

ALASKA'S MAGNETIC ROCKS.

Study of Them by Scientists Will Lead to Explanation of What Has Been a Mystery.

The Alaskan commission now sitting in London upon the Alaskan boundary question will be interested over Prof. Barnett's discovery of a considerable stretch of magnetic rocks off the coast of Alaska. Now the world will understand how it happens that a mariner who comes within a certain distance of the coastline finds his compass doing everything but preserve its rightful position, says the St. James Gazette of recent date. We have had to wait long for the information. But Alaska remains still largely a land of mystery. Its whole history is strange. The Russians who colonized it before such things as Mondoo doctrines were, spent \$200,000 on a great survey; then dropped the business, not greatly wiser than before. Then, having so done, they sold out, look, stock and barrel, for a beggarly million and a half pounds. The territory was making a return of half a million a year at the time—roughly, a pound a mile, a quarter of a century later it was returning an annual revenue of £2,072,000, while ten years further on its silver output alone was worth a yearly million.

Alaska has no monopoly in magnetic rocks that distress the mariner and surveyor. Not long ago a party of Russian explorers found their needle swung round 180 degrees. Parry, in his second voyage in the Fury and Hecla, observed a considerable local deviation of the compass when off the shore of Igloodik At Blue Harbor, South Island, New Zealand. There is a focus of magnetism on the summit of the bluff; and during the survey of South Island the officers of H. M. S. Achernar had to abandon the use of compass bearings. A similar disturbance was observed by Capt. Cook when surveying near Port Walcott, Northwest Australia. He came across a submerged square mile of rock, which made the needle of the compass hop about 50 degrees and more from where it should have been. Upon the Norwegian coast in the Jostedal province is a magnetic mountain, about a thousand yards long, but of no great height. Its influence is such that vessels venturing too near the coast lose their bearings, and frequently are wrecked.

Nobody quite knows who first discovered that a certain kind of stone would attract iron and nobody knows who first turned the knowledge to account. One gentleman of whom there is record lived at a date early enough to indicate a respectable antiquity for the science. From his case it would seem that the first to employ the mariner's compass was not a mariner at all, but a gentleman who ruled the Chinese 2,637 years before the dawn of the Christian era. It was Emperor Hoang-ti. A certain friend of his, a Prince Tchelyou, had annoyed the monarch, who put out after the unmanly one to relieve him of his peacock feather, his yellow waistcoat, his head and other unbecoming trifles. But the prince with his lions came across a fox, and into this, with all his fighting men, he dived. The excellent emperor, left on the outside, did not know from which side to enter the mist, nor in what direction to proceed, when he did get inside. So he made a car, which showed him the four cardinal points, by this means he overtook Tchelyou, made him prisoner, and put him to death. The magnetic needle in its crudest form was employed for that war.

How to Eat Sandwiches. "Men who eat sandwiches for a big picnic must have just as much knack and experience in the business as men who open oysters on the river bank," said a man who recently supplied 75,000 sandwiches in two days' notice for a political picnic to the wives and children of the voters of a New York district leader. "It took seven men to do that job in the time allowed," he said, "and they hadn't any time to spare at that. I paid them by the hundred, the man who did the most work getting the meat pay. When they were all through there were not enough scraps of bread and meat to fill a tin pal. That is the secret of cutting sandwiches, to avoid waste. There is such competition in the business that we are obliged to work on low margins."

The First Negro Knight. Sir Samuel Lewis, a negro of pure African blood, died the other day at Regent's Park, London. He was born in Sierra Leone, educated in the Free-town grammar school, and then in England at the Wesley college, Sheffield, and London university, was called to the bar of the Middle Temple, and returning home entered of a legal practice of constant success, and for more than 20 years was a member of the legislative council of Sierra Leone. He was elected first man of color in the capital, eight years ago, and was then designated the first man of color in Africa absent to receive a knighthood. He was one of the most prominent and interesting citizens of West Africa.

Body Heat. That animal heat is due to combustion was first recognized by Lavoisier, who was unable to determine whether the oxygen takes place in the lungs at the place where the blood is absorbed, or throughout the entire system. Berthollet, in a late paper on the subject, states that one-seventh of the heat is produced in the lungs, and six-sevenths in the system, by reactions of oxidation and hydration. The temperature of the blood in the lungs is raised by the absorption of oxygen, while the return of carbon to a gaseous state and the evaporation of moisture tend to lower it.

