



CURIOUS MINERALS.

A Remarkable Variety of Limestone—So Called Fossils.

In the south of France, upon the banks of the Rhone, occurs a curious variety of limestone, to which the name truffle has been given, on account of its peculiar property of exhaling the odor of the truffle when rubbed or broken. From an illustrated account in Popular Science News, of this and other remarkable minerals, the following is reproduced: The mineral occurs in beds of lignite in the form of irregularly rounded or flattened masses more or less perfectly crystallized in different layers (Fig. 1), and sometimes resembling the similar siliceous formations known as agates.

A close study of this mineral has led to the conclusion that it is a mineralized wood in which the original substance has been replaced by carbonate of lime. It is probable that in some past geological age, when the country was submerged under water and the lignite beds were being formed, branches of trees floating in the water were deposited in such a position that the carbonate of lime which was dissolved in the water penetrated into their substance, so that, as the woody substance decayed, it was replaced by carbonate of lime, more or less perfectly crystallized. The peculiar odor of the truffle is supposed to be due to the decomposing animal or vegetable matter contained in the water at this time. Although it is very pronounced when the crystals are first crushed, the odor soon evaporates.

In Fig. 1, A is a crystallized layer in a rounded specimen of the mineral; B, central portion of the same, not crystallized; C, fragments of lignite; D, mass of limestone containing the mineral. E, a flattened piece of truffle, crystallized like the rounded specimen.

When minerals and rocks are broken open they are frequently found to contain markings like that represented in Fig. 2, which are often taken by inexperienced persons for fossil plants and mosses. These dendrites, as they are called, are usually

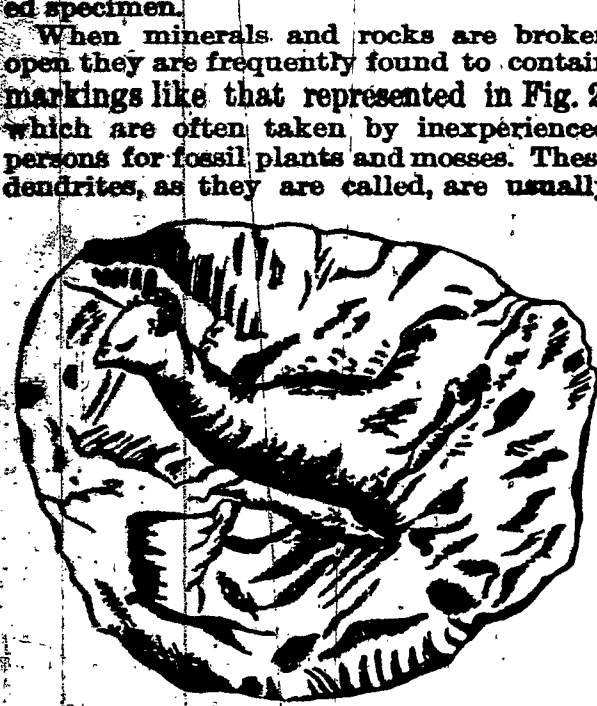


FIG. 2—DENDRITE.

black, but may also be of different shades of color, and sometimes have a metallic luster. The stone known as "moss agate" often furnishes beautiful examples of these crystals. Some mineral crystals, especially those of iron, are not petrified moss or plants at all.

The dendrites are not always deposited in arborescent forms. In Fig. 2, a curious instance of imitation is shown, where the head and neck of a bird is imprinted on the rock, even the feathers and the comb being plainly visible. Dendrites are much more common than true fossils.

Inflammable Buttons.

The progress of science is not without its dangers, as well as its benefits, to mankind. The employment of a preparation of solidified gun cotton as a substitute for ivory, and, when colored, for tortoise shell, horn, etc., has long been known to be attended with a certain amount of risk. A scientific article has recently been published, recounting a singular accident which occurred to a lady who was standing near a fire. She found herself suddenly enveloped in smoke, and a gentleman who crushed the ignited portion of her dress had his hand badly burned. The fire originated where a large fancy button had been, which had disappeared. The following test of the inflammability of one of the buttons shows the danger of this style of ornament: A phosphorus match and a piece of a button were placed on a piece of iron heated by a gas flame; in five minutes the button ignited, and in twelve minutes another piece double the distance from the flame, while the match remained undisturbed more than a quarter of an hour. Another button, attached to a duster, and placed before the fire in a position a lady's dress might occupy, took fire and ignited the duster in a few minutes.

