difference be not carefully made.

The rate of progression of a storm is often fifty miles an hour, and a series has often been traced in a direct line from north to south a distance of 400 miles. The average altitude of thunder storms has been found to be not over 5000 feet above the surface of the earth.

Melvin Atwood, the aged San Francisco mineralogist, one of the discoverers of the great Comstock ledge, believes the chances are excellent for finding in California one or more of the volcanic pipes containing diamonds, as at Kimberly, Du Toitspan and Bultfoutein.

Dr. Dareste has demonstrated that monsters and monstrosities during animal development are not the result of pathological changes in the embryo, as hitherto supposed, but modifications of the processes of organic evolution, such as bring about the difference between individuals and races in mankind.

According to a report from Germany the most powerful electric locomotive in the world is building at Baden. It is to be provided with motors of a total horse power of 1500, which can be raised to 2000 horse power. One motor is to be placed directly on each of the eight axles, and the locomotive is designed for a speed as high as that ordinarily used on steam locomotives.

In many of the out-of-the-way places it has been found necessary to manufacture nitro glycerine on the spot in order to avoid the very high rates charged by transportation companies. Such has been the advance in methods of making this explosive that, with ordinary precaution, thorough washing, and careful watching of the various changes of color, it can be made without fear of serious accident.

A Train's Life.

A prominent official of the passenger department of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company was asked the other day by a gentleman with whom he was traveling to New York on the Washington "limited" express what was the average "life" of one of such trains. "Well," he replied, "that in a large measure depends on the length and nature of the train's regular run. Take, as the most prominent example we could have, the limited express which we run from New York to Chicago. The average life of such a train is a trifle over six months, and the fact that such a train goes to the shops to be thoroughly overhauled and refitted twice a year shows how careful the great railroads are to keep up their standards.

"Very often the trains show but little wear, and only here and there can the results of six months' use be detected, but they are, nevertheless, ordered to the shops, stripped of their interior fittings, repainted, gone over by the workmen of every department that took a hand in originally constructing them, and then restored to the cabinet makers and upholsters to be turned out again practically new cars."

Another interesting point was that these trains are not "patched up" with a new car now and another new car again, but are always sent out in complete sets of cars from the shops, and when this is done the train which is taken off to give place to the new one is used for some less distinguished run.—Philadelphia Record.

Two New Summer Foods.

Two new summer foods are inimated in recent official publications. According to a report made by Vice-Consul Robinson, of Colon, on the Isthmus of Panama, the business of preparing banana meal for the New York market will soon be carried on in that region. He states that a company has been organized for the purpose of drying and otherwise preparing bananas and plantains for food. He says it has been ascertained that while apples yield only twelve per cent., bananas, with skins removed, yield twenty-five per cent. of thoroughly desiccated fruit. The supply of bananas is practically unlimited. The fruit grows to maturity all the year round, and may be obtained every day throughout the year, so that the manufacture of the new food can be made continuous.—New York Sun.

At Seraing, China, the contract for iron work for a large Chinese iron works has been taken out of the hands of English firms and given to Belgians.

A HINT TO DAIRYMEN.

It is a common practice among farmers to carry back from the cheese factory whey in the cans that they had carried the milk in, and unless the farmer uses every effort to thoroughly clean his cans, the effect upon the milk will be quickly noticed in the cheese product. Night's and morning's milk should not be mixed in the same can, unless the morning's milk is thoroughly cooled by aeration before mixing with the night's milk. Consequently it would be necessary for those who do the milking to get up an hour earlier in the morning, which every farmer knows is no easy matter.—American Dairyman.

THE NEW YORK BLACK KNOT LAW.

The law concerning the black knot of plum and cherry trees, which was recently passed by the Legislature of New York, and which is now in force, declares a tree infected by this disease to be a nuisance, and requires the owner of such tree or trees to abate the nuisance. It authorizes the supervisor of any town (or the mayor in the case of a city) to appoint, on the application of three or more resident freeholders of the town, three commissioners who shall be fruit growers and residents of the town. It shall be the duty of these commissioners to examine any tree or trees known to be or suspected of being affected by the disease in their town, and to mark for destruction the part or parts found to be infected by the black knot. If the tree is so badly affected that its total destruction is demanded or necessary, they are to mark it by girdling its trunk. They must then give notice to the owner, who is required within ten days of such notice to cut away and burn the part or parts marked, and in case of the girdled tree to destroy it wholly, burning the affected parts. If he fail to do this within the specified time, the commissioners are to do it for him, and he renders himself liable to a fine not exceeding $25 or to imprisonment for ten days, or to both, in the discretion of the court. Any justice of peace in the town has jurisdiction in the case. The commissioners are to receive each $2 a day for the time actually spent in the discharge of their duties and their necessary expenses. The owner of destroyed trees is debarred from recovering damages against any one destroying the infected trees or parts thereof.

With this law faithfully enforced, the fruit growers of New York may expect to be free from a fungous foe that has inflicted upon them untold losses in the past.—Country Gentleman.

LAMPAS IN HORSES.

