A POINTER

When you buy shoes buy those with a well known reputable makers name attached. A manufacturers reputation is his stock in trade. His name on the goods means he stands behind them.

ALL AMERICA 3.50 Shoes

made by Rice & Hutchins are stamped with their trade mark above. This has meant honest dependable shoes for a third of a century. The new styles are here in such pleasing variety it is a pleasure to show them. Run in and look them over. Many other kinds of good shoes here at reasonable prices too.

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☞UNDER STAM'S HALL.

Summer Hats.

The ladies like their Summer Hats ready. Why not the men? Our assortment is now complete. Come look.

Summer Suits

are likewise ready

MEN'S,

Boys' and Children's.

Separate Trousers, Shirts, Gloves, Neckwear, Hosiery, etc. All ready for inspection.

Respectfully,

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McCORMICK } Binders, Mowers And Twine.

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Some at ONE-HALF,
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off regular prices.

One more week of our

CLEARANCE SALE.

The balance of our Summer Stock must go.

You know our policy is to carry no goods over from one season to another.

We do this for three reasons:

First—It keeps our stock free from old and shopworn goods.

Second—It gives us ready cash to buy more goods.

Third—It pleases our customers to get such bargains within their grasp.

Come and see, and we will convince you of the above.

ALL SUMMER

MILLINERY,

—AT—

One-Half Price.

Sparks & Jefferson,

Successors to R. Bergen.

THE COMMON HOUSE FLY.

BY FRANK H. SWEET.

House-flies are common, annoying creatures and yet it is fortunate for man that they cannot be exterminated. We speak of them as dirty and as exasperating when our walls, glasses, and even our food become fly-specked; yet the little insects are our friends, and really act as scavengers, eating vast quantities of decaying matter which might become a menace to health and even to life.

They are so common and numerous that we rarely think of them as being useful to man, much less objects of beauty. But if we put an ordinary house fly under the magnifying glass, its beauty is at once apparent. Unlike many other insects, a fly has only one pair of wings, but these are delicate and exquisitely colored, blue, green, iridescent, and along the transparent gauze run many fine black veins which are the framework.

A fly cannot fold its wings like a bird or grasshopper, but must keep them outstretched over its body. Its motion is very rapid, and the moving of its wings quickly produces the buzzing sound. Behind the wings are two slender clubs called halters, poisers or balancers, which, as their names indicate, help the fly to balance itself.

A fly's head is mostly occupied by its big, red, compound eyes, which are made up of thousands of facets or little eyes and as if these were not enough for the sharp-sighted insect, it has also three simple stemmatous eyes or ocelli. The mouth is curiously constructed; the lower lip is elongated and forms a thin tube or proboscis through which the fly sucks up its food. There is a little flat plate at the end of the proboscis, and near its extremity are two short hairs, which serve as forks or chop-sticks, for with them the fly pricks and mashes the food, and if it is solid it is moistened with a secreted fluid that it may be soft enough to be sucked up through the tube. This tube may be closed when not in use, just as we close a collapsing cup.

The feelers or antennæ are two fine-jointed plumes. Some affirm that flies hear with these feelers, but it has never been proven. The fly is so sensitive to the motion of the air that when anything approaches, it feels the vibrations of air rather than hears the noise.

A fly's body is composed of three rings, to each of which is attached a pair of legs the wings being joined to the middle ring. Each leg is five-jointed, and each little foot is joined also. The last joint has two claws and a small pad covered with fine hairs; these hairs catch on the rough edge of things, and, besides, the pads have a certain amount of suction which forces out the air between them and the surface on which the fly is walking, hence it is enabled to perform such marvelously dizzy feats as walking on ceilings and window-panes.

Flies have wonderful powers of reproduction. One female can lay over 2,000,000 eggs in a season; so despite the fact that countless numbers are killed by people, eaten as food by spiders, birds, cats and dogs, it is easily seen that they can not be exterminated. Winter even does not kill them off entirely; some few crawl into cracks in the walls and ceiling and sleep until spring.