Train Oil for Calming Waves.

Herr Joseph Grossman, an Austrian mechanical engineer of some note, has been addressing a scientific audience in Vienna upon the question of calming the ocean waves in storms by oil. The frequent failures that have been experienced in this direction Herr Grossman ascribes to a too indiscriminate use of oil. Purified petroleum, and in general mineral oils, he says, are quite unsuitable for the purpose, even when poured by careful into the sea. Train oil, on the other hand, is extremely effective. Even so small a quantity as half a gallon an hour will, he contends, secure a large vessel against danger. On the conclusion of Herr Grossman's second lecture a discussion took place, and the meeting resolved to petition the Austrian naval administration to conduct an extensive series of trials with train oil in order to test its practical value.

To Cut Glass Without a Diamond.

The glass which the shape you desire with the corner of a file or piece of glass, then having bent a piece of wire in the same shape, heat it red hot and lay it upon the scratch; sink the glass into cold water just deep enough for the water to come almost to a level with its upper surface. According to The Horological Review the glass will rarely, if ever, fail to break perfectly true.

Hints About Bottlers.

If the top of a hammer makes your bottle look like bell metal look out for crystallization. Bottlers should have the means for free expansion and contraction. Where a bottle is filled with liquid, the liquid will expand and contract. When the bottle is filled with liquid, the liquid will expand and contract. When the bottle is filled with liquid, the liquid will expand and contract.



FANCY WORK.

Fashionable Modes of Making and Decorating Favorite Articles.

The long glove and the handkerchief and nightdress cases are all now trimmed round with a frilling of folded silk, unless the latter are of fancy sateen or very pretty cretonne, and then plain colored sateen is used. At many smart weddings the glove handkerchief and large nightdress sachets, the square toilet cushion and toilet tray for the brushes and combs are all given together as one present or as the joint offering of several friends, and are all of white satin, trimmed with a frill of soft pongee silk and ornamented with a spray of orange flowers, or of large workbags have cord run through small rings, placed at distances outside the bag, instead of drawstrings run inside. The large fancy silk handkerchiefs make beautiful bags, with the corners drawn together to form four overhanging leaves, a narrow frill of pongee silk edging them. The ends of the bag are placed just outside the frill, so that when the bag is closed the frill forms a sort of rose. Some small opera glass bags, made in much the same style, are edged with feather trimming or the new cut silk, which looks like feathers.

Exceptionally attractive tablecloths and doilies have the drawn line, which is edged with lace, others have merely a broad hem. In some examples floral sprays are scattered all over the material worked in white, but outlined with a color, or sometimes embroidered in a uniform tone of silk. One of these in yellow silk shows butterfly and flowers scattered all over it.

Quilted or embroidered satin or plush piano keyboard mats are fashionable now. They are exactly the size of a keyboard and remain there when the piano is open and shut. They have a layer of wadding between the upper and under sides and are sometimes edged with silk cord.

Eggs for Easter Day Breakfast.

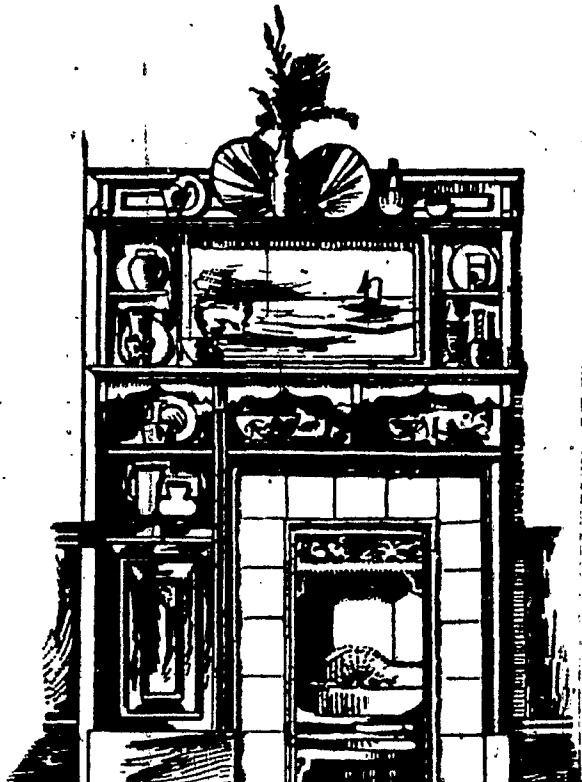
Fried Eggs with Pickles—Put enough butter, lard or ham fat in a hot frying pan to entirely cover the bottom, break in as many eggs as it will hold, dust them with pepper and salt, cook them to the required degree and put them on a hot dish; meanwhile chop a large pickle finely and put it into the frying pan for one minute after the eggs have been taken up, then put it on them and serve them at once.

