OCTOPI AND SHELLFISH.

The Former Have Caused a Great Scarcity of the Latter During the Last Year.

Lovers of shell fish who have gone to the south coast of England this year to gratify their appetites have been doomed to disappointment, for just lately there has been a plague of those water demons-whose plural nobody seems to know-octopuses, octopi, octopods or octopedes. The octopus. (says the London Daily Mail) has eaten the shell fish to the detriment of the visitors, and visitors and residents afixe have solemnly vowed death and extermination to the octopus. For this reason large and merry parties have been seen setting out for those parts of the coast where octopuses aboundunfortunately nearly every place now comes under this category-armed with long iron hooks.

Arrived at a likely spot, the slayers poke their weapons into the small and narrow cave-like crevices, which can ibe found under almost every rock, and they go on prodding until something soft is felt. This is the enemy. A few hard pulls, several bad attempts, and then the rod is pulled back with something. Perhaps it is only a tentacle which has come off in the struggle, and goes on wriggling independently; perhaps it is the beast himself who comes out writhing and squirming, glancing around with wicked eyes and waving his arms about in vain endeavors to find something on which to fasten. He is not an attractive looking fish. About four feet from end to end, at the top is a large bag, which undulates with his breathing; below come his wicked-looking eyes (which invariably squint), and at the join of his eight legs is his beak, black and exactly like a parrot's, with which he breaks open the shells of crabs, or, if larger, destroys his human prey.

Once caught, the difficulty with amateurs is to kill him. We are told to turn his eyes inside out and destroy the vacuum. That is all very well, but the octopus might object, and he is distinctly unpleasant at close quarters, so that way is but seldom put into practice. Instead of this, the monster has two hooks put into him and is pulled asunder, or else is simply stoned. It is generally understood that the octopus cannot feel, and this is the salve that the hunters put upon their conscience. When one is slain he is left dead for the crabs and lobsters to eat. Ichabod! Then his destroyers move on to the next pool. The number of octopuses this year has been marvelous. Where scarcely one was seen hundreds can now be found. Two hundred were killed in one night in Guernsev, and a catch of 17 or 18 in one day is quite commonplace. Bathing is in several places attended with great risk, and the bathers can hardly be blamed if they retaliate at last, which they do. -London Daily Mail.

A SPORTSMAN'S REVERIE.

He Meditates on What He Would Do in Case of a Certain Emergency.

Say, come over to the other side of this island; look down there where the shadows of the trees darken the water and give to it a look both murky and cavernous. What do you think is going on down there? Under those lilypads is the lair of a cutthroat; deep in the semi-gloom he lies motionless till his prey comes carelessly by; then there is a darting gleam; blood is spilled; murder is done; a six-inch pickerel has swallowed a five-inch shiner. A mud turtle is coaling down there and filling his scuttle butts. The sedate-looking bullfrog is studying his part and resting, preparatory to singing a baritone solo in the concert at eight p. m.

See that hole in the reeds and bushes over there? You may think those shrubs grew on the land, but they did not. You might think that hole is a tunnel in a hillside, but it is not; it is a canal; and now, supposing you were dwarfed to a Lilliputian or to a Palmer Cox brownie, and taking a sardine box for a gondola and a souvenir coffee spoon for a paddle, you move into that maze. Do you think you would be a gondolier in Venice? Well, you would not be. You would be a delinquent and suffering thing in Dante's "Inferno," and New Jersey's pride, the mosquito, is an imp with a forked tail on the wrong end, and knows all about antitoxine and just where to inject it for the desired end. The water snakes would tip you over, and if you had as many legs as a blue-bottle fly the muskrats would pull every one of them.

