

HOMEMADE LEVELS.

Two Useful Little Substitutes for Costly Spirit Level.

The ordinary spirit level is a costly and delicate piece of apparatus. Some little skill, too, is needed to make effective use of it, for it only indicates the level in one direction at a time. Here, on the contrary, we have a little appliance which shows deviation from the horizontal in any direction, and which every one can construct,

Pass a pin through the middle of a segment of a cork. To the head of the pin tie a thread three or four inches in length. Lower the thread into an empty bottle. and with a little beeswax make fast its op-

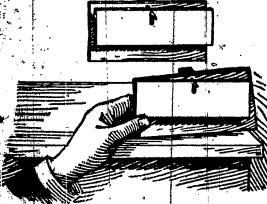


EVERYBODY'S OWN LEVEL.

posite end to the bottom of the bottle. Then pour in water until the cork floats and the thread is fully stretched. The point of the pin will rise above the surface, and when the water is at rest will always take the same position. It is not essential that the pin should be exactly vertical, though the more nearly it is so the better. Now cork your bottle with a cork through which you have thrust a straight, stiff piece of wire (a shawl pin for instance), and regulate the inclination of the cork so that when the bottle is placed upon a marble chimneypiece (the level of these being usually pretty true) the floating pin and that which meets it from above are exactly point to point. When you have achieved this, fix the cork with sealing wax firmly in the neck of the bottle so

Having got the apparatus in order, let us suppose that you desire to wedge up a the floating pin will diverge more or less sents the natural flower. The stand supfrom that of the fixed pin (round which it will describe a circle), and you must modify the thickness of your wedges or the position of vour shelf until the two are again point to point. You will thus have secured a level at least as exact as that of your chimney piece, which will usually be ound sufficient for all practical purposes. Take two pieces of cardboard cut thor-

oughly square. They should be of equal lengths, say six inches, but of different widths, say three inches and two inches, respectively. Bore in each a hole, equidistant from either end and a quarter of an inch from the edge, and in the hole of the larger piece of cardboard fix a pin. made solid by glueing on behind to receive it a few cuttings of similar cardboard, as shown in our illustration. In the case of the narrower piece of cardboard, which is to form the movable portion of the apparatus, enlarge the hole you have made into a little vertical slot, and hang this smaller board on the pin, keeping it, say, one-eighth of an inch away from the larger, so as to avoid all friction. Place the apparatus on a very level mantelpiece, and change the ends of the smaller card to see if it still keeps the same position relatively to the other. The two upper edges should exactly coincide. If they do not coincide, they must be made to do so by removing a thin shaving of card from the edge of the



A CARDBOARD LEVEL

movable board. To wedge up a piece of furniture by the aid of this little apparatus, let the lower edge of the cardboard rest upon the article in question. If the edge of the movable card rises to right or left your furniture is out of level, and you must increase or diminish the thickness of your wedge until the upper edges of the sugar reboil to its former temperature! two cards become exactly parallel.

Machine Shop Suggestions.

Among the queer things that have been devised for the shop is a screwdriver that takes its driving force from the blows of a hammer instead of from the tortional strains of the wrist. The screws are started in by hand and set carefully in line, then this device is set upon the head of each screw and given a blow with a heavy hand hammer. There is a spiral arrangement inside to give the screwdriver action, and a long handle extending out to one side to remist the reaction of the screw, says the Bosfound the following:

An attendant of a large machine has been annoyed by the intermittent clacking of a out, with sugar sprinkled over ft. ratchet wheel by the catch snapping from one tooth to another as the ratchet wheel revolved. A small friction strap clasped about the ratchet shaft proved to be sufficient to pull down the tail of the catch and two inches wide along the under side of keep it from the teeth of the gear till the the rug close to the edge as tightly as poswheel comes to turn backward, when the sible, consistent with not puckering the friction strap let up on the tail of the catch | rug. and gave the catch a chance to take a tooth and hold the ratchet wheel, making a noiseless catch out of a noisy ratchet wheel.

Luminous Photographs.