Baked Eggs—Separate the whites and yolks of six eggs, putting each yolk by itself in a cup and the whites all together in a bowl; when all the eggs are broken beat the whites to a stiff froth, after adding to them a saltspoonful of salt and quarter of a saltspoonful of pepper; spread them on a buttered dish, slip the yolks on top, laying them as they are, and bake for five minutes in a hot oven, or until they are light brown; dust pepper and salt over the top and serve them hot.

Eggs à la Suisse—Spread the bottom of a dish with two ounces of fresh butter; pour this with grated cheese, break eight whole eggs upon the cheese without breaking the yolks. Season with red pepper and salt if desired, pour a little cream on the surface, strewn about two ounces of grated cheese on the top and set the eggs in a moderate oven for about a quarter of an hour. Pass a hot salamander over the top to brown it.

A Fireplace Arrangement.

A one-sided fireplace, such as is sometimes found in old fashioned houses, is not an easy thing to deal with, but our cut shows an



OVERMANTEL WITH SIDE PANEL BELOW, effective way of managing it (without attempting to alter the fireplace itself) by having an overmantel and introducing an extra panel on one side.

This overmantel need not be costly; it can be made in white wood or painted to match the rest of the woodwork. A picture can be introduced in the center instead of a mirror, unless you prefer the latter. The alteration here suggested recently helped in the transformation of a very plain and rather awkward looking bedroom into a delightful little guest chamber.

Cocoanut Meringues.

Beat the whites of four eggs till they are a stiff froth, then stir to them as quickly and lightly as possible one-half pound of powdered sugar and one-quarter pound of freshly grated cocoanut, with a wooden spoon; rub a warmed baking tin with white wax and put the meringue mixture on this, either by means of a forcing bag or spoon, and bake them in a cool oven till the meringues are a pale fawn shade and quite dry and crisp; this will take about a couple of hours. The meringues should be dusted with icing sugar when they are placed in the oven, and a piece of white paper should be laid over them when they begin to color to prevent their being too deep a shade.

A Water Glass Candle Holder.

In a tumbler filled with water a piece of a paraffin candle is placed after having been weighted by a nail stuck in the lower end to keep the candle floating. The advantage of this light is that it burns steadily, being below the line of any draft, and when it is burned out it is extinguished by the water, leaving no smoke. As the candle burns down in the ordinary light it flickers and at last gives out an odor of burning grease, which is very unpleasant to the sick. The water glass candle holder prevents all this, says The Industrial World.



NEW COIFFURE DESIGNS.

Galathée, Coll. Modern Greek Coiffure and New Clysie Fringe.

The novelty of the arrangement represented in Fig. 1 consists of the "Galathée coll" at the back, which adapts itself gracefully to the shape of the head.



NEW DESIGNS IN HAIRDRESSING.

Fig. 2 shows a handsome modern Greek coiffure, with waved boujee parted at the side.

The new Clysie fringe, with a parting through the center of the front hair, is shown at Fig. 3. It is adapted to naturally wavy hair, and its effect is softening and becoming to the face.

Easter Dresses and Hats.

A clever modiste just returned from Paris shows many novelties from the ateliers of Worth, Doucet, Felix and Doucet. For Easter dresses to be worn both in the house and street are wigwags and serges in the new Russian red or mediaval blue shades, made with a blouse waist of ecru batiste or of black satin, to be completed for the skirt by a sleeveless jacket of the wool goods. A dress of the rich Russian red wigwag, which is to be worn all summer, has a blouse waist of ecru linen batiste tucked lengthwise, fastened invisibly on the left, and trimmed with white (not fern) guipure insertion, edged each side with narrow gimp of black silk cord loops. Hed wigwag sleeves are sewed into this waist, and a bell skirt of the wigwag bordered with black muslin trimming completes the house dress.