Well, supposing that you are just what you are, and a shower should come up while the sun was still shining and a rainbow end rested in the top of that big pine tree on the mainland, wouldn't you take that boat, go over there, climb that tree, and then, supposing just as you reached out to grab that rainbow you lost your balance and fell down through the branches and landed a-straddle of a darn big bear, and, looking backward, like Edward Bellamy, supposing you should see a big snake, a bos constrictor, come billowing toward you with open mouth, intent upon swallowing you and the bear, too. What do you suppose you would do? Would you fall off, or hang on and kick that bear's ribs to make him run? I like to sit out here and think about these things, and decide what I would do if the chance occurred.-Forest and Stream.

Bread for Church Goers.

Two thousand pound loaves of excellent bread are distributed daily at the early mass of a Parisian church to needy applicants, the only condition being attendance on the services. A prayer book is handed to each, and at the close of the service is redeemed with a loaf of bread .- N. Y. Sun.

THE BOLOMAN.

A Filipino Assassin in Uniform Who Sneaks About and Kills in the Dark.

Lieut. Ara L. Reeves was in the hospital now and his wife sat beside him. His foot is done up in bandages, one hand is bandaged also, and he has a strip of adhesive plaster on his face. The lieutenant is a victim of the boloman, and is about the first one who has lived to tell the tale. And he can hest tell that tale.

"Our company of the Seventeenth infantry has the hardest station there, is at San Fernando," he said to me. "We have shooting there almost every night. Not firing to be replied to, but enough to keep us sure of the fact that the insurgents are there and that they would come at us if they were not watched like a hawk. So, you see, we have to be very careful about the disposition of our outposts and we have to know that all is well.

"I suppose that every man in charge of a company-mine is D companyvisits his outposts every night. I have been in charge of that company for, some time, and I assure you there never, has a night passed that I have not been fully informed by observation as to the situation. This thing happened night before last. It was dark and raining, too. The walking was not good, as you may be sure with all the rain, and I was picking my way along as best I could. All at once I saw a shadowy form before me. There wasn't any parleying, either. I could see that it was a man, and felt, rather than saw, that he was a boloman."

Mrs. Reeves here said something and the lieutenant smiled.

"You see," he said, turning on his pillow so that he could look at me without effort, "she is getting to be a regular fire eater, but I don't believe she is half as bloodthirsty as she talks. I do not think I hit the fellow, but there is no way to prove it.

"Well, I was on the defensive in an instant, but did not have time to draw my revolver before he made a lunge at me and was within arm's length. I believed that he had a knife in one hand. I was sure he had a revolver, for he fired point blank at me, and I don't see why he did not get me. I felt the charge pass my face. But they say that 'a miss is as good as a mile.' At any rate, things were happening at such a pace that I didn't think much about it then. What I did realize was that I must get hold of his hands, and quick, too. He cut me a little on the face"—the lieutenant jerked his thumb toward the plaster on his cheek-"and then I caught his arm. He struck me on the wrist with the hand which held the revolver and with my left hand I caught his right. I was holding his hands, but he had the revolver and knife. I was holding his knife above, my head, with the revolver hand down, and trying to throw him over back-

ward. "We were whirling around and around like madmen at a waltz when he began to fire. He was trying to hit me in the stomach—and it would have been all day with me if he had-but I kept his hand where he would have to shoot toward the ground. I felt a bullet go into my foot and then felt another strike almost in the same place. That was three shots from his evolver counting the one he fired at me when we first came together. I was counting those shots, and when he had spent two more, one of which cut through my bootleg and nipped my shin, I was pretty sure that he could not shoot again.

"Then it was that he cut me on the hand. He could not stab, and so he worked the blade of the knife across the back of my wrist. I can assure you that it was anything but pleasant, that little performance, and presently I thought he would cut himself loose. Then I began to force the fighting. I could not stand on my wounded foot, but I could use the knee. I proceeded to punch him in the stomach with it, and pretty soon I felt him falling away from me. I gave him a push and let go his hands, both at once, and he was bowled over into a bunch of banana plants. I pulled my revolver as quick as I could and began to fire, but my aim was not good, for as soon as the fellow was thrown and I attempted to

stand on my foot I fell. "Just about that time one of the outposts came running up. He had heard the firing and was coming to my rescue. But he came too late. He said he was but a minute on the way, but he was more than that. It seemed to me that we were fighting for ten minutes. Perhaps it was not as long at that, but it seemed an interminable time.

