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Communications containing news of sufficient public interest are solicited. No communication must be expected to be published

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THE JOURNAL.

E.E. HARPER, - - Proprietor. C. T. HANCOCK, - Local Reporter.

Entered at the Postoffice at New Berne. N. C., as second-class matter.

MR, JAY GOULD'S library at Lindhurst, Irvington-Hudson, is said to contain interesting books on art, travel. history, and natural history, but is not the library of a book lover. There are twenty-two books printed by Aldus, fourteen Elzevirs, and only one of them is noteworthy-the Elzevir "Decameron" of 1665, bound in a contemporary prayer-book binding. Mr. Gould's library does not contain his own scare and valuable "History of Delaware County."

A STRANGE accompaniment of a recent snow storm at Deerfield. Me, was the appearance of multitudes of little black bugs that stotted the surface of the snow as if shaken from a pepperbox. They were from one-sixteenth to one-eighth of an inch long, with two feelers and six legs. "They skipped about like fleas and seemed to enjoy burrowing in the soft snow." They were first observed an hour after the storm ended and disappeared during the night.

THE general opinion that China and Japan are a long way behind the other nations in point of civilization and progressive measures is due to lack of knowledge upon the subject. It is true that in many things they are behind some of the other nations, but in others they are far in advance. For instance, the Japanese Covernment adopted the postal savings bank system several years ago, and it is now working successfully. In this country this matter is just being discussed. There are other matters equally progressive which have been acted upon only been talked of here.

Serious and extensive foods have occurred in parts of Lower Bengal through which cross were destroyed. live stock drowned, and homes washed away. It will be some months before head. The nuns, black and yellow, have new crops can be grown, and the dis- a feather crescent on the head and a tress of the rooter classes is painful Committees of missionaries and native pastors have been appointed to distribute the means of relief furnished by the people of Calcutta and other places. Many of the floods were caused by the bursting of weak places in the river embankments and through the obstruction to the natural flow of the water caused by the railway grade; having been built without sufficient waterway through them.

A RECENT microscopical study by Herr Schultz of the skin of toads and salamanders has vielded some interesting results. There are two kinds of glands, murous and roison glands. The former are numerous over the whole body, while the latter are on the body and limbs, and there are groups in the ear region behind the eye, and in the salamander at the angle of the jaw. The poison glands are, of course, protective, and the corrosive juice is discharged differently in toads and salamanders on stimulating electrically. In the latter it is spurted out in a fine jet, sometimes more than a foot in length; whereas in the toad after long action of the current, it exudes spacingly in drops. There is no reason for supposing that the mucous glands become poisonous.

THE use of ferk : was introduced into France, with many other refined methods of living, by Catherine de Medici, and from France was introduced into England, where Ben Jonson ridiculed their use as a beggarly fashion, imported from Italy "to the saving of napkins." The first person who is recorded to have used a fork was a daughter of a Greek emperor who married a Doge of Venice, and whose luxurious way of living was the scandal of that City of the Sea. "She ate her food," says the Venetian chronicler, "with a golden fork, and vet in spite of all this luxury she died of a loathsome disease." The knives and forks did not come into common use among the nobility in England till the seventeenth century; and as late as the eighteenth century gentlemen, in traveling, carried their knives and forks in a case, as inns did not furnish such luxuries.

A HABLEM minister, while marrying a couple recently, is reported to have been rather disconcerted on asking the bridegroom if he was willing to take the young lady for his wedded wife, by his scratching his head and saying, Yes, I'm willig; but I'd a much sight rather have her sister."

California salmon have been placed in the Seine, France.

THE PIGEON.

Peculiarities of a Bird that is Both Useful and Ornamental.

On many farms pigeous abound and are considered both useful and ornsmental, although there are some farmers who dislike them exceedingly and will not allow them upon their premises. Pigeons are a never-failing source of pleasure to children, for whom farm life should be made as attractive as possible. while many a thrifty farmer sees in them useful allies in disposing of weed seed. It is true a large number of pigeons consume a quantity of food, but a moderate number are worth keeping, as they can take care of themselves and most of the grain they eat is waste and not likely to be missed. The "squaps" are a table delicacy worth having and paying for in such material as waste grain. Pigeonpie, like that of the fabled blackbirds, is a dainty dish fit to se! before the King. A small flock of domestica'ed pigeons should find favor on the farm when proper provision is made for them by way f a home where they can do no damage to the hay lofts. A loft devoted to them at the top of the barn or some other outbuilding is easily constructed. There should be shelves for nests and thus provided for the birds will, if necessary, take care of themselves, although, of course, if cared for there will be greater returns, as one pair can raise six or seven comples per year. It is well occasionally to introduce birds from other lofts.