Mutual Employment. The post had just returned from a long vacation. "I enjoyed it immensely!" said he. "So did the rest of us," replied his hearer in chorus. Houston Post.

SUBSTITUTES FOR TEA.

Leaves of Various Herbs and Plants Used in Some Places Instead of Chinese Article.

Many substitutes for tea can be found in any ordinary woods. The idea is not a new one, for many country folk made use of the substitutes in the days when Chinese tea was not so easily afforded as now. Before the revolution, when the colonists were in a turmoil over the stamp taxes, it was considered unpatriotic to drink tea that had paid tribute to the government and the so-called liberty tea was the popular drink, says the New York Herald.

The four leaved loose strife was, no doubt, the herb from which this beverage was made, probably with the aid of various other herbs. This plant grows a foot or two high, and may be recognized by its simple, upright stem, upon which the leaf-seeds are set in whorls of four or five, the yellow striate flowers being produced on long, slender stalks from near the base of the leaves. It is common to almost every woodland.

The leaves of the New Jersey tea, a low bush which grows everywhere in dry woodlands, and bears in June and July a profusion of delicate white blossoms, was also extensively used during the revolution. An infusion of the leaves boils a bright amber color and in looks it is as attractive as the real beverage; but the taste, though astringent, is by no means lively.

Some effort has recently been made in commercial circles to revive the use of this plant as a substitute for tea. The leaves are said to contain about ten per cent. of tannin. Hemlock leaves and those of arbor vitae have played an important part in the making of rustic tea. The arbor vitae is a tree that grows wild in great abundance in northern woods, and the old time Maine lumberman used frequently to resort to its leaves for tea when other herbage failed them for the purpose. It was thought to be very invigorating.

The leaves of the watergreen, a small plant, whose bright red berries, about the size of peas, are sold on the streets under the name of "teaberry," have long been used for tea. From this it takes the name by which it is known in Pennsylvania. New Englanders, for some unknown reason, call it checker-berry. The foliage is very aromatic, and people who have a dash of it in their drink have sometimes added its flavor to real tea.

It is near of kin and similar in taste to the creeping snowberry, a small, delicate vine, abundant in the great bays and mossy woods of the north and Alleghany regions, and this is also approved by mountain palates as a substitute for tea.

Thoreau, in "The Maine Woods," tells of his Indian guide bringing it into camp one night and recommending it as the best of all substitutes for tea. "It has a slight checker-berry flavor," he records, "and we both agree that it was better than the black tea we had brought. We thought it a discovery and that it might be dried and sold in the shops."

Later known as a tea plant is the Labrador tea, or the lobelia latifolia of the botanists, which grows in the cold bays and mountain woods from Pennsylvania northward. The leaves, which emit a slight, not unpleasant fragrance when bruised, are tough and leathery, and covered with a rusty brown wool. Steeped, they give a wild, kany flavor to hot water, and the drink resulting suggests a poor grade of black tea.

Sweet fern, which is such an abundant growth everywhere on sterile hillside and by mountain roads, is another famous tea plant often known as "mountain tea." During the war of the rebellion its use for tea was particularly prevalent in the southern states, and many a southern lady who was reared in luxury was reduced to drinking this poor substitute for her favorite taling of flowery Pekoe.

The foliage and flowers of all the goldenrods are imbued with an astringent principle, and are moderately stimulant, so that their suitability for the manufacture of a domestic tea was recognized by the American colonists as long ago as when George III. was king over them. One species, the fragrant leaved goldenrod, known sometimes as Blue Mountain tea, possesses, in addition, the flavor of berries. Drink piping hot in the wilderness, it makes a pleasant feature in the camper's limited menu.

This especial kind of goldenrod begins to bloom quite early in the summer and is easy of recognition, even by the non-botanist, because of the linear, perfoliate whorls the leaves give our way in public. It is a very common species in the pine barrens of Jersey.

The astringent quality, in a greater or less degree, is possessed by nearly all these plants. They also contain considerable tannin, and in their makeup these two qualities go far to make tea the popular beverage it is.

PREPARING FOR WINTER.

New Nature Paths on Her Heavier Garb and Makes Ready for Cold Weather.