"Oh, he got away. We thrashed around there, but the fellow was hidden by the darkness and had crawled to his lines. I wish I knew, for sure; whether I hit him."-Manila Cor. Chicago Record.

A Youthful Operator. The four-year-old son of a local real estate man is showing a financial instinct that should land him high up in the ranks of the men of great wealth. One Sunday recently his mother took him to church. Before the contribution box came round she gave him a penny to drop in it. After the collector had gone by, what was her horror to discover that the youngster had a nickel tightly clutched between his chubby fingers! By his system of exchange of values he had cleared just 400 per cent. on his original capital.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Superstition in South America. In all parts of South America wooden crosses are still erected on the outskirts of the towns and villages to frighten away evil spirits. They are also erected along the highway where people have met with death by violence or accident, and pious travelers are expected to say a prayer for the repose of the dead as they pass.—Chicago Chronicle.

LATEST FANCIES.

New Notions in Costumes for Fall and Early Winter-Up to Date Notes.

Cool days have brought forth a number of the new jackets and wraps. Eton jackets remain in favor and they will be deemed smart throughout the winter season. Women with well-modeled figures cling to the short, round style, double breasted and buttoned, with either bone or fancy buttons. Again these pretty coats are cut both with round and square tabs, and many of the latest importations are elaborately trimmed with braid in the same or a contrasting color. This model will also be extensively employed for jackets, with possible revers of a different variety of fur. At present box coats are much in evidence, built of covert cloth and fine broadcloth, in coachman's drab. These coats can never be made to look elegant except for driving. a use to which they were originally put. No woman ever looked well in one walking on the street. They conceal a good figure and accentuate a poor one. They are always adopted by extremists or women who effect mannish attire. They are as inappropriate for general wear as an ulster. A pretty jacket of fine French cloth is cut in shallow scallops about the waist line. Many of the cloth coats will have bindings and revers of fur. A model of black cloth, an Eton effect, opens on the left side with a rever of broadtail. The high collar is also fur. Several of the latest fur coats are cut long, but for street wear the fur garments are almost universally short.

There is a new coat that is the outcome of the princess model. It fits the figure from the shoulder to the knees with glovelike snugness and flares and ripples in the flounces around the bottom, and it buttons to one side with a blind. It has a large, high coliar and often a series of shoulder capes. As the season advances there is every indication that fur will be extensively used for trimming. It will outline seams, face revers and form narrow waistcoats. Fur revers and jackets will be appliqued with figures of handsome lace, and fur will be used as an accessory of all evening gowns, even those of tulle and mousseline de soie. Fur will be much used on all varieties of hats, and entire hats of fur, with garnitures of lace or tulle, will be numbered among fashion's extreme fancies. Sable as usual will be the most fashionable fur, but as one's pocketbook has to be very long to purchase even a few inches of this matchless fur most mortals will have to content themselves with less expensive pelts. Broadtail will be as popular as it was last season, and Eton jackets of this soft, becoming fur will be in demand. Medium-sized muffs will be considered the most up to date, and tails will adorn all garments.

Observation of the latest models reveals two facts—the flat shoulders and ample chokers, and bunchy or fichu cut or arrangement of the stuff below. Passementerie, both in black and colors, is perhaps a more fashionable form of trimming than the application of lace figures. With the tailor-made gowns there are smart mousseline de soie ties worn in all the delicate shades. The deep cream colored ties bordered with applique of lace are generally considered more desirable. Crisp little butterfly bows of white tulle, dotted with black and colored chemille polka dots are to be found in all the shops, and they lend a chic effect to many costumes. The nasturtium shades are much in vogue this season, both for costumes and trimmings for hats. Louis XV. coats of black velvet will be away the first of the expensive garments to be worn this autumn. They measure some inches more in length than the very short Louis XVI. coats, with their parted fronts, and are to be worn with circular skirts of black satin faille, crepon or lustrous faced cloth. They have revers of white satin, bordered flatly along the edge with black velvet, on which is an applied design of white point applique outlined with jet.