A recent importation of French hats for wearing with Easter gowns has most varied shapes, from huge pokes to trim little turbans scarcely an inch high. Tiny bonnets for most dressy wear have a sort of brim of black chip with a crown and little drooping cape of white point de gaze lace. A wreath of green roses is set around the crown, and there are strings of green moire ribbon.

Small jet turbans to wear with any dress are quite round and very low, with slight drapery of lace around the crown, then forming a high lace agrette, which may be tied by colored or black ribbons. Stylish close walking hats of ecru and bronze rough straws, with the brim rolled up on the sides and back, have large folds and side loops of ribbon just left of the front holding two mottled quilts. Great sail-like bows of white moire ribbon hold a few flowers on the front of hats that have long flowing streamers of dark green ribbon. —Halper's Bazar.

Marie Antoinette Fichus, Beads, Etc.

The days of Marie Antoinette were to be vividly recalled to us. Once more we are to wear the pretty fichus, which owe their name to that unfortunate sovereign, and the new ones are made in chiffon, with frillings embroidered at the edges. These and other modes make a great demand for lace, and one of the newest kinds is a simulation of tatting.

This season will be one in which tiny beads will have more than their usual prominence, and they are applied to all kinds of trappings. Belts are to be worn, especially red leather ones. High collars are the mode. They are made in gauze and other materials. Gauze is also being applied to the wide scarfs, fringed at the edges, and made in a variety of pretty colorings and combinations of color, striped and spotted. The same will be also used for sashes.

A Word About Gloves.

There are antelope driving gloves in the natural rich tan hue, very velvety to the touch, and very strong in the wear. Russia leather gloves are now imported in black, as well as in tan and gray colors. The de-lux leather gloves remain to the last. The wear of kid and suede is tolerably even now for both day and evening, in the daytime four buttons being the most general, and for evening entertainment, ten to twelve button length Montague. Pale canary and suede have divided the honors with shades of fawn and fleckle, while delicate silks and grays and white have been worn with black evening gowns. A very color-cold field mouse and made striking with black stitching furnishes a novelty in gloves for dressy occasions.

A French Costume.

Indications of a revival of overskirts and skirt drapery appear in some recent French costumes for afternoon and demiloint. An instance of this new feature is found in the long apron-front of the French afternoon dress here shown.



FRENCH AFTERNOON DRESS.

Silk Shirts and Sashes.

Silk shirts are frequently finished off with wide sashes of silk, passed twice around the waist and tied in a large bow at one side. This has a very good effect on a slight, youthful figure, and it is carried out for look day and evening.



THE JAPANESE HOT BOX.

A Valuable Method of Applying Dry Heat for the Relief of Pain.

Hot cloths are so soothing in the relief of eye pains that Dr. J. J. Chisholm, of Baltimore, determined to experiment with the hot box from Japan, concerning which method of applying heat he writes as follows in The Annals of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology:

Its size made it a little awkward for eye work, but I found it, nevertheless, very efficient. It is now one of my most trusted agents for the relief of pain in many eye diseases. My method of application is as follows: After inserting the lighted fuse and the box has become warm I envelop the box in the folds of a handkerchief, and by the ends of the handkerchief secure it to the head. A little loose cotton applied over the closed eye fills up the socket, and the eye is kept in a warm moist heat to the painful organ. The handkerchief protects the face from the edges of the hot box. Once applied it needs no renewal for two or three hours.

In many cases the relief of pain is magical. The Japanese hot boxes and cart-rigids can be found at all Japanese stores, and are also kept by many druggists. They commend themselves for their convenience, simplicity, economy, cleanliness and efficiency as an application for the relief of pain.

Does Electric Light Injure the Eyes?

Is the electric light injurious to the eyesight? Some eminent English oculists have been answering the question. Surgeons of the Royal Ophthalmic hospital and of St. Andrews' Eye and Ear hospital have given it as their opinion that injury does not result from a constant use of the electric light. An eminent surgeon writes: "In my opinion electric light when steady is second only to daylight. Any difficulty that may arise from its brightness can be easily overcome by the use of a good shading. I cannot, however, imagine anything more worrying and irritating to the eyes than a light which keeps jumping up and down, as I have noticed even many incandescent lamps do."