A French photographic journal tells that a photograph can be made luminous in the dark by the following process: Take white mount and after coating it with starch paste, sprinkle ever it luminous powder and press it down firmly to make it adhere. All that is now necessary is to make the unmounted silver print as transparent as possible by coating it on the back with castor oil and wiping away the surplus oil. By placing this ever the prepared mounting card and exposing it to daylight a luminous positive is obtained. having a curious appearance when viewed

a disagreeable breath put a few drops are of myrrh into a tumblerful of and thoroughly rince the mouth



FURNITURE NEW AND OLD.

Dressing Tables and Library Tables-A Homemade Bookcase.

Some of the prettiest English dressing tables are made of curly walnut, a drab wood with little curls in the grain, resembling the grain of birdseye maple. White maple, mounted with brass, is used, and is exceedingly beautiful and delicate.

The newest library tables are massive affairs of oak and mahogany. They are regulate and use for himself. It may curved in the kidney form of the Sheraton be therefore entitled "Everybody's own style. There is a succession of drawers on either side of the table, and it is supported on short spindle legs beneath the drawers. The back of a piano may be covered with picture canvas, exactly the size of the back of the piano. This has painted on a shaded background a design of poppies, or other flowers in harmony with the other decorations. When surrounded with short draperies of a harmonious tint this is very ef-

If you have in the house an old fashioned, half circular sofa, you may arrange a corner with it by placing an adjustable pole at right angles; over this throw a Bagdad curtain or Mojava blanket; cover the sofa with repose inviting pillows, and at just the right distance above place a shelf to hold a lamp. A little taste and ingenuity will suggest various ways of utilizing old pieces of this kind.

A writer in The Decorator and Furnisher. from which the foregoing notes are gleaned. describes a cheap bookcase made of three shoe boxes, each one being a third shorter than the other; these graduated boxes were set one upon the other so that the three ends came together, making a straight side on one side and three steps on the other. All the shelves were edged with strips of split bamboo, pieces of the same covering any rough edges that came in sight. The steps held large vases, pots of palms and flowering plants, which made the bookcase a thing of beauty as well as utility, and brightened wonderfully an otherwise dark corner.

Charming Novelties in Glass and China. Among pretty new pieces which give an that there may be no displacement of the idea of fancies and fashions in vogue for the table are salt cellars in the form of flowers of Irish Belleek ware.

Another novelty is the imported sweatpiece of furniture, or to fix a shelf exactly meat dish—here illustrated—in form of an horizontal. You have only to place your orchid flower. The dish is of Doulton tion bottle upon it. So long as the level shall china, exquisitely painted by hand in a e imperfect in any direction, the point of variety of delicate tints, and exactly repre



porting the dish is an orchid leaf, with the stalk gracefully fashioned to form the handle, and the spoon or server has also an orchid bowl to match. The dish makes an extremely pretty ornament to the breakfast or dinner table, and is also most use ful as a receptacle for butter, dried fruits

A very charming decorative arrangement consists of a small china tray fitted up with various kinds of chrystallized flowers in tiny china dishes. For instance, one will hold a series of china leaves, one for each kind of blossom, containing rose leaves, violets, lilac and orange blossoms. These are a dainty addition to a 5 o'clock tea table, while for dessert the same flowers as those forming the dinner table decorations could be provided.

Bouillon cups with handles and covers each of different design and color come in

Daintiest little glass saucers in glass of lifferent colors are used for serving Roman punches and sorbets.

Celery trays are now a part of every set of China. The celery stalk and leaf is the ornament in special trays of Royal Worcester and other makes.

Crystallized Violets, Rose Leaves, Etc. An English receipt for candving violets or rose leaves, jasmine or orange flowers is as follows: Boil some clarified sugar and water until, on being lifted in the skim mer, you can blow tiny sparks of sugar through the holes; lay in some double violets divested of their stalks, and let the then rub the sugar against the sides of the pan till it is white, and stir it all together till the sugar leaves the violets, when they must be sifted and dried. Rose leaves, jasmine and orange flowers can all be candied in this way.

Apple Omelette.