A smart black frock presents several novel features. It is of light weight material, trimmed with plaitings of black mousseline de soie and with a deep collar of white silk, embroidered with black passementerie. The collar is square in the back, but cut in front in deep shawl points. It is edged with two rows of plaited mousseline de soie and nearly covers the bodice. The skirt is made with a tunic, very close, but slightly draped on one side near the back. This is edged with a plaiting of black mousseline de soie over white.-Chicago Times-Herald.

Farcied Turnips.

Peel the turnips, boil them in slightly-salted water till they are half done; take them out, slice off a thin bit from the bottom to insure their standing firmly, and cut a piece off the top: scoop out the middle of the turnips, make a stuffing with minced veal, onion, parsley and a few mushrooms, and with it fill the turnips; use the slice which was cut off the top as a cover, tie them round with the thread, place-them in a shallow saucepan, pour over them some boiling broth (gravy is preferable), add a lump of butter, season, and let them simmer till quite tender. Take them out, arrange them on a dish, remove the threads, thicken the sauce with the yolk of an egg, pour it over the turnips, and serve hot .--

Chicken Fritters.

Cut cold roasted or boiled chicken in small pieces and place in an earthen dish. Season well with salt, pepper and juice of one lemon. Let the meat stand about one hour, then make any good fritter batter. Drop a spoonful at a time into hot fat and fry a light brown. -Ladies' World.

No Cabinet Meeting Records. At meetings of the British cabinet no official record of any kind is kept of the proceedings .- N. Y. Sun.

EYEAR WITH NO FIXED LENGTH

According to the Jewish Calendar a Year May Have from 353 to 385 Days.

A calendar in which the year is of no fixed duration and has no fixed date for its commencement, is emphatically not thing to be thankful for. The Jewish calendar, however, although deficient in both the respects indicated, has been in use since the second century. of the Christian era.

The Hebrew calendar dates back to the creation, which is considered to have taken place 3760 years and three months before the beginning of the Christian era. Consequently, by the addition of 3761 to the number of our. Gregorian year, in this case 1899, the number of the Jewish year is arrived at-5660.

The duration of the year depends upon whether it is ordinary or embolismic, i. e., has a number of days inserted for the purpose of bringing lunar and solar time into agreement. In every cycle of 19 years 12 are ordinary and 7-Nos. 3, 6, 8, 11, 14, 17 and 19 embolismic. The ordinary year contains 354 days, and the embolismic

These figures are, however, subject to adjustment in order to avoid certain festivals falling on incompatible days of the week. Thus, the actual duration of the year is often a day longer or shorter than the nominal ordinary or embolismic periods.

The most terrible part of the business, however, is the determination of the proper date for the commencement of the year. The calendar is constructed on the assumption that the year commences on, or immediately after, the new moon following the autumnal equinex, the 22d of September. The apparent simplicity of looking in the almanac for the date of the first new moon after the equinox is, however, destroyed by the fact of this being merely an assumption not obtaining in practice.

In passing from an ordinary year the new moon determining the commencement of the succeeding year is deduced by subtracting 10-or, in leap year, 11days, 15 hours, 11 minutes, 20 seconds, and in passing from an embolismic year, by adding 18-or, if leap year, 17-days, 21 hours, 32 minutes, 431/2 seconds from or to respectively the time of the commencement of the preceding

Even after this arithmetical exercise, however, the date is not finally settled, for the little matter of the festival days again crops up, and when the date, as worked out, fails on a Sunday, a Wednesday, or Friday, the new year commences on the day after.-London

INGENIOUS HACK WRITER.

