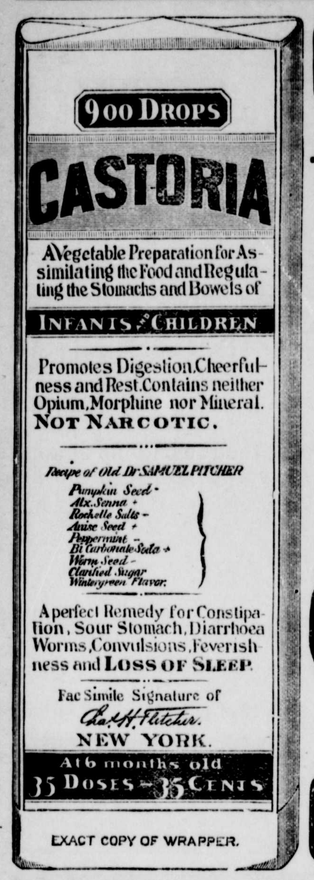

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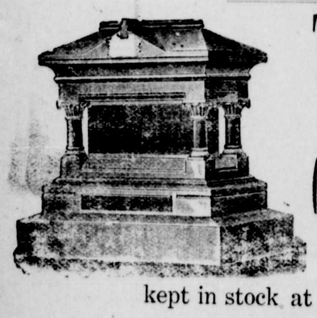

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A BAMBOO LAND.

Wide Usefulness of This Wonderful Plant in China.

A recent traveler in China impressed with the wide usefulness of bamboo thus states some of the possibilities:

A man can sit in a bamboo house, under a bamboo roof, on a bamboo chair, at a bamboo table, with his feet resting on a bamboo footstool, with a bamboo hat on his head and bamboo sandals on his feet. He can at the same time hold in one hand a bamboo bowl, in the other bamboo chopsticks and eat bamboo sprouts.

When through with his meal, which has been cooked over a bamboo fire, the table may be washed with a bamboo cloth, and he can fan himself with a bamboo fan and take a siesta on a bamboo bed, lying on a bamboo mat, with his head resting on a bamboo pillow. His child might be lying in a bamboo cradle, playing with a bamboo toy.

On rising, he could smoke a bamboo pipe and, taking a bamboo pen, write a letter on bamboo paper or carry his articles in bamboo baskets suspended from a bamboo pole, with a bamboo umbrella over his head. He might then take a walk over a bamboo suspension bridge, drink water out of a bamboo ladle and scrape himself with a bamboo sweat scraper (handkerchief). The bamboo ingenuity and persistency have produced (bamboo) joint results which exhibit the potentialities and possibilities of the Chinese people.

WISDOM OF CHILDREN.

Bright Comments That Drop From the Lips of Juveniles.

What could be more simple or more splendidly direct as a compliment to a pretty girl than the small boy's admiring question, "Are your eyes new ones?" No "grownup" person could have thought of that. "A ruminating animal is one that chews her cubs"—there might surely be less thoughtful definitions. As for definitions, no dictionary has ever given anything better than "a movable feast—a picnic."

There is a delightful note of the night nursery in the beginning of a girl's essay on boys, "The boy is not an animal, but they can be heard to a considerable distance," equaled perhaps in its splendid simplicity by the boy's written criticism to the effect that "most girls are very shy and angry." It is the directness of the description which compels attention in vivid comments such as, "Just before it killed me the tooth came out," and nothing surely could be more Johnsonian in its absolute truth than the answer given to the painstaking schoolmaster trying to make the class understand what might be meant by the subversive word "antipodes." "If I bored a hole right through the earth till I came out at the other side where should I be?" "Off yer 'ead! You can't do it!"—London Spectator.

THE COTTON GIN.

How Eli Whitney, Its Inventor, Got His Great Idea.

Eli Whitney, the inventor of the cotton gin, got the germ of his great idea from seeing through the interstices of a hut an old negro work a hand saw among the freshly picked cotton stored within.