Stew six fair sized apples to a marma lade, with sugar to taste, and about two onnces of fresh butter, and set it aside till cold. when two well beaten eggs must, be added to it. Butter a pie dish, sprinkle this thickly with sugar, baked bread crumbs and a little finely grated lemon ton Journal of Commerce, in which is also peel; then pour in the apple, cover it all. pretty thickly with bread crumbs, and bake | revers. it for an hour in a good oven. Serve turned,

Domestic Pointers.

When troubled by rugs curling up at the edges, sew a strip of chair webbing about

An excellent and easy way of polishing floor is to split a wax candle in half and rub the floor evenly all over. Of course this presupposes that the boards are even and in good condition.

The heavy, soft appearance of carpetings in hotels is generally due as much to the many thicknesses of carpet lining used sometimes four or five, as to superior quality of carpet.

It is next to impossible to place a teapot or hot water jug on any polished wooden surface without ruining it. But tables and wooden trays may be seasoned (so to speak) by polishing them before use with a soft rag sprinkled with pure linseed oil. A few such applications, very evenly made, both give the tray a very good appearance and minimise the marks made by every drop

that is spilt. You can soon tell if a bed isdamp by laying your handglass between the sheets for a few moments. If the sheets are not proponly dript the glass will be elevated.

ENGLISH STYLES.

Salient Features in Current Modes-How the Best Dresses Are Made. The French dressmakers have for a long time been showing the most supreme contempt for all established rules as to the proper blending of colors, and this season London dressmakers seem to be following their example. Whoever would have thought a few years ago of combining such

colors as violet and pink, blue and green.



A LONDON TOILET. yellow and gray, or heliotrope and blue! A court dress made, for one of the Mav drawing rooms was of vieux rose silk, with a train of violet velvet and a garniture of violets. A beautiful dress in pale pink and ellow—this mixture is quite orthodox had a Watteau train: turned back at one orner with a bow of antique lace and unches of roses in the two shades of the dress. Any quantity of old lace—imitation as well as real-will be worn this seanon The most delicate colors are curiously

combined, peach with blue, yellow with

green, and with gray, white and grass

green, and peach in almost every combinalarge sleeves differing from the rest of the dress is one among many efforts to which is not thought the healthiest in Paris. copy the styles of Venetian dames of long Sometimes the same brocade used for the sleeves appears again on the hem of the dress. Some of the London dressmakers are making up trains in the new Wattean style, a point only of the material coming from between the shoulders, where | sick person when nothing else is allowed. it is liberally trimmed with lace, leaving the waist visible, and disposing of the weight which has always been the drawback when the trains came from the shoulders. It is, in fact, an application of the Watteau now introduced in tea gowns, etc. In London efforts are being made to bring in draped skirts. Dresses of crepon, for instance, are looped at the side and show more or less elaborate underskirts of shot brocade and velvet. Sleeves in many instances are much trimmed; some have the appearance of being ornamented at the elbow with turned back cuffs of silk-a sharp contrast, usually, to the color of the dress. Sleeves in many cases are so large as to attract attention—as in the cut. In this same cut, by the by, may be seen the tendency referred to toward draped skirts. The dress is a rich, raven gray silk, the skirt of which is slightly fulled in front, with a cascade down one side. The bodice has full sleeves, while a dainty arrangement in a lighter shade of silk is let in

by an edging of jet trimming. Items in Children's Dress. Children's blouses show a new treatment:

from neck to waist, terminating in a point

of fine plaits. The basque is finished off

the vokes, instead of being smocked, are worked with stars in Russian stitch having French knots between. The crosscu. seam at the back of skirts has been introduced into children's skirts with excellent effect, and they show well beneath the little jackets, which often fasten on one side and are trimmed en chevron with ruches



LITTLE GIRLS' HAT AND BONNETS of ribbon at the throat. Silk skirts with Swiss belts are useful for children. A little dress seen, with heliotrope stripes, was made with a new sleeve, buttoning with your hostess adieu.

cord down the back, pink silk being let into the front in a V form between wide

Picturesque hats and bonnets are made cities. for children in surah silk, the trimmings | If you invite a man to escort you where a ing cut are given three charming models.