His Business Was to Write Novels to Fit the Stock Cuts and He Did It Well.

"Once upon a time I was hack writer and all-around literary carpenter for a short-lived magazine in Chicago," said an old newspaper man. "It was a fascinating occupation. There was little money in the concern, and we had to resort to a lot of faking to make a show. It was before the days of cheap 'process' illustrations, but we got a lot of old stock cuts from a ban printer, and I used to pick out three, or four and write a story around 'em. As they had no earthly sequence or connection, it was a job requiring considerable ingenuity, and Pendennis grinding out his celebrated custommade poem simply wasn't in it with me. I remember on one occasion I sorted out three pictures for our leading tale. One represented two young people wandering in the woods, and had originally garnished the May leaf of a soap calendar. That did well enough for the meeting of my hero and heroine. The second depicted a couple of men fighting on a precipice, and was made as an 'ad.' for the old melodrama, 'A Life for a Life.' I used it to illustrate the chapter in which the villain is thwarted in his scheme to do up the heroine's papa. The last was a grewsome scene in a graveyard, with a man lying prostrate before a tomb. In order to work it in I gave my story a tragic finale, and made my hero commit suicide over the grave of his lady love. Unfortunately the foreman dropped an iron mallet on this picture and absolutely ruined it just before going to press. The only thing I could find that fit the space was a woodcut showing a man in a tree with a big bulldog sitting on the ground underneath, and as there was no time to scare up anything else I changed the final chapter and gave the tale a comic ending. After thwarting the villain, the hero is chased into the tree by the bulldog, and while he is held there a prisoner the heroine runs off with the French cook. Strange to say, the story was one of the most popular things we ever printed."-N. O. Times-Democrat.

Looking Glasses.

Persia is the ideal place for a looking glass peddler to live and move and have his trade in, for the Persians are as fond of the shiny reflectors as are savages of beads. Every year immense numbers of mirrors of all sorts and kinds are shipped into the country of the shah. Germany, France and Belgium furnish most of the supply, In addition to having a fondness for seeing themselves as looking glasses show them, the Persians know no more pleasing parlor decorations than brilliant mirrors in gilt frames. Some of the Persian drawing rooms are so completely hemmed in by great pier glasses that visitors often become bewildered and try to walk through the glasses down the long aisle that seems to stretch in front. So bumped noses, knees and toes are not uncommon in that land of oriental splendor and mystery.-Cincinnati Enquirer.

FOREIGN GOSSIP.

Horseshoes made of cowhide are in use in Australia.

Outdoor musical performances are not permitted in St. Petersburg.

Switzerland has at present 328 cooperative associations for buying food, with 104,920 members.

The robe worn by Pius VII. at the crowning of the first Napoleon is among the relics shown to visitors at the Church of Notre Dame, Paris. When potatoes were first introduced

in Germany they were for a long time, like tomatoes, cultivated merely as a curiosity. No one ate them, even pigs refusing them. To-day eastern Germany could hardly get on without potatoes.

A German physiologist attacks the prevalent notion that sugar is injutious to the stomach. He considers it one of the most wholesome and nourishing foods, admitting, however, that: dyspeptics should not eat sweet dishes, in the evening.

Eleven vessels are constantly kept in service by the British government, making charts of the sea and recording shoals, rocks and similar submarine perils to navigation. Last year they charted 10,000 square miles in various parts of the world.

It is common in Samoa for girls to bear boys' names, and for boys to bear girls' names. If a girl is born soon after the death of a brother, or a boy soon after the death of a sister, it is inferred that the spirit of the deceased has been transferred from one child to the other, and the name of the dead child is given to the latest arrival.