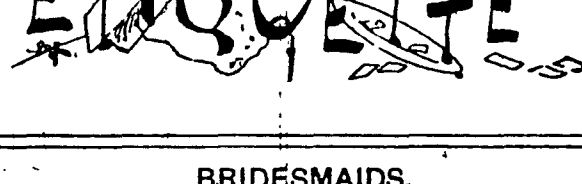
Health Hints.

Try dry sauterus for chilblains, rubbing it on thoroughly.

Prepared chalk and powdered orris root make a nice tooth powder.

Cloths dipped in hot potato water and applied to rheumatic joints relieve pain.

Coughs and dry throats may be much alleviated by glycerin and lemon juice diluted with water taken at night. Hot flaxseed tea with lemon juice, sweetened with rock candy, is excellent also.



BRIDESMAIDS.

Their Pleasing Duties and Privileges at and After the Wedding.

Though familiar in a general way with the etiquette of a special occasion, one may, when required to act a part in it, discover that some of the details are not distinctly recollected. Hence some prospective bridesmaid may find a useful reminder or two in the following "etiquette" for wedding prescribes that at the reception, after the first half hour or so, bridesmaids see that guests are entertained by conversation, whether they have or have not been presented to them, and they are also alert to conduct timid women or girls to the refreshment room, when the part of the bridesmaid is continuous and not formal breakfast. If it is the latter the mother of the bride or hostess sees to this part of the festivity. They make themselves generally agreeable, it being bad manners for bridesmaids to allow themselves to be absorbed by one or two individuals whom they may happen to like.

Bridesmaids remain until after the departure of the bride and groom, grouping themselves in the hall or upon the porch, to wave their good will after an outgoing daughter of the house. Sometimes it is arranged that a dance follows this departure, when the bridesmaids are rewarded for their self denials while being agreeable to persons in whom they had no special interest.

Bridesmaids should call upon the mother of a bride within a day or so after a wedding when distance makes this consideration possible. Sometimes it is arranged between the bridesmaids that one or more of them shall drop in daily at a house from which a daughter has gone forth, which is a very delicate courtesy. Whether or not a bridesmaid should show much attention to recent visitors, good form makes early and frequent visits to a mother from the dear friends of her daughter quite obligatory, or at least during the honeymoon, if it is spent away from home.

The maid of honor stands next the bride during the ceremony, and at the reception and she goes with her to her room to assist her with her traveling attire. Here is also the privilege of casting a slipper after the departing carriage. Her gown is generally more elegant in texture than those worn by the bridesmaids.

DEFINITIONS OF A LAUGH.

Fast Expressions Concerning an Act of Which Most People Are Guilty.

A London weekly paper, Tit-Bits, offered a prize of ten dollars for the best definition of a laugh. The money was awarded for the following:

An eruption of joy, relieved by an explosion of merriment, followed by a series of some of the best definitions submitted.

That by which mirth pays a compliment to wit.

The merry thunder peal which follows the lightning flash of wit.

An outward indication of inward satisfaction.

The physical expression of a pleasurable mental emotion.

An antidote against the poison of melancholy.

As brevity is the soul of wit, so a laugh is the soul of expression.

If "laugh and grow fat," as we have been told, is a proverb undoubtedly both true and old. It is not wrong if a laugh we define as the very best condition when we all dine.



HANS ANDERSEN.

Anecdotes of the Poet Story Teller—Beloved of Young and Old.

The "fairytale story" of Hans Christian Andersen's life has already been told in his own charmingly simple way. His early years were spent in a home of humble toil on the Island of Funen, and he only won his way to ease and fame after long and desperate struggles for a livelihood in Copenhagen. A collection of his letters has just been published, which shows that whether he is writing to the great ones of the earth, to kings, queens, grand dukes, to old friends or to an unknown little Scotch child, he is always the same loving, childlike, simple and sincere man, just what the many young readers of his works have no doubt imagined him to be.