Dr. Andrew Wilson writes in the Illustrated London News. "The story of the fall of the leaf is an interesting one. It teaches us how nature prepares for her season, in one respect at least. The vitality of the leaf is lessened. Its sap no longer suffices for its nourishment, and over its cells, worn out, are no longer capable of utilizing the nourishment afforded. Then comes a time when nutrition fails. It is not demanded now because of the structure of the leaf. We find a layer of corky substance formed between the leaf-stalk and the branch. Cork is always in plants, a tissue of low vitality; when it is fully formed it represents practically a dead substance. This layer, therefore, serves as the boundary line between that which is living in the plant and that which is dead or dying in the leaf. Then comes dryness, always fatal to plant-tissues. The corky layer shows a line of demarcation which rapidly becomes more and more distinct and finally the breath of the autumn winds causes the separation to be completed and the dead leaf falls to the ground.

Animal life also exhibits its own and characteristic changes by way of preparation for the rigorous winter. The plumage of the birds grows heavier and their downy coat grows thicker. There will be changes in color illustrated as well, assimilating the plumage for the most part to the winter surroundings. Thus is illustrated that sympathy between the living being and its surroundings which is characteristic of all living nature. Such sympathy is seen in the color of the grouse and the partridge. In the tint of the sole as it lies on the sand and in the varying color moods of the octopus as it clings to its rock. How this sympathy between animal and surroundings has been brought about is a puzzling matter. I do not know that any zoological theory has yet been formulated which can wholly account for it.

It is curious to note how the animal may run parallel with the plant in respect to its variation of activity according to the seasons of the year. Your dormouse, your bat and your bear retire to winter quarters well fed, plump and fat. They slumber away the cold winter. Life is slowed down, and its fires are, as it were, banked up. Existence is supported on the store of fat which the summer has accumulated. This store is duly absorbed and in the spring the animals emerge lean and meager after their hibernation. Here we find a distinct relation to the ways of plant life."

SURE ENOUGH WINDY.

Guests Were Not Needed to Lead Impetus to the Bulletin of the Hunter.

The man who lived in Canada opened the store door and a gust of wind almost blew out the lamps, relates Judge. "Shut it, quick!" yelled the storekeeper making a grab for the wrapping paper. The man paused with the door half open and surveyed the crowd in disgusted surprise. Then he carefully shut the door and took a seat as far from the crack in the wall as possible.

"Sho, it's windy!" said the town marshal. "Don't reckon them boats will try to go out to sea." The man eyed him pityingly. "Call this windy? Shucks! Why, up in Canada folks would say this was so high a deal calm that it warn't no use for try ter go sailin'. Member, one time—nothin' out of the common up there, but you fellows might think it somethin'—I was a helpin' ter build a house, and 'fore in the evenin' the wind commenced ter git up pretty strong. By an' it got so strong that us that was workin' on the side of the house that the wind was a-blowin' against couldn't draw back our hammers against it ter hit the nails, an' it kept gittin' harder. Then I thought of a way; I would just hold a rail where I wanted it driv' an' that blamed wind was a-blowin' so hard that in less'n a minute that nail would be driv' plum up. Get my side of the house finished fore them on the sheltered side was half done."

"Huh!" said the retired whaler, "don't call that such a hard wind. The place to see the wind blow hard is up in the North sea. I recalls a little incident that took place when I was second on the Mary Place bark, when we was a-winterin' up amongst the ice parks. An' bears' them dogs was just naturally swarin' with polar bears. We had muzzly-loadin' guns in them days, an' every blasted grain of our powder had got wet in a squall, so we just had to set an' watch them fine fat bears walk up an' look at us 'orter contemptuous an' then walk off."

"Waal, I didn't like that, so one day, when that was a little more of a breeze than usual, I fit up a pocket with bullets an' go for a walk. In a little while I sees a bear right straight down the wind from me, so I takes out a bullet an' holds it up between my fingers an' thum' an' then lets go. That bear dropped dead with a hole plum through him; an' I went on huntin' till all my bullets was gone. We killed more'n a thousand bears that winter."

"Come back an' shot that deer?" shouted the storekeeper after the man who had lived in Canada.

Sardine Harvest a Failure. Lovers of the sardine will regret to learn that the harvest of the sea has failed entirely of late so far as that fish is concerned. One firm in London is accustomed to receive consignments of the value of several thousand of pounds week by week from one house alone, but lately not a single tin has arrived, for the simple reason that the catches have been nil.

MAKING OF WAX FIGURES.

New Models for the Large Department Store Window Displays Are Prepared.

