

SEEK TO IMPROVE ON NATURE.

Enterprising Men Are Raising Butterflies for the Market.

At a time when all sorts of animals and plants are bred to a large scale...

KEEPING THEM BOTH IN LINE.

Just One of the Tribulations of the Modern Statesman.

"Senator" said the private secretary, "here's a letter from the editor of the Skeedunk Bugle..."

Found Room for the Stamps.

The other day a lady who lives in a town near this city sent her little son to the post office to mail a letter...

Absent-Minded Statesman.

Representative William H. Ryan of Buffalo was getting ready to go home for the Christmas holidays...

Slaughter of Wild Swans.

Gunsners on the lower Niagara river almost annihilated a flock of wild swans that visited that section late Sunday afternoon.

Mignonette Drives Away Flies.

Mignonette, it has been discovered, is a repellent of flies, and in a room where pots of this flower are set up...

Her Cheerful Way.

"I always look on the bright side of things," said Miss Peachey. "Smiling the action to the world, she stepped up to her mirror and looked long and admiringly at its bright side."

DECORATING THE WRONG MAN.

Confusion of Names Leads to Embarrassing Error.

A curious instance of a French distinction being conferred on the wrong man has just been revealed. A few days ago it was announced that a Mr. Henri Japy, county councillor for the district of Belfort...

ADMITTED TO VIEW DIAMONDS.

Way of the De Beers-Premier Combination with Its Customers. Some jewelers were discussing the diamond situation and one of them told about a thing that was new to a merchant from out of town.

Cotton in Arizona.

After an experiment that is said to establish beyond any doubt the adaptability of the Salt River valley soil to the growing of Egyptian cotton...

Balm for the Aged.

The aged parent was greatly, very greatly, in the dumps. "For, look you," he said, "I don't know half as much as my eldest daughter—she told me so a hundred times; and Jim and Bill can simply lay it all over their dad when it comes to arguing, and my wife says that if ever there was a stupid man about the house it's me and no mistake."

New Peril for French Navy.

France faces a new peril in opium—not new in the strictest sense, but assuming new proportions, as evidenced in the recent trial for treason of the naval officer, Ulmo.

Under Another Name.

"They didn't have peace congresses when you were young, did they, grandma?" "Yes, we did, child, but we called them quilting parties."

TOWERED ABOVE HIS FELLOWS.

Scotchman an Almost Perfect Example of Physical Manhood.

Ledbetter, the most perfect specimen of manhood ever seen in our modern world, had an aversion to athletics almost akin to horror, says the New York Press. He was a wholesale dealer in plumbing supplies on a large scale in Glasgow, six feet ten inches in height and built like an Olympian god.

WON GLORY IN GREAT MUTINY.

"Boyle of Arrah" One of Last Survivors of Gallant Band. The death, in his eighty-sixth year, of "Boyle of Arrah" removes one of the few survivors, if there are any left, of one of the conspicuously gallant exploits of the great mutiny in India.

Tennyson's Complaint.

In Walter Crane's autobiography he gives an interesting picture of Tennyson. It was at a dinner party at Rev. Stopford Brook's and the poet was reading to the company his "Ballad of the Fleet" in "his deep, impressive voice in a way which reminded us of his own description, in the 'Morte d'Arthur, of how the poet, Everard Hall (which may have been himself):

Going Down.

A public school teacher in Philadelphia had occasion once to correct the pronunciation of a pupil of Scotch origin. The lad persisted in saying "doon" instead of "down." Finally, the instructor's patience becoming exhausted he shouted at the boy: "Down! Down! Down!"

Kaiser's Ever Ready Revolver.

Emperor William II is never without his revolver, and he is extremely skillful in the use of the weapon. It is inspected and freshly primed every morning so as to make sure it is in perfect working order.

Where Circuses Outfit.

One never thinks of the circus in connection with the sea, and therefore a waterside wanderer was very much surprised the other day to see a brilliant red-and-gold circus wagon backed up against the curb on South street, near Peck slip.

A Friend of Horses.

Mrs. Theodore Thomas, the widow of the famous orchestra leader, is making an effort to have the draught horses in Chicago more humanely treated. In a recent address which she delivered to the teamsters in their official headquarters she asked their co-operation in doing away with the practice of overloading wagons engaged in heavy teaming and in drafting an ordinance to be presented to the city council regulating the tonnage teamsters may be permitted to haul.

