

DARKEST DARK ROOM.

Apartment in Washington Arranged for interesting Experiments.

For certain experiments Prof. Elmer Gates, of Washington, has newly constructed a room which is beyond question the darkest place in the world.

Prof. Gates' dark room is constructed like a box, the walls of which are of wood, saturated with paraffine, to fill the pores.

The innermost box, which is the darkest room, is so absolutely dark that the most sensitive photographic plates exposed there for 48 hours have not undergone the slightest alteration.

Certain sense perceptions seem to be more delicate in the dark than in the light, and Prof. Gates wants to measure them.

During the bull-fighting season from April 5 to October 20, 1896, there were 478 fights in Spain, and 1,218 bulls, valued at \$60,000, and 5,730 horses, valued at \$40,000, were killed.

He kept His Word. "Her husband said when she married him his love would be unremittant."

GEORGE'S EPISTLE.

Writes of His Father's Experiences During House-Cleaning Time.

Dear Uncle Fred: We been havin a awful time to our House this week. I never seen paw so mad before.

"I wonder how a woman would be able to enjoy herself if they wasn't onny other way but House cleanen to make the men folks miserable," says paw.

"You didn't seem to think so when you found that speck in your cream this mornin'," maw says.

Paw he didn't no just what to say then, so he was agoin' to leave the room, I guess, but he hept back and set down in a dish pan Full of soap suds.

I would a rather Been there than to Go to enny circus on ert' I don't Care how many rings they Had or if I could a taken in all the side shows, too.

You no-paw's a purty good sized man and the feller what made the Dish pan Couldn't a struck a Better fit if he would a tried to do it.

Then He tried to git up and the dish pan Stuck to Him. Maw she looked Scared, but she nearly died laffen All the saim, and paw's face was awful red, and He was Sayin things that I'm afraid is agoin to part our family when we die.

"Well, its a good thing paw don't Care for Bert ennyhow. Some foulks might a Been mad because the water wasn't Clean."

Then He Got up, and they was a Sprintin match where I Had all the Best of it. When I run out through the Swing door between the kitchen and the pantry, it flew Back just in Time to let Paw run bang agoin at it.

I was awful Sorry paw Got Hurt. It skinned his nose and nearly Broke One finger, and Before He got his hind agin I was Behind Thompson's barn.

I was afrade to Go Home That nite, But after paw Got on Some dry close and Had His wounds fixed up Mrs. Hunt What paw Thinks is so Good looked and clever Happened to Come to Call, and She tho't it was all such a Good joke that paw He got to lappen about it too, so the hole thing turned out all ert, and I didn't git licked.

Most of my observations were made late at night, between midnight and two o'clock a. m. The gas jets near the aquaria were turned down so low as to give barely light enough to distinguish the forms and colors of the fishes.

In many cases the change of color from that seen while awake, or in the daytime, consisted in a simple increase in the depth or intensity of the colors, the pattern of colors being the same.

MICE IN FOLK-LORE.

A Bohemian Legend Declares They Were Created by the Devil.

Mice do not play a great part in folk-lore; even the legend of the "Pied Piper" associates them with rats. But one recalls a few cases not uninteresting.

In that very interesting island of Bali, also, where Brahmanism and Buddhism inextricably mingled, survive, while all the populations round have long been Moslem, some fortunate mice receive like honor.

The Balis catch a pair, clothe them in white linen, and set them in a public place, where all the inhabitants of the village bow down before them; then they release the prisoners and straightway, with an easy conscience, trap and kill every mouse that can be found, for they are terribly destructive in the rice fields.

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