Dress Trimmings.

Gold is the foundation of most of the costly trimmings—gold net, gold satin, gold gauze or cloth of gold. Some handsome waistcoats and corselet bodices, with cuffs and collars to match, were of cloth of gold, hand embroidered with flowers in wife. soft colors. The new passementeries are all light and graceful in design. Other attractive trimmings are in jet and gold and illimitable. Pearls are still used to some lations with connections. extent for trimmings

Fashion Notes. Many old, old styles are being revived. The prettiest of summer mantles are

velvet and lace. Tailor made dresses are losing a little of their stern aspect.

A visiting dress is not considered quite trimmed with crystal bead fringe and paschic if the bodice is made of the same ma- sementerie, will be appropriate for the terial as the skirt. Invalids are favoring pink and blue print-

ed silk nightgowns, elaborately trimmed with lace and ribbon and insertion inter-threaded with ribbon, intended to be worn over the ordinary nightgown for aitting

FOOD BEFORE SLEEP.

Light Meal Before Betiring Advised for the Weakly and Sleepless. Many persons, though not actually sick. keep below par in strength and general

tone. Dr. W. T. Cathell expresses the opinion in The Maryland Medical Journal that fasting during the long interval between. supper and breakfast, and especially the complete emptiness of the stomach during sleep, adds greatly to the amount of emaciation, sleeplessness and general weakness we so often meet. He says:

All beings except man are governed by natural instinct, and every being with a stomach, except man, eats before sleep; and even the human infant, guided by the same instinct, sucks frequently day and night, and if its stomach is empty for any prolonged period it cries long and loud.

Digestion requires no interval of rest and if the amount of food during the twenty-four hours is, in quantity and quality, not beyond the physiological limit, it makes no hurtful difference to the stomach how few or how short are the intervals between eating; but it does make a vast difference in the weak and emaciated one's welfare to have a modicum of food in the stomach during the time of sleep, that, instead of being consumed by bodily action, it may during the interval improve the lowered system. I am fully satisfied that were the weakly, the emaciated and the sleepless to nightly take a light lunch or meal of simple, nutritious food before going to bed for a prolonged period, nine in ten of them would be thereby lifted into a better standard of health.

Extraordinary Longevity.

A Vienna correspondent tells of a peasent, Anton Juritch, at Dreznica, in the disrict of Mostar, who, if his documents are to be credited, is at present 180 years old He still works in his vineyard and goes to church every Sunday, although the church is "two hours" distant from his home. His eyes are still good and enable him to see at a distance. His evebrows meet over the nose, and grow so thickly that they have to be cut that they may not obscure his sight. He likes to talk of old times, and tells interesting stories. His mother died aged 120, but his father died young. After this another case reported by a Paris correspondent must decidedly take a second place. A retired tradeswoman named Wirth was buried recently, having died in The ends of some trains are cut square, Paris at the age of 104. She had always lived in the Eleventh arrondissement.

Buttermilk Tonic.

Buttermilk is in much greater demand as a summer beverage than sweet milk. As a therapeutic agent it is given now to a It is a powerful nerve tonic. Buttermilk is now considered better than sweet milk for persons inclined to dyspensis, because one of the difficulties of milk-its slow digestive qualities—is removed at once, as buttermilk has already gone through one process of digestion. Iced buttermilk is a fashionable fad now. Ladies offer a glass of buttermilk to their friends in summer just as they do the "cup of tea" in the winter.-Field and Farm.



PRACTICAL PARAGRAPHS.

Brief Suggestions in Good Form for Many Occasions. Gleaned from Harper's Bazar are the following useful replies to questions often

At a wedding before 6 o'clock the groom should wear morning costume—that is, black cutaway or frock coat, black waistcoat, light trousers, white four in-hand tie, white gloves and patent leather shoes. A white waistcoat may be substituted for the black if preferred. The invitation for a home wedding reads: "Mr. and Mrs. John Smith request the pleasure of your company at the marriage of their daughter Mary to Mr. John Brown, Monday evening,

March first, at eight o'clock 257 John street, Newark, N. J." If you are writing the addition to your card, write simply the date and hours, "Four until six." If the addition is engraved, add the "o'clock." The use of 'at home" is almost obsolete. It is never used for a tea. Inclose your guest's card. Yes, always leave cards at a tea. The tea may be made on the table or brought in,

as you choose. Your cards should be addressed "Mr. and Mrs. John Smith." If your husband has received a card for the tea. send two of his cards with your own.