A Vienna paper relates that not long ago three soldiers were drowned in a military swimming school in that city. A few days later an officer harangued his soldiers as follows: "I want you all to be careful not to be drowned, because that creates no end of bother for the colonel and the captain. Besides, it is in your own interest, too!"

MAN O' WAR ON SHOW.

How Japan's Biggest Battleship Was Placed on Exhibition to Help a Seamen's Hespital.

A warship might/fairly be supposed

to be more likely to help hospitals to patients rather than money, yet there is no reason why such a fine battleship as the Shikishima should not serve the purposes of an exhibition, and aid so good a cause as the Seamen's hospital, Greenwich, without firing a shot. It was for this admirable and unwarlike purpose that the latest and greatest addition to the mikado's navy was thrown open to the public one day lately with the ready permission of the Japanese legation. The result cannot but be of material benefit to the funds of the famous institution at Greenwich. Thousands of visitors of both sexes from all parts of the metropolis availed themselves of the opportunity of going on board the Japanese warship in the Royal Albert dook. A special steamer was announced to start for the purpose from Westminster bridge, stopping at Old Swan pier and Greenwich, but it was fully crowded at the first station, and those who could not find room had their fares returned, and went down by train to the docks. In spite of rain in the afternoon, there was no lack of enthusiasm among the sightseers, and the ladies and children clambered gayly along slippery steps and gangways without fear. The first objects of interest to everybody who came aboard was almost invariably one or other of the big guns, at which people, large and small, stared silently. with an air of respectful admiration. The ladies soon passed on to the more congenial task of inspecting the cabins and the cooking stoves, which they found to be on a most elaborate scale; indeed, sailors could not be better catered for in many first-class hotels.

The Shikishima is Japan's biggest warship. Her dimensions are given as follows: Length between perpendiculars, 400 feet; breadth, 75 feet 6 inches; draught of water, 27 feet 3 inches; displacements, 14,850 tons; horse power, 14,500; speed, 181/2 knots an hour; armament, four 12-inch breech-loading guns of 40 calibers, 14 6-inch quick-firing guns of 40 calibers, eight 45-inch maxims, five 18-inch torpedo dischargers, with armor 9-inch and 14-inch. The cabins afford sleeping accommodation for a crew of nearly 1,000 .- Lloyd's Weekly.

Measuring the Earth.

One hundred and sixty-four years ago French astronomers went to Peru to measure an "arc of meridian." The purpose of such ares, which have been measured on various parts of the globe, is to furnish data for calculating the size and shape of the earth. The arci in Peru was about 220 miles in length, and with the exception of a short are in South Africa, it is the only one ever measured in the southern hemisphere. This year a commission, headed by army officers, has been sent from France to remeasure the old are in Peru. The remeasurement is regarded as of great scientific importance on account of the advances that have been made since the first measure was taken. -Youth's Companion.

Looking Ahead. Asker-How does it come that you recommend bicycle riding? I should think it would mean a loss to you if it

makes people healthier. Doctor-Oh, no; you see, I figure that one healthy bicycle rider will place in my hands at least seven pedestrians a week .- N. Y. World.

Amateur Theatricals. Mabel (the heroine)-Oh, dear! The curtain will rise in five minutes. Are

you sure you know your lines? Jack (the hero)-All except the part where I kiss you. I think we'd better rehearse that once again.-N. Y. Jour-

CHILDREN'S CLOTHING.

To the distant

In Making It Is Sometimes Rendered Uncomfortable and Ill Fitting.

An English surgeon calls attention to the great discomfort, or actual injury, caused by ill-fitting garments worn by a growing child. Clothing for young children is usually made in large quantities at a time. All the garments of the lot are cut after a fixed pattern, the different parts being pieced together rapidly and stitched by machine, all at the least possible cost.

The clothes are usually graded according to the age instead of by size, and so a child who is larger or smaller than the average for his years gets a misfit. But even those whose size and age agree are often no better off.