Where do all these wonderful wax figures, women in brilliant array and men who look as though they never could stop staring, come from? With all their finery and pink cheeks they look as though they intended stepping from the windows and joining the passing throng. They are home-made, says the New York Times.

There are only a few of these wax figure makers in New York and one in Chicago. The experts who produce such startling results for the Eden Musee should not be included, for they work only for the museum. One of the New York men keeps a factory in West Broadway. He says, with due modesty, that there is only one man in the country that can get the rich, delicate tint of the rose on the artificial lady's cheek, and that is himself.

The Chicago man isn't counted, he says, else why should the New York makers do more business in the west than they do in the New York. Boxes of dislocated arms, legs, and heads, carefully wrapped, have been shipped to western cities since April, in readiness for the fall trade. But now New York is to be attended to. It will take from now until Christmas to get things in shape.

The only thing to worry about, except in natural arm figures, is the head. These are made by the designer from plates in fashionable women's magazines. Blondes, brunettes, and red-haired ladies are all alike to him, for they are all likely to be changed at the discretion of the purchaser. A department store manager sends his head window dresser, head milliner, and, perhaps, his customer, to the wax figure manufacturer. They look over the heads—hundreds of them—and select what they want for different forms of display. Perhaps a woman is wanted for a golf rig or a yachting costume, or, perhaps, a fashionable dame on a shopping tour.

The party from the big store selects 50 or more heads, and orders the hair changed and made to suit requirements. If a woman's head wants a high wig it gets one. If the hair is to be plaited and tied up in a bunch at the back, that goes. The manufacturer has a woman who wants to point out an address in business. Pithful things they look sitting there—or not sitting, because they have no legs—but propped on iron stilt, with little wooden arms that move on hinges. But when the little wooden arms are covered with a waif that may cost \$300 and bedecked with jewels that might adorn a countess they present quite another appearance.

Waist and arm figures are seldom necessary, except for evening gowns. Then great care must be taken with the backs and the shoulders. Results are what the big store man is after.

INSIST ON GROWING.

Plants and Trees That Thrive in Spite of the Most Discouraging Surroundings.

Almost any kind of vegetation in Chicago needs but to be looked at and it will grow, and sometimes if unlooked at it will grow the best, states the Tribune. On certain unfrequented streets bushlike weeds almost as tall as a man's head spread their branches until it is impossible to get along the concrete sidewalk without being brushed by them on either side. A sandy block of street shut off from traffic will in a couple of years have as dense a growth of grass and weeds as the vacant bits of prairie which abound throughout the city, here covered with wild verbenas, there with acres of wild onions of a profusion of sweet clover, and in some places with catnip and other domestic herbs. A sand pile thrown up by builders has been known to cover itself with beach grass and weeds in two months' time, and a desolate lot treated to a little compost will shortly send up rank clover plants, stout grasses, and a large variety of domestic and wild flora. It seems as if the air were full of seeds ready to plant themselves.

One of the most interesting illustrations of this surprising disposition to grow which all forms of vegetable life about Chicago possess is the willow twigs that often grow out of an old trunk that has lain prone on the ground for years. There are not a few of these memorials of old willow giants on vacant lots about the city, which were cut down when the street was opened or the sidewalk made. One of these is about ten feet long and from three to four feet in diameter; five great trunks branch off from the main stem. These have been cut off within three or four feet of the parent trunk, and the front effect of the old tree as it lies prone is that of a Caliban, and, like Caliban, it has left and growing things on its back. The secondary trunks, some of them, curve out and up where they leave the main trunk, and emphasize the resemblance to Caliban "with elbows wide." From nodes here and there over this branch little willow twigs. These are not large and flourishing but look as though they might have been grown in the shade. They die down each year, and if they have filled the node full there will be no more from that particular spot, but next year they will start up in a new place.

Due to Improved Machinery. Just previous to the war a basket of corn represented more than 42 cents of human labor at a cost of 25 cents, while to-day 11 minutes of labor produce the same amount for 10 cents.

Note for the Fishes. "A man dat speaks his word to reward him for doin' nuffin'" said Ende Eben. "Is jes' like a man dat goes fishin' an' don't put no bait on de hook."—Washington Star.

TO LIGHTEN LAUNDRY WORK.

Some Points of Interest to the Young Housewife Who Looks After Her Own Linen.