"It is never good taste or correct form to sav 'Mrs. Dr." If you want to designate why not say, "Mrs. Smith, the wife of Dr. Smith?" Judge Brown would leave his card: which would read, "Mr. John Brown." It is better style for his family not to speak of him as "the Judge." It is never good form to omit bidding

It is not desirable to have the town engraved upon your card, unless you are traveling or paying many calls in other

being lace and ribbon. In the accompany carriage is necessary, of course you furnish the carriage. Give a reception or a tea, and let your

people present your flance to your friends. A dinner is a very good way of announcing an engagement. Your cards should be sent to Mr. and Mrs. Brown. You are obliged to include

the husband if you desire to invite the Send cards to the relatives of your daughter-in-law and wait for them to call upon you. However, it is better to make jet. The choice in plain jet trimmings is social concessions than to have strained re-

> Send your gift to the bride. Certainly, send cards to the "at home" if you cannot attend. One of your own and two of your husband's. Have the two dates (1877-92) engraved on invitations to your crystal wedding. Use many white flowers and also much cut glass for decorating the house and the

The bride and her maids carry bouquets. but it is no longer customary for guests at weddings to carry flowers.

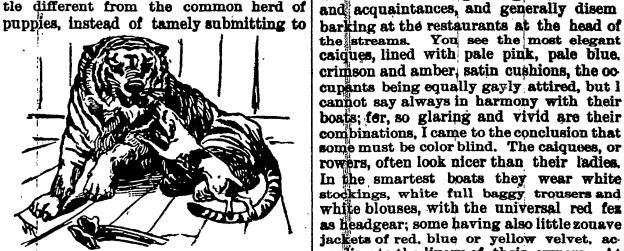
A lamp of sugar seturated with vinegar will grantfasts our licerache

COURAGE REWARDED.

A Spirited Little Dog That Showed Fight to a Tigress.

During the travels of an English officer. Captain White, in Cochin China, the then the Turkish Sunday), Turkish women have viceroy gave him a magnificent tigress five a little change and excitement in going to feet long and three feet high. On reach- morque, or visiting their cemeteries; and ing Saigon, where he could buy dogs for in the afternoon, going to either the Sweet almost nothing, he used to give his pet one | Waters of Asia or the Sweet Waters of of these animals every day. The dog was Europe. A woman traveler in the Orient thrown alive into her cage. She would says: "These prettily named resorts are play with it for awhile, as a cat plays with two fresh water streams, the former run a mouse, then her eyes would begin to ning into the Bosphorous just above Can glisten and her tail to quiver; she seized dilli, the latter flowing into the Golden her prey by the scruff of the neck, and in a Horn. From about 1 to 6 o'clock every minute or two it was all up with poor bow- Friday in summer hundreds of calques, full

One day, however, a puppy, seemingly little different from the common herd of



ts fate, showed fight. It snapped at the tigress' nose and bit it till the blood came. The tigress, far from resenting the attack. seemed to treat it as a joke, and when the spirited little dog grew tired of the fun the tigress patted it as if it had been a cub of her own. Then the two lay down side by side and had a comfortable nap. Thenceforth they were the best of friends, and to humor this queer friendship Captain White had a small hole cut in the tigress' cage that the puppy might go and come as it pleased. It often took a trot abroad, but t always returned to its dog devouring friend. To test the tigress' affection a strange dog was offered it one day at dinfrom its hungry jaws and the puppy friend thrown into the cage. But, strange to say, a gorgeous spectacle. friendship triumphed over the pangs of hunger—and that, not on this occasion only, but whenever the captain's crew M. J. Bertillon presents the following thought fit to repeat the experiment. We table showing that the French are the least are pot told to what breed this puppy be- prolific and the Germans the most prolific longed, but he appears to have had in him a good deal of the plucky little fox terrier | born alive annually per thousand women now so fashionable, which will rush into a of fifteen to fifty years: France, 102; Ire-

Ostrich Farming in Africa.

an English gentleman who has lately been | nest or acting as the proud father to a flock ruffled temper, and then I think you will pause awhile before venturing unprepared into the company of this big fowl.