Lampas in horses is nothing more than the swelling of the soft parts of the roof of the mouth, just behind the upper front teeth. It frequently occurs in colts or young horses at the time of shedding the teeth, and among older ones when they are afflicted with some digestive disorder. It is merely the result or effect of some injury or disorder, and in itself not a disease, but through the ignorance of man many a horse has had his mouth burned with a hot iron, for this barbarous operation has long been practised as an infallible cure for lampas. If the swelling is due to an unsound tooth better extract it than to injure the soft parts of the mouth by burning or otherwise. In severe cases a slight scarifying or pricking with a sharp knife just enough to start the blood will give almost instant relief, without causing much pain to the animal. Where lampas is due to digestive disorders, as is usually the case in old horses, give a dose of physic, with a warm bran mash or gruel which the horse may drink without being obliged to chew. There is no danger of the horse starving with lampas, and a fast of a day or two will probably be more beneficial than injurious. If the horse gets very hungry give him some corn on the ear, and in biting this from the cob he will force the swelled gums back into place. Bathing the gums with equal parts of vinegar and water or with alum water will often allay the inflammation and restore the parts to their normal condition.—New York Sun.

FARM AND GARDEN NOTES.

A sharp kink in a pig's tail is said to indicate good health.

Planting cucumbers for pickles should be done as soon as possible.

Egg plants may now be set out without any danger of their being injured by the weather.

The proper temperature for cream churning in winter is from sixty to sixty-four degrees.

A great deal of dirt is carried from the milkman's wagon to the kitchen when milk is served in open dishes or pans.

The sweet potato, in addition to being a good food for man, is a delicacy for the hog. If there is any left over give it to them.

Too much caution cannot be given on shearing ewes about clipping the teats. A ewe with a clipped teat is ruined for breeding purposes.

The Punic bees are the tamest and gentlest of all the bee family, and their sting the least painful. The sting of the Syrian bees is the most painful.

The mutton market is growing more particular all the time. The people who eat mutton begin to know the good from the poor by looking at it and touching it.

A rich and occasionally good food for cows is cornmeal fed with hay and well mixed. A too frequent diet of this will, however, produce fat instead of milk.

Do not neglect to chop some onions or onion tops for little ducks and turkeys every day or two. They are relished by them and will do them very much good.

The best way to make a dry goods clerk of your boy is to give him a choice lot of seasoned elm chucks to split, with a splintered ax helve, the first warm day in spring.

Do not let little chicks go hungry. They will gather all they can, if they have all they want to eat, while if hungry they will peep round the coop and not grow.

Make the home the centre of your farm work. Make every effort to add to its beauty and its purity, and the home will in turn make your field work much lighter and pleasanter.

Good land may be stocked with sheep at the rate of five head per acre of pasture and eight head per acre of plowed land. With what stock can the land be made to earn more than in this way?

For the proper and successful cultivation of asparagus, the soil should be a rich, well-prepared loam, and care should be taken that the roots are spread and well-covered. Salt is the best fertilizer for this plant.

HOUSEHOLD MATTERS.

A NOVEL CREEPING-RUG.

A novel creeping-rug to be laid upon the nursery floor when the baby starts out for a crawl is made on a foundation coarse Holland, bound with Turkey-red cotton. The rug, which is about two yards square, is scattered with objects either cut out of plush and velvet and applied in place or worked with colored wools so as to have raised effect. If worked with wool, the objects must first be padded with wadding. Dogs, cats, mice, bees and a bee-hive, balls and whips, fruits and flowers, and pictures of little children may be used in the decoration.—New York Post.

CLEANING BLACK SILK.

The Parisian method for cleaning black silk is as follows: Thoroughly brush and wipe with a cloth; then lay upon a skirtboard and sponge on the right side with coffee that has been strained through muslin. Iron on the wrong side. The coffee removes every particle of grease and restores the brillancy of silk without imparting to it either the shiny appearance or crackly or papery stiffness obtained by beer or, indeed, any other liquid. The silk really appears to be thickened by the process, and this good effect is permanent. Experiment on a ribbon or cravat and be satisfied that this is the best method for cleaning silk.—Detroit Free Press.

CARE OF BROOMS.

Don't hang your broom brush end uppermost, unless you want to spoil it. If the brush is the least bit damp, the moisture will work down into the body of the broom and make it musty, and after a time will rot the threads all out. I know there is a great fancy nowadays for fastening the brooms on the wall by means of nails driven through spools, as well as various broom-holders and similar devices, but it is all a mistake, as one may see by giving the subject a little thought. Hang up a wet broom in this way, and the water naturally soaks into the tying. Once wet, it would take days to dry it. Before it could be thoroughly dried, it gets wet again.

The inside portion of the broom is fastened with wires. These become rusted and break away, and the threads which fasten the outside get rotted, and some little blow breaks them loose; then the broom is spoiled. Go to the hardware store and buy a dozen large-sized screw-eyes. Put one of these in the end of the handle of every broom in the house. Drive nails and hang them up. Before putting them up it is well to dip them from about four or five inches of the length of the brush into hot water, hang them up and let them dry thoroughly before using. In this way the brush dries straight, and the broom will last as long again as when treated in the usual way.