Enthusiastic affection was lavished upon the poet by all classes of people in his native country, from kings and princes to the poor children in the streets, who used to flock



HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN.

around him as he walked about the town. Toward the end of his life it was said he used to show a little vexation if any one, even a stranger, addressed him otherwise than as "Dear Andersen." "There goes 'Dear Andersen,'" he was accustomed to hear his fellow townsmen, large and small, say as he passed by, and it was in this tender, familiar fashion that he was spoken to by young and old.

At the house of his friends he was petted like a spoiled child, as well as looked up to with the respect due to his genius. The best armchair was always kept for him, and on all occasions he was helped first at table. His extreme dejection when this privilege was once accidentally accorded to a young lady, a visitor from England, has been amusingly related. The lady had to be repaired at once and explained to the amused and bewildered guest. "Dear Andersen's" spirits promptly recovered and he rewarded the involuntary offender by telling her charming stories in the manner all his own through a long summer afternoon.

Though he had lived out his threescore and ten years, his readers, both young and old, felt as if they had lost a friend when they heard of the death of the poet story teller at Copenhagen in August, 1875.

A German author very beautifully says of Hans Christian Andersen, "One learns to love him because he was a child; in this lay his greatness."

Two Ways.

"Salina Brown and Thankful Crane."

Said grandmother, one day,

"Were girls who went to school to me

When I taught down in Beams."

"The scholars sowed on long seams then,

Each afternoon their stent;

I used to mark off with a pin,

As to their seats they went."

"Thankful would take her seam between

Her thumb and finger—

And cut each stick in straight and true,

Her face all of a glow."

"Salina, with a frowning look,

"Would measure off the length,

And fretting over her stent, would lose

Half of her time and strength."

"Thankful was always finished first,

And this the reason why,

Her thoughts were on the 'stitch in time,'

Not those of by and by."

"And I have often thought since then

About her pleasant way,

And how she could do our work

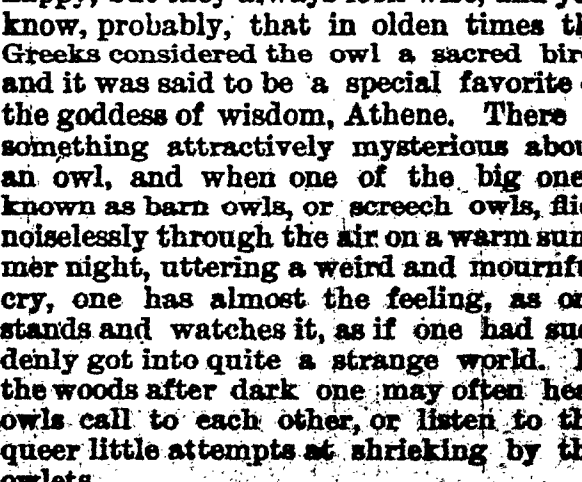
In short lengths, day by day."

—Christian at Work.

The Bird of Wisdom.

Owls are found in all parts of the world, and there are many kinds of owls, differing in size and color, but not much in habit. Our cut shows one of the smaller species.

They are all grave, majestic looking creatures, that hide in lonely places during the day and come out at night to look for such prey as mice, small birds, or any animal



THE LITTLE OWL.

food of which they can get hold. They never by any chance look as if they were happy, but they always look wise, and you know, probably, that in old times the Greeks considered the owl a sacred bird, and it was said to be a special favorite of the goddess of wisdom, Athene. There is something attractively mysterious about an owl, and when one of the big ones known as barn owls, or screech owls, flies noiselessly through the air on a warm summer night, uttering a weird and mournful cry, one has almost the feeling, as one stands and watches it, as if one had suddenly got into quite a strange world. In the woods after dark one may often hear an owl call to each other, or listen to the queer little attempts at shrieking by the owlets.

One of the most curious of North American species is the burrowing owl, which inhabits a hole in the ground. If necessary it will make its own burrow, but prefers to take possession of that of the pocket gopher.



ABOUT EGGS.

Traditions Connecting Them with Good Friday, Easter, Ascension Day, Etc.

A wreath of superstitious fancies has been woven about the article of prime domestic importance, the egg. Most of these old beliefs have become merely matters of curiosity to the folklorist, but it is said that a small remnant still survives in quiet haunts "far from the madding crowd." This does not seem particularly incredible when we consider that the matter of "this keen at table" and "spilling the salt" continue to be rather sore points with a few even among the "enlightened."