Washing day is justly dreaded in the heat of summer, when all work is a double burden to the flesh. Anything that lightens the work is, therefore, especially welcome, but though the tools of to-day are superior to those of our grandmothers, modern invention has done comparatively little to lighten the labors of the laundry. In spite of the cost of washing machines and the representations of their agents, a perforated zinc rubbing board is still the most useful tool that a good laundress can command, says Prairie Farmer Home Magazine.

One of the most important parts of washing is the assorting of the clothes. There are many stains, which, like those of perspiration, disappear magically with a little cold water and soap, and others, like fruit and coffee, which must be treated with boiling water, but are permanently set by lukewarm water. It is the practice of the family to soak all the clothes in cold water before the washing has begun, a great many stains will be permanently set, but if the various kinds of stains are carefully sorted out and properly treated hours of rubbing will be saved.

A housekeeper whose clothes always look as white as the driven snow says that it is best to soak coarse clothes in cold water, but the table linens and fine clothes need not be so treated. The same housekeeper says that as soon as she has removed the stains from her clothes she puts them in cold water in the boiler and then puts them in the wash tub to be rubbed for the first time. The boiling starts the dirt, and the rubbing is much easier than it would otherwise be. After rubbing the clothes are transferred at once to the first rinsing water, then to the second, and when they are thoroughly rinsed they are put a few at a time into the bluing water, provided they have not been blued in several weeks. If they have, they are wrung out with the wringer and put out to dry. All white clothes should be dried outdoors in the strongest sunlight. Both the freeding and the heat of the summer's sun bleach them.

Brown soaps usually contain rosin and soda, and are good for washing white clothes, but they should not be used for colored clothes or flannels, as soda bleaches the one and the rosin is injurious to the other. Use a good white soap for this purpose. All colored clothes should be dried as quickly as possible in the shade. Starched clothes are dried in the house in laundry, in order to keep them stiff. If they are yellow, they are bleached in the sun, and afterward starched and hung in the house to dry. Colored dresses which are trimmed or combined with white should be rinsed in water in which salt has been dissolved in about the proportion of a tablespoonful of salt to a gallon of water.

CARE OF TOILET ARTICLES.

Wash Cloths, Brushes, Etc., Benefited by a Regular and Thorough Renewing.

Toilet articles should be kept perfectly sweet and clean at all times. Wash cloths must be changed and renewed; let them lie for a few minutes in a basin of warm water in which a pinch of borax has been dissolved; then wash through warm soapsuds and rinse thoroughly. Wash rags and bath towels are benefited by an occasional bleaching on the grass, says the National Tribune.

To clean old sponges, boil them for three or four hours in water stored to cover them; to the water add two tablespoonfuls of carbonate of soda; then rinse thoroughly through several changes of cold water. After this preliminary operation, soak the sponges in chloride acid mixed with four times the quantity of water for 24 hours, then turn the hydrant on them and let it run for some time, rinsing until all smell of the acid has disappeared. Dry the sponges over a hot stove and they will be as good as new.

Hair brushes and combs should have a weekly cleaning. An occasional dip in gasoline helps the former, though nothing will keep the bristles in better condition than washing in cold soapsuds. The tooth brush, above all, should not be neglected. Wash it thoroughly every time it is used, and every few days soak it for some time in a little borax or soda water to keep it sweet.

Careful that Salves, Ointments, etc. Contain Lead, do not become rampant in their use, for the use of them in that condition will do more harm than good.

Chocolate Coconut Cake. One-half cupful of butter, one cupful of sugar, one and a half cupfuls of flour, three eggs, half a cupful of cold water, one heaping teaspoonful of baking powder sifted in the flour, two tablespoonfuls of cocoa or grated chocolate. Mix as usual, folding in the whites, stiffly beaten, with the last of the flour and bake in a large square pan. When cold, cut in small squares, have ready in a bowl a boiled chocolate icing and dip each square, using a wooden toothpick, and lay on waxed paper. When this is firm, dip in a white frosting and roll in cream, fresh cocoanut—Country Gentleman.

Remedy for Bee Stings. Don't scream and howl when stung by a bee, but just run for the shears, or in fact anything in the way of steel. Then press the wound firmly with the steel, and the poison will soon be out. With me, this never fails to bring relief, and this summer I have even tried the same remedy for mosquito bites, with good results.—Orange Judd Farmer.

FRESH FEMINE FANCIES.

Novelties and New Things in Suits and Fabrics for Cold Weather.