A Housewifely Request.

"She—Dearest, are you going fish in?" "He—Yes, darling. "She—Well, I want to put up some preserves this year. Won't you catch me some jolly fish?"—Baltimore American.

NEW PRINCIPLE OF FIGURING.

System of Household Economy That Seems Possessed of Justice.

In a discussion of household economy a club woman said the other day: "The late Susan B. Anthony once threw a new, strange light on this subject. She was talking to me about the allowances that husbands make their wives, and I can't help thinking that there was a good deal in what she said. "She said that an average man and his wife, an average woman, were discussing their receipts and disbursements. The man, a bookkeeper, had had his salary reduced. It was now \$1,100. He wanted his wife to tell him on what weekly allowance she could hereafter run the house. "Well," said the wife, "there are a good many things to consider. "I know it," said the man, "but just figure them up." "She began to calculate. "There are the clothes for the three children," she murmured. "There's the servant's wages. There's the butcher, the grocer, the baker, and the milkman. There's the rent, the— "Well, figure it up." Figure it up, can't you," the man interrupted, rather impatiently. "The woman looked up suddenly. "I could figure it up," she said; "but I have thought of a much simpler plan. "All right. What is it?" said he. "It is," she answered, "that you figure up instead what it will cost you for car fares, luncheons and tobacco and hand over the rest to me."

BOAT CONSTRUCTED OF WICKER.

Said to Be Warranted to Stand the roughest Usage.

While the steamer Statendam of the Holland-American line was coming up from quarantine several days ago on her last trip to New York, a group of passengers were commenting on the stoutly built lifeboats on the boat deck. One of the passengers said he felt sure that all hands would be cared for if they had to take to the small boats, but that he had an emergency lifeboat of his own, which he would use if he was unable to get into a small boat of the steamer. "I have a big wicker water-tight trunk that I always carry in my stateroom," he said, "and I would throw out the contents in a minute and drift in that trunk, if emergency demanded." Some one laughed, and then one of the party said to the speaker: "Your idea of a wicker lifeboat has been put into practical form by C. J. de Vos, the Dutch inventor of Rotterdam. He has recently patented a wicker lifeboat that has withstood unusually rough tests in a heavy sea. With the exception of the ribs and seats the boat is made entirely of water-tight wicker. It is absolutely unsinkable, and can stand five times as much pounding as the wooden or steel lifeboats. It does not look inviting, but it rides the seas beautifully and has a greater capacity for passengers and provisions than the other heavier boats."

Wanted—A Clock.

An Ohio country couple took the train into Cleveland not very long ago to do a bit of shopping. They especially desired a clock. "Now," said the obliging salesman who came to answer their wants, "there is something most attractive in the way of clocks. When the hour begins, a bird comes out from the top and sings 'cuckoo.' For example, I turn this hand to four o'clock, and the bird comes out and sings 'cuckoo' four times. "Well, well, doesn't that bear the deuce?" exclaimed the husband, admiringly. "Mira, let's take one." "No, sir," objected Mira, decidedly. "Them clocks is all right for folks that's got lots of time on their hands, but it'd take me half the day taking care of that bird!"—Illustrated Sunday Magazine.

The Clever Woman.

In a few years' time we shall perhaps cease to hear invidious distinctions drawn between "clever women" and others, who by inference are of "stuffy mind." Men hold a distinct advantage over the opposite sex in this respect, and one which women are among the first to appreciate and envy. We seldom know when we are in the presence of an overpowering and humiliating masculine cleverness, because men are, as a rule, permitted to regard their intellectual superiority as something apart from their social qualifications. Women, on the other hand, who are clever, are labeled, wound up and expected to perform wherever they appear.

Two Waters from One Well.

Two kinds of water flowing from the same well are to be found at Riverside Park, Logan's Park, Ind. An eight-inch pipe is sunk into the ground for a distance of 80 feet, and inside this is a five-inch pipe, which is carried carried down somewhat farther. Fresh water from the limestone stratum comes up between the two pipes, while water which tastes and smells strongly of hydrogen sulphide comes up through the five-inch pipe from a lower stratum. The sulphur water flows at the rate of a gallon a minute from the detouring fountain over the well, while the fresh water flows with smaller volume from a pipe about 20 feet distant.—London Globe.