The parent may notice that the child stoops and cannot be made to carry itself erect. Some one, perhaps the family physician, may suggest that the frock is not loose enough, but the mother demonstrates to her own satisfaction that it is, by gathering up folds of the garment in her hand or by running her hand under it.

But if the frock is removed and measured front and back, it will be noticed. that the measurements over the chest and the back are the same; in other words, the armholes are directly in the center. If the child's arms were also directly in the center, the shirt or blouse would be an excellent fit; but the child's anatomy is not so ordered, nature having intended that its chest should bulge out to make room for the lungs, while the back should be flat and more or less rigid.

The effect of this wrongly-made garment is that the shoulders are constantly drawn forward, and the expansion of the chest and the play of the lungs are restricted, and then insult is added to injury, the poor midget being scolded for not sitting up straight.

. If the fault is not remedied early, especially in the case of a girl who is not inclined to be a romp and a "tomboy" (and we may wish for their own physical good that all growing girls were tomboys), the deformed position becomes permanent.

One result of this forced stoop is that proper breathing becomes impossible, and consequently the health is not so

good as it should be. A body garment should always be much fuller in the front than in the back. In the case of a young child this will prevent the slightest traction on the tender and easily molded shoulders; in the case of an older child, who begins to care how he or she looks, it will force the wearer to stand and sit erect, with shoulders back, or else to suffer the mortification of | wearing wretchedly-fitting clothes. - Youth's Companion.

BIG RAM IN A CRATE.

Came from Vermont and caused a Flood of Curious Comments . from Onlookers.

Amid packages on the sidewalk of a large express office on West Broadway, one day, a crowd of curious onlookers were gathered about a large crate. The object of interest was a good-sized ram. Placidly he gazed between the bars of his prison into the city street, and at the many visitors who stopped. He showed no signs of fear, but his large brown eyes looked about with polite interest, for he was a stranger in town.

A label on the crate showed that no was a native of Bennington, Vt., on his way to Greenville, Va., and such a prosperous, well-fed looking citizen, it was said, would be a decoration to any town. His horns were large and handsome and his wool was white, clean and curly. Even a messenger boy stopped in his meteoric course down West Broadway to investigate. A short inspection showed him that the animal was not like any inhabitant of the Bowerr.

"Say, mister, w'at do you t'ink it is?" he said, looking inquiringly at a whitebearded old gentleman who was peer-

ing in at the ram.
"Well-I hardly know," replied the man, rather confusedly. "It has the appearance of a Pyrenean ibex." 'Ibex! Ibex!" said another urchin. "That ain't no ibex. It's nothin' but a

lamb. Don't you see his wool?" "Poke him and see what he does," said the messenger boy, at the same time offering the animal the very small remainder of his cigarette.

"I guess it's from the Philippines," remarked a newly-arrived youth in a red necktie. "I saw a picture of one in the paper."

"My, ain't he a fierce-looking beast," remarked a man. "Here, get out of there, you kids," shouted an expressman. "Hain't you

ever seed a goat before?" "That ain't no goat," said the messenger boy, looking back at the crate as it was wheeled away on a truck.

"Well, what is it?" inquired the boy in the red necktie. "I've got troubles of my own," retorted the messenger boy, walking off. "Why don't you ask the copper?"-

N. Y. Mail and Express. Damson Cheese.

Weigh some sound, ripe damsons and cook them in a jar until they are perfectly soft, according to the directions given above. Then pass them through a wire sieve, removing the stones and skins, and put the pulp into a preserving pan and let it boil for a quarter of an hour, taking care to remove the scum, then add one pound of crushed loaf sugar for every original pound of fruif; stir until the sugar has dissolved, and add a few of the kernels, which A, must be blanched. The preserve should be stirred constantly, as it is very liable to "catch," and it must be boiled gently until it is reduced to a stiff mass, which will leave the sides of the pan readily. Press it into small molds, and after leaving it for 24 hours make it airtight in the usual way.—Boston Globe.

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