These screw-eyes have various uses, and it is economy to buy them by the gross. The dusting brush, floor brushes—anything with a wooden handle—may be hung up by means of them. The bread board, the ironing board, indeed, every wooden utensil about the house, may be much more conveniently placed by means of these trifling appliances. Such small wares cost almost nothing, and by their use one finds elbow room, shelf room and order much more easily than by almost any other means.—Ledger.

ALMONDS, PEANUTS AND MACAROONS.

Salted Almonds---A common way of preparing the nuts is to blanch and dry them, then put them in a new baking tin and allow one large tablespoonful of butter for each pound of almonds. Set them in a moderate oven, shake and watch them until brown, drain off the grease and sprinkle with salt. Keep in a cold place; serve in fancy dishes. Place on the table before the guests are seated and pass several times.

Salted Almonds, Rule No. 2---Pour hot water over them, blanch and wipe dry, put them in a wire basket, have a kettle of hot olive oil, smoking hot, sink the wire basket in the oil for a moment and out again. Sprinkle the almonds with salt and put them in a cool place until they are ready to serve.

Salted Peanuts---These are much used and preferred by some to salted almonds. Get the uncooked peanuts, shell, put them on a tin in the oven to dry, then rub off the brown skin and put them in a baking tin with two tablespoonfuls of olive oil for every quart of nuts. Set them on top of a hot stove, shaking and stirring them all the time until they are a rich brown---take up on a skimmer and drain. Sprinkle with salt and cool.

Salted Almonds Prepared in Cream---Blanch one pound of almonds, wipe dry and soak in sweet cream enough to cover, one hour, skim out and dry, scatter salt over them through salt sifter, put on a baking plate and set in a moderate oven, shake often and brown.

Mrs. Rorer's Rule for Cocoanut Macaroons—Beat the whites of five eggs until light not stiff, then add by degrees one pound of powdered sugar, a teaspoonful of rosewater, and half a pound of shredded cocoanut, mix carefully and thoroughly together and dip by teaspoonfuls on greased paper, leaving a space between each. Bake in a moderate oven until light brown. They should be first dusted with powdered sugar.

Hickory Nut Macaroons—Crack enough hickory nuts to have a cupful of meat, pound fine; make a frosting of the whites of eggs beaten to a stiff froth, add fine sugar enough to sweeten, stir in the nuts, butter the hands and make into balls the size of large hickory nuts, place on oiled paper in a dripping-pan far enough apart so they will not touch each other when they spread.

Almond Macaroons.—One pound of almonds, shell and blanch; after peeling put in the oven a few minutes to dry, pound in clean mortar, pour out and mix with fine sugar, one and a half pounds, beat the whites of nine eggs a little and mix with the nuts, beat well together, if too thin add more sugar, flavor. Drop with a spoon on sheets of foolscap paper, leaving a space between. Bake in a slow oven about twenty minutes. Do not try to remove them from the paper until cool, then turn them bottom side up and they will loosen.—New York Observer.

Hood's Sarsaparilla

Cured me of **Goitre** or swellings in the neck which I had from 10 years old till I was 52. When I began taking Hood's Sarsaparilla I was feeling so discouraged with goitre and rheumatism. When I caught cold I could not walk two blocks without fainting. Now I am free from it all and I can truly recommend **Hood's Sarsaparilla.**" MRS. ANNA SUTHERLAND, Mrs. Sutherland. Kalamazoo, Mich.

HOOD'S PILLS are the best after-dinner Pills. They assist digestion and cure headache.

N Y N U—28

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Arizona Onyx.

Arizona onyx is fast gaining a reputation in the East, and the day is not far distant when most of the onyx used in the United States will come from this Territory. The great bed of this precious stone in Yavapai and Maricopa Counties alone, when sufficiently developed, will supply a greater part of the demand. Even now from two to five car loads are shipped from the Yavapai beds, and arrangements are being made to increase the output. The Yavapai onyx beds, owned by W. O. O'Neil and partners, are probably the most extensive mines of the kind known, being almost a solid body one mile by one mile and a half in extent. At present about forty men are engaged in taking out the stone that is being shipped to Chicago, New York, Cincinnati and other Eastern cities, where it is worked into table tops, etc. Probably the largest slab of onyx ever taken out in one piece was dug out, of the O'Neil ledge, it being 23x10 feet and twenty-six inches thick. The stone from this claim is very fine grain and takes a much higher polish than the celebrated onyx of Mexico, and it contains colors that were exhausted many years ago in the Mexican mines. Then, too, the mines of that country never turned out pieces larger than five or six feet square. So far as developed the Cave Creek onyx beds do not seem to be as large as the Yavapai beds, though the stone is as fine, but even as they are, they will produce large amounts and in blocks of very satisfactory size. J B. Dougherty, of New York, is doing a great deal of development work; and as soon as the road is completed, which will be in a few days, he will put teams to hauling and loading in onto the cars at Phenix for shipment to New York.—Phenix Gazette.

Admirable results have attended the artesian borings in the Sahara, and this has led to a demand being made by the inhabitants in other portions of the desert.

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