Cruisers Nearly Completed.

Uncle Sam will soon have eight brand-new fighting ships—a fleet all by themselves. The new armored cruiser North Carolina, which is to be commanded by Capt. W. A. Marshall, now commandant of the Boston navy yard, is 90 per cent. completed. Other ships within a few points of completion are the Idaho, battleship, \$7,250,000; Montana, armored cruiser, \$9,200,000; New Hampshire, battleship, \$9,200,000; Chester, scout cruiser, \$8,500,000; Birmingham, scout cruiser, \$8,600,000; Salem, scout cruiser, \$4,300,000; submarine No. 99.

And Then Willis Did, Too.

"Now, children," said the teacher, "who can tell me what Jonah did and what happened to him?" "I know," answered Willis Smart; "he ran away from his job and got whaled."—Boston Transcript.

HER DAY OF SPRINGTIME GONE.

Woman Forced to Recognize the Ruthless Hand of Time.

"I have discovered that I am middle-aged," she said, upon her return from a trip down town recently. She who each year, doubts the recurrence of her birthday, declares her age to be 28, expecting the assertion to be accepted by her relatives and friends; she who was supposed to have discovered the secret of perpetual youth, sank wilted into the Morris chair. "I have ridden to-day on three lines of cars," she explained. "I started down town by the trolley line, and came home by the elevated, and came home by the subway. I stood up all the way down town and all the way home," she wailed. "And that proves— "That I am no longer young, neither have I yet become old. I am simply and unattractively middle-aged. "When a very young woman enters a crowded car a score of men jump to their feet; when a young woman enters a dozen rise; when one still young comes in at least one or two seats are offered; the woman with white hair, bowed shoulders and faltering feet has no trouble in securing a seat. But, alas! for the middle-aged! She appeals neither to the spirit of gallantry nor of chivalry, to admiration nor reverence. "I have stood in a car to-day for the first time in my recollection. I accept the fact. I am middle-aged. Bring me a cup of tea."

GET KNOWLEDGE OF BUSINESS.

One Corporation Publishes a Text Book for New Employees.

A large corporation has lately shown its appreciation of the value of giving new employes a thorough general knowledge of the business by publishing a book describing in an interesting fashion all the details of the company's work, says System. It is a volume of over 200 pages, illustrated with fac simile cuts of various reports and other forms used. A copy is furnished every employe, and he is expected to master not merely the portions pertaining to his own work, but the entire book.

The Best Men.

"I can get an English coachman a place twice as quickly as a German or a Yankee coachman," said an employment agent. "Each country, I find, is supposed by the public to turn out one kind of workman of peculiar excellence. Thus England's specialty is the stableman. "France's specialty is the chauffeur. The cook, too, is a specialty of France. "Scotland is noted for its engineers, and in the field of sport for its golf coaches. "The Swiss are considered to be the best watchmakers. It is never any trouble to get a Swiss watchmaker a job. "The Swedes are at the premium as brewerly hands. "Italians are in demand as plaster workers, a trade wherein they wonder fully excel."

Pneumatic Clocks in Paris.

The city of Paris is being rapidly supplied with a system of public clocks worked by compressed air under electrical control. The entire area of the city is divided into sections about a mile, and three-quarters in radius, and in the center of each section is a substation provided with a reservoir of compressed air, from which air pipes extend to all the clocks included in the section.

Steel in Place of Leather.

Steel bands or belts, as a substitute for ordinary leather or rope drives, have been introduced by a factory of Charlottenburg, Germany. Such belts may be reduced to about one-sixth of the size required for leather belts, they do not stretch, pulleys may be narrower, and in some cases shafts may be smaller. Either ordinary pulleys or pulleys with a special covering to increase friction may be used. A belt four inches wide and one-fifth of an inch thick transmitted 200 to 250 horsepower at a belt speed of 5,400 feet per minute, and tests have shown that steel belts may run 12,000 feet per minute.

Professional.

The little daughter of a homeopathic physician received a ring with a pearl in it on the Christmas tree. Two days later she poked her head tearfully in at the door of her father's office.

Cleaving the Incident.

The famous ball player was looking through the sporting columns of the newspapers. "I see they've quit mentioning me," he said. "I may as well sign." Upon doing which he secured one more mention in the newspapers.