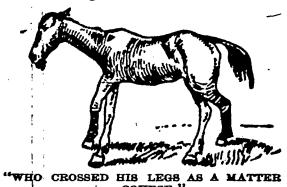
even to feed the birds; a large forked stick is reported, November, 1888, of having been is always at hand wherewith to catch the confined of six children, four being boys ostrich's neck and keep him at safe non- and two girls. This lady takes the record, pecking distance. Having got him in this according to Mulhall, from which the fore position you must stick to it till some one going was compiled. comes to the rescue or till you have tired him out or, best of all, till you have worked him near a wall over which you can scramble, but which he, despite his long legs, is too stupid to attempt. However hard you may be pressed you must not think of killing the bird, for a male ostrich is often

worth \$500 or more. rear their own young; on other farms the eggs are taken and hatched artificially by hot air and blankets, and then a Hottentot damsel acts as nurse girl and parades about with her flock of thirty or forty little ostriches, all over two feet high, though only a few weeks old. Their nurse takes charge of them till they are six months old, feeding and guarding them all day and shutting them up carefully at night, the birds looking on her entirely as their mother.

Ostriches even when full grown are not ing from their size and powerful limbs.

Rather a Puzzle.

Oh, what would you do if you had a horse Who crossed his legs as a matter of course. Who kicked up behind and reared up before, And ate enough corn to feed a score?



And what would you do if you had a cow Who hever said "Moo," but preferred "Bow Who played the guitar and who lived in a sty.

And put on goloshes to keep her feet dry? And what would you do if you had a pig Who thought he looked well in a brand new Who always expected to come in to tea,

And frequently played on the fiddle-de-dee? The Wise Man and the Foolish Boy.

A woman once had a very stupid son. She sent him to all the schools she knew of, but he did not seem to get on at any of them. She hardly knew what to do with him so at last she took him to the king and asked his advice about the matter. The king said, "I will send him to one of the wisest men in my kingdom, and if he cannot teach him, nobody can." of him that "he was a walking library, a So the boy went to the wise man, who universal scholar, an indefatigable student. said, 'Now, my boy, you must try to learn the Cato of his age for gravity, but having all you can."

After awhile the sage found that the boy did not make any progress, and he always burst out into a fit of laughter in the midst of a serious lesson. The sage also noticed that the boy not only neglected work himself, but also prevented the other pupils from making progress. No one could study where he was, and at last he was not allowed to enter the room where the other students were. The wise man, seeing how matters tended, sent the boy home one day tion about 650 B. C. It is said that Pisis o his mother with a message which ran tratus founded a library at Athens about hus: "Your boy, although too dull to 587 H. C., though there is no clear evidence learn himself, has wit enough to prevent others from doing so; I am therefore obliged o send him home to you."

One day in the week. Friday (which is

and Excitement Once a Week.

of gayly dressed Turkish ladies, row up and down these waters, greeting their friends and acquaintances, and generally disem the streams. You see the most elegant caiques, lined with pale pink, pale blue. crimson and amber, satin cushions, the occupants being equally gayly attired, but I cannot say always in harmony with their boats; for, so glaring and vivid are their combinations, I came to the conclusion that some must be color blind. The caiquees, or rowers, often look nicer than their ladies, In the smartest boats they wear white stockings, white full baggy trousers and white blouses, with the universal red fex as headgear; some having also little zonave jackets of red, blue or yellow velvet, according to the livery of their owners. At MARBLE and GRANITE WORKS 6 o'clock all Turkish ladies are expected to retire; they are never allowed to be out after dusk, so that their weekly excitement is not of long duration.