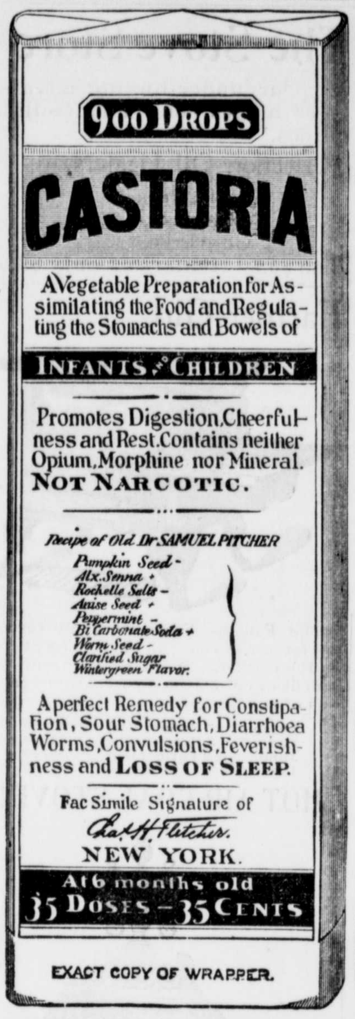
LITERARY NOTES.

Mr. John Burroughs is to contribute to *The Century* for 1904 a number of articles on "Current Misconceptions in Natural History," giving his views as to what he believes to be errors of observation, record, or deduction on the part of contemporary writers on nature subjects. The echoes of Mr. Burroughs' article on a similar topic which appeared in *The Atlantic* last spring are still reverberating, and in this series Mr. Burroughs will take up the subject more fully, publishing his matured opinions as to instinct, the alleged teaching of young animals by their parents, the play of animals, and kindred themes.

Thackeray's most important American letters are to see the light in November and subsequent numbers of *The Century* Magazine. They cover both the first and second visit of the novelist to America, and record his friendship with the Baxter family of New York. The letters are said to reflect Thackeray's various shades of opinion concerning America and its people with all the author's frankness, vivacity, and charm. A number of unpublished sketches accompany the letters, including good-humored caricatures of Longfellow and George William Curtis. This is beleived to be the most important Thackeray "find" which has been made for many years.

The late B. L. Farjeon left the manuscript of a story for girls and boys which is to appear serially in *St. Nicholas* Magazine during the coming year. It deals with London's Madame Tussaud and her celebrated wax-works, the marvelous doings of the principal characters in that exhibition—Queen Elizabeth, Henry VIII, Tom Thumb, Guy Fawkes and others, all of whom are brought to life and made to live in the London of today.

Mr. Jack London's new novel, which he is just finishing, is to appear serially in *The Century* Magazine. It is said to have all the primitive strength of "The Call of the Wild," but as a narrative is even more thrilling.



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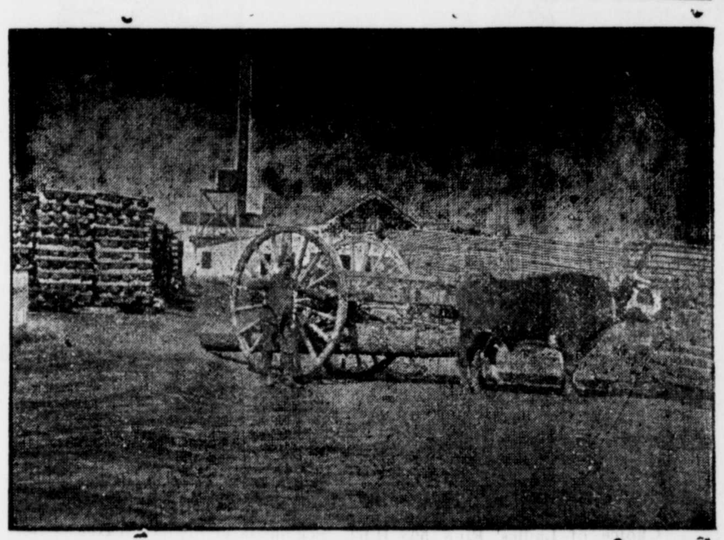

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