A superstition common to many parts is that eggs laid on Good Friday never get stale; occasionally one of these is preserved with the idea that it secures the well doing of the poultry. The eggs of Maundy Thursday (Whitten Dondersdag) protect a house against thunder and lightning; those of Whit Sunday, if cast upon a fire, will effectually hinder it from doing any mischief.

"To hang an egg laid on Ascension day in the roof of a house," says Reginald Scot in 1596, "prevents the same from all hurt." Probably this was written with an eye to the "hurts" arising from witchcraft, in connection with which eggs were supposed to possess certain mysterious powers. For instance, if you went to church in Denmark on Maundy Thursday and had in your pocket, without knowing it, a pullet's egg (a difficult condition, methinks), you could show a little vexation if the women present were witches by their appearing to you, to carry sieves or milk pails on their heads.

In North Germany, if you have a desire to see the ladies of the broomstick on May Day, or to make a wish, you must take an egg laid on Maundy Thursday and stand with four roads meet, or else you must go into church on Good Friday, but come out before the blessing.

It was formerly quite an article of domestic belief that the shells must be broken after eating eggs, lest the witches should sail out to sea in them; or, as Sir Thomas Browne declared, lest they should draw out their names therein and wickedly mischief the person who had partaken of the egg. North Germans, ignoring this side of the question, say, "Break the shells or you will get the ague," and the Netherlands advise you to secure your self against the attacks of this disagreeable visitor by eating on Easter day a couple of eggs with the bones laid on Good Friday.

Scotch fishers, who may be reckoned among the most superstitious of folks, believe that contrary winds and much consequent vexation of spirit will be the result of having eggs on board with them, while in the west of England it is considered very unlucky to bring birds' eggs into the house, as though they may be hung up with impunity outside.

Carlyle as a Husband.

On the much discussed subject of Carlyle as a husband some light is thrown by the following letter which his wife wrote to a friend soon after the death of her mother:

"I think of my husband, too, having given me a little present! he who never attends to such nonsense as birthdays, and who dislikes nothing in the world so much as going into a shop to buy anything, even his own trousers and coats; so that, to the consternation of cockney tailors, I am obliged to go about them. Well, he actually risked himself in a jeweler's shop, and bought a very nice smelling bottle, which cannot tell you how was his little gift made me, as well as glad; it was the first thing of the kind he ever gave me in his life. In great matters he is always kind and considerate; but these little attentions, which we women attach so much importance to, he was never in the habit of rendering any one, his own, and the more severe of mind he has from nature, had alike indisposed him toward them. And now the desire to replace to me the irreplaceable makes him as good in little things as he used to be in great."

Carlyle never forgot her birthday afterwards. Once Mrs. Carlyle thought that he had died, he was away from her, but a day or two afterward she received from him "a dear little cardcase."

The name of Mrs. Julia A. Carney, of Salisbury, Ills., is perfectly unfamiliar to thousands of ears, yet it is stated that from the pen of this woman came many years ago a jingle which is known perhaps as widely as any ever written:

Little drops of water,
Little grains of sand,
Make the mighty ocean
And the pleasant land.

It is now nearly fifty years ago since Mrs. Carney wrote these lines while teaching a primary school in Boston. It was while writing a little article on the value of moments in a life that, to illustrate her meaning, more accurately, Mrs. Carney unconsciously wrote the verse. Without thinking that there was anything in the lines calculated to make them immortal, she sent them to an editor, who asked her for some more of the same kind. In a few weeks the lines were copied broadcast over the land, the Boston children introduced them into their books, children sang them, mothers taught them, and they are widely known in both America and England.

The Devil and Brandy.

Who invoked brandy? The good people in certain parts of Germany say that it was the devil, and perhaps they are not so very wide of the mark. Here is the legend:

A Steinbach man cajoled the father of evil into entering an old beech tree and there he was imprisoned until the tree was cut down. His first step on regaining his freedom was to visit his own particular domain, which to his horror he found empty. This, naturally, would not do, and he set about reappearing hell without delay. He thought the quickest plan would be to start a distillery, so he hurried off to Nordhausen, where his manufacture of brandy (his own invention) became so famous that people from all parts came to him to learn the new art in its beginnings. From that time his satanic majesty had never had to complain of the paucity of subjects.