Of domesticated pigeons there are more than 150 kinds. The wild passenger pigeon of North America was formerly so abundant as to almost surpass belief, There is a story regarding them to this effect that they were thought to be so destructive to the crops of the colonists that on one occasion the bishop was constrained to exorcise them with holy water as if they had been demons. The domesticated pigeon is kept in check by the large number killed every year in shooting matches. For this purpose there is a good demand and fair prices The pigeon is an affectionate bird like the dove, which Greeks and Romans regarded as sacred to Venus and represented as her constant companion The male pigeon is faithful to his mate in assisting her to rear the young, and it is a physiological fact that he furnishes even more of the pigeon milk for the nourishment of the young birds than the mother herself. This curd like substance is described as being secreted in the crop by special glands like the milk of the mammalia. The crop is thin, but becomes thickened and enlarged in the breeding season, more vascular, with irregular granular appearance on the interior. The secretion of these granular soon reagulates into a granulated white curd known as "pigeon milk," and children delight to call their barn pet the 'bird that gives milk." Another peculiarity of the pigeon is that it does not drink like ordinary birds, but in con-tention, with satisfaction guaranteed. tinuous draughts without raising the head until thirst is satisfied.

If carelessly bred the pigeon easily reverts to the original type, the wild blue by these countries, which have as yet rock pigeon. The peculiarities of different varieties are so marked that it seems strange that they do not belong to entirely different species. The Jacobins are no ed for the hood they have develand It is made of the neek feathers lengthened and reversed in growth till they form a cowl which nearly covers the colored bib on the neck. The pouter can blow up its crop till the head seems fastened on the top of an inflated bladder. The fantail has a large tail, which it can erect like the tail of a turkey cock. In England where it has lang been known, it is called the Broad tailed Shaker from its habit of shaking its hend up and down. In India the natives are said to put bangles, hung with metal balls, upon the legs of the young Fantails to cause a tinkling sound when they walk.

> The Tumbler, which turns over in the air in its l'ight, is perhaps as curious as any of the fancy breeds. Perhaps of all the 500 species said to be in existence. there is not one without some point of

Carrier pigeons are especially interesting on account of the fact that they have been serviceable to min from a very early period as messengers. The most noted use ever made of them doubtless was during the siege of Paris, when nearly 400 pigeons are said to have been used for sending dispatches. In France and Germany homing or earrier pigeons. are still kept at important fortresses to be used in case the forts should be surrounded by hostile troops. The instinct of the trained pigeon is indeed wonderful, but to the practical farmer the 'squabs" which nestle in his own dove cotes are of chief interest both from a culinary and money standpoint, while if aesthetically inclined he can find much to enjoy in the dainty plumage, social aspeet and mellow coo of the com con pigeon which circles about his own premises. - [St. Louis Republic.

The Shark of Sharks.

The shark of sharks, the real "maneater," and the one most dreaded, is the white shark. This variety reaches a length of thirty-five feet and a weight of 200) pounds. Its head is long and flat, and the shout far overhangs the mouth. Its six rows of teeth are sharp as lancets. and notched like saws. Its mouth is very large, so that one has been known to cut a man's body completely in two at a single snap of its cruel jaws, and another to swallow one at a gulp. Near Calcutta, one of these sharks was seen to swallow a bullock's head, horns and all. From the stomach of another a bull's hide was taken entire, and the sailor who made the discovery insisted that the bull had been swallowed whole, and all except the hide been dige-ted .- [London Tid-

FREE lectures are now being delivered in various parts of the coustry to those who wish to take advantage of the facility with which languages can now be studied by means of phonograph cylinders. Sets of cylinders are also provided which contain the conversational course of a well known system in French, German, Spanish or Italian, and with each set of cylinders a set of books is furnished, so that the eye and car can be educated at the same time.

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He Learned Something The other windy day as a gentleman stood on the Campus Martius waiting for a car his hat blew off and went skylacking down the street. He was gathering himself for a run when another pedestrain called out:

"Stop! sir-stop!" "Eh? Speaking to me; what is it?" "Stand still, sir! Don't take a step after your hat!"

"But I -"Stop!"

By this time two women, five men, three boys and a policeman were in chase of the hat, and it was not only speedily run down, but the dirt was carefully brushed off by the rescuer before he restored it with a bow and a smile.

"See?" queried the pedestrain who had cried stop. "I do. Thanke. I've learned some thing new."-Free Press.

Making Children Mind. A mother should be careful to make only rea-onable demands upon her child's chedience, but, when once made. to enforce them implicitly. One should be very careful never to enter into a contest over a point that cannot be enforced. A child may be made to do certain things, but no power on earth can force him to do others, or to say words that he has made up his mind not to say. The prudent mother will enforce her authority and teach obedience on ground that she is sure of being able to hold. Points that she knows she cannot carry she will avoid until the habit of obedience is formed, and then there will be no discussion .- Ladies' Home Journal.

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