Women of the lower classes who cannot afford boats sit in hundreds along the edges of the streams, clad in the brightest shades of every known hue, watching and crificising their richer sisters; and not only there, but on even the curbstones in some of the streets, where there is something to be seen, they will sit for hours chatting. They are very fond of watching the soldiers go and return from the "Salemlek"-that is, the sultan going to mosque, which he does every Friday at 12 o'clock. As there ner time and was then hastily snatched are always thousands of soldiers, and gen erally eight or ten bands of music, this is

people of Europe. Number of children TTTI ... fight of the greatest odds without a shadow land, 114; Belgium, 127; England, 136; Of hesitation. Netherlands, 187; Spain, 141; Prussia, 150; GUINAN & BROWN. Bayaria, 156. Aristotle mentions a woman who had five children at a birth four times "Ostrich farming is no child's play," says | successively; Menage one who had twenty one children in seven years. The Empress to Africa and visited one of the farms de Catherine received a Russian woman in roted to the rearing of these great birds. 1857 who had had fifty-seven children, all The male ostrich is a dangerous bird to of whom were then living, having been have to do with when he is guarding his born thus sixteen in four confinements, twenty-one in seven confinements, twenty of little ostriches. Just picture the bird in ten confinements, or in all fifty-seven for a moment, standing 7 or 8 feet in height. children in twenty-one confinements. This very heavy, with a pair of strong legs that woman's husband married again, and his kick like a horse, and tipped with claws second wife had fifteen children in seven that cut like a knife; add to this an easily confinements. Fedor Vassileff, of Moscow. (1782) had eighty-three children living when pensioned by the czar. He had sixty-nine children by his first wife at twenty-seven No one in Africa does go unprepared, not | births. Mrs. George Hirsch, of Dallas,

Items About the Eyes. Never rub your eyes, nor allow your children to do so from their cradles. Veils are bad for the sight, especially those spotted or covered with a pattern: so eschew veils when you can, or wear the softest, clearest net when obliged to do so. Sometimes the ostriches are allowed to Never read in bed or when lying on the sofal Sit with your back to the light when engaged in reading or working. Pale blues or greens are the most restful wall papers for the eyes, whereas red is exceedingly fatiguing. Do not read, write or work longer than two hours together without resting your eyes, and closing them fully five minutes. Be most careful to live in a dry house on dry soil. Attend to the di gestion, for did not Milton declare his blindness to proceed from the effects of dyspepsia? If the eyes be weak bathe them in a basin of soft water, in which a pinch dangerous, except when in charge of a of table salt and a dessert spoonful of bran nest, but all the same they look very alarm- dy has been added." Such is the advice of a Frenchwoman who appears to know what she is talking about.

The Paris Plant Garden. It will be a source of pain to all lovers of plants to learn that there is a possibility that the famous Jardin des Plantes in Paris may cease to exist. Meehan, in his monthly, tells that it was organized dur ing the French revolution, and the revolu tionists suggested calling it a zoological garden. They had, however, no living ani mals in the garden till 1789, when Buffon. the great naturalist, and Bernard, in de St. Pierre, obtained permission from the convention to transfer the royal menagerie of Versailles to this garden. There is some talk of a French association being formed for the purpose of saving this historic place, and to still further continue its usefulness to science, but at the present time its future existence is among the uncer

The First Catechism. The first catechism published in this

country, says The Learner and Teacher, was by John Cotton, the second minister in Boston. It was entitled, "Spiritual Milk for American Babes, Drawn out of the Breasts of both Testaments, for Their Souls' Nourishment." This catechism was used for a hundred years, and was always printed in the New England Primer. Its gifted author, who had been vicar in the Church of St. Botolph in Boston for twenty years, was distinguished as a scholar in Emanuel college in Cambridge. Cotton Mather says

The Oldest Library.

The oldest approximations to libraries of which any records exist were brought to light by the Assyrian discoveries of a few vears ago, and consist of the Babylonian books inscribed on clay tablets, supposed to have been prepared for public instruc of the fact. Strabo says Aristotle was the first known collector of a library, which he bequeathed to Theophratus, \$39 B. C., and this library at length found its way to Moral-An idle person wastes not only his own time, but that of other people as

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