What is known as the three-piece suit is undoubtedly one of the season's successes. This consists of a skirt, short or walking, with an adjustable pelium of the required length, which gives the effect of a long coat, but can be left off if desired. The jacket is a bolero and is worn over a blouse of thin material. Linergic waists of light-weight white silk are favorite. The simple striped gown with a short skirt and three-quarter length coat is best worn with a silk waist of the same color, or a good contrasting color. A gray suit, for example, may have a blouse of gun metal silk, plain or fancy weave, or it may be worn with a dark blue silk blouse. A novelty brown or gray suit with little touches of red in the mixture looks well when worn with a red blouse. In the main the safe rule is to wear a blouse of the same general tone of the gown, says the New York Post.

As for fabrics, there is no doubt that zibeline and the rough mixture are far and away the best materials for street suits. The variety shown in these materials is almost endless. Zibelines come in so many colors and combinations that they furnish material for severe tailor suits, for dressy wraps, and for elaborate costumes. Among the novelty zibelines are seen spotted and "nub" effects, stripes, irregular figures, and pepper and salt patterns.

For more elaborate gowns velvets and all kinds of pile fabrics are immensely popular. Chiffon velvet and panne velvet are seen in all the beautiful pale shades suitable for evening wear. These charming fabrics are made up more elaborately than ever before, being shirred and ruffled and embroidered in the most extravagant manner.

Never were silks more lovely or more varied. There are a dozen new weaves, some of the richest showing disk-and-faceted velvet ombre of the color of the ground or a contrasting shade. Many of the light-colored silks are woven with velvet figures, flowers, and leaves of the natural colors. Marbled velvets resemble embossed velvets but have gone through a slightly different process, giving the pattern a vague, shadowy effect.

Among the less expensive silks one is particularly noteworthy. It is a fine, light-colored silk, and is woven in a pattern of a shirt waist suit it is admirable. Ponceau comes in all colors, especially blues and gray. Crepe meteor is a fairy-like fabric, much more beautiful than crepe de Chine, and incidentally is much more expensive, \$5 a yard being the ordinary price. It is seen in exquisite shades of red and violet.

WALKING FOR CHILDREN.

An Exercise That Many of Them Do Not Like—James Velt Not Like—James Velt Not Like—James Velt.

A great many children have crooked legs because their mothers or nurses endeavor to make them walk before their limbs are strong enough to bear the weight of their bodies without injury. The inexperienced mother takes a pride in seeing her offspring making attempts to walk, and often forces the little one to stand in spite of the very obvious protestations of nature. Nurses, too, when making their charges out for an airing, often force them to walk simply to save themselves the trouble of carrying them, says a household authority.

Baby's cartwheels are often to be blamed for some of the crookedness of the limbs of the rising as well as the fallen generation. In this instance the child is wheeled about until it is many months old and its body is developed while the legs remain inactive. The result is that when the child is last made to bear the weight on its permanent limbs, they, being very soft, bend under the accustomed pressure.

Young bones consist chiefly of cartilaginous material, and are at this stage bent with comparative ease, and, having little elasticity, become readily set. Children should be allowed to creep as much as they like, and when their limbs are able to bear their weight they will begin of their own accord to make attempts to walk.

In any case, walking is not an exercise to which young children take kindly at any time. It is extremely wasteful to them. It is the poorest form of exercise they can take, involving the greatest amount of active movement. The effort of keeping the spine erect and balancing the body is very fatiguing to the young, and this may easily be demonstrated by taking a young child for a long walk and noting how very quickly it becomes tired and seems to drag its steps lamely along.

The best form of exercise for children is one permitting of the greatest amount of movement and the most exercise for the least fatigue. Games such as children love, with hoop or ball, are much better for them than long, dreary set walks, allowing as they do a constant change of muscular movements, giving each muscle its due mod of exercise, without overstraining one particular set of muscles. In this way all the muscles of the body may be pleasantly exercised without any being over-taxed.

Waxing a New Floor. To wax a new floor use first a good wood filler, which must be thoroughly rubbed off before it becomes too hard, and then a prepared wax. It is better to purchase this wax unless you have had a great deal of experience in waxing. Apply the prepared wax with a thin woaden rag and polish it in with a heavy brush or brick, rubbing the floor across the grain first and with the grain afterward. The wax must be applied in a very thin coat and thoroughly rubbed into the floor. After the floor has been filled and dried two coats of wax are necessary to finish it.—N. Y. Tribune.