The teeth of the saw tore the lint from the seed easily and quickly, and young Whitney (he was barely thirteen at the time) realized at once that a machine working a number of similar saws simultaneously would revolutionize the cotton growing industry.

He said nothing to anybody, but set to work building models and experimenting. His difficulties were enormous, for he not only had to make his own wheels, cogs, etc., but he had also first to forge his own tools and even to manufacture the paint wherewith to color his many plans and drawings.

But he succeeded in the end, and, though the outbreak of war and other hindrances prevented the invention from being actually placed upon the market until many years afterward, the first complete cotton gin ever constructed was built from those very models and plans and with scarcely a single alteration.

A Webster Retort.

It is related of Mr. Webster that when he was secretary of state he was one day reading at a cabinet meeting a draft of a message he had written for the president to transmit to congress. As he went on he was constantly interrupted by one of the members with suggestions until, losing patience, he turned to him and said, "Sir, you might as well expect seven hens to lay one egg as seven men to construct one message."

Method In Her Decision.

Higgins—My wife says if I should die she would remain a widow until death. Of course she might change her mind, but it is sort of consoling just the same. Jinks—Evidently your wife thinks there is no other man in the world like you. Higgins—On the contrary, she's afraid there is and that she'd get him.—Boston Transcript.

Hitting the Judge.

Justice—You say that you did not know you were violating the law. Ah, but, my dear sir, ignorance of the law is no excuse to any man. Prisoner—That's rather rough on both of us, ain't it, your honor? Clerk—Order in the court!

At the Sewing Circle.

"Men and women are the hooks and eyes of society," remarked Miss Smith.

"And they are constantly becoming unfastened," naively put in the divorcee.—Cincinnati Commercial Tribune.

A Hard One For Mamma.

Charley (who thinks)—Say, mamma, if we're made of dust, why don't we get muddy when we drink?—Puck.

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JOB'S TEARS.

Seeds That Are Used For Food and Ornament In India.

A seed much used for ornament is that which bears the popular name of Job's tears. The old botanist Gerarde thus describes it: "Every graine resembleth the drop or tear that falleth from the eye." There are, however, now three or four well marked forms of this seed met with in India, which differ from each other in shape, color and degree of hardness and in the presence or absence of grooves or furrows along the length of the hardened involucer.

Dr. Watt of Calcutta thus enumerates them: "There are three types of shape—a long cylindrical or tubular, a normal pear shaped condition and a flattened spheroidal form. The cylindrical grain is always of a white color, smooth, polished, not furrowed, but constricted toward both extremities. This is collected for ornamental purposes only and not as an article for food. The pear shaped form varies in size and color, being pale and bluish white, gray, yellow or brown black. The flattened spheroidal kinds are often yellow or even pink.

"The two principal forms are: One almost round and either white or black. This form is sometimes, though less frequently, used for rosaries and ornamental purposes, but chiefly for food among the hill tribes of India. The second form is tubular, about half an inch long. This is extensively employed for decorative purposes, the dresses worn by the Karen women being often completely covered with embroidered designs of this grain."

FAIRLY TRAPPED.

The Clever Manner In Which Balzac Outwitted His Publisher.

No man knew the value of Balzac's writings better than the famous French novelist himself, a fact which he never failed to impress upon his publishers when terms were being discussed.

On one occasion, as Balzac sat smoking in a friendly fashion with a well known publisher, he remarked casually:

"Now, I want your candid opinion. Honestly, do you believe that I have as much talent as Frederic Soulie?"

"My dear Balzac, how can you ask?" answered his unsuspecting companion. "Why, you have twice his literary capacity."

"Well, as I consider his works immeasurably superior to anything of Eugene Sue's, I suppose I must have more talent than Sue too?"

"Of course you have."

"Twice as much, according to you. Well, I am glad. And now tell me honestly, as we are discussing literary merits, surely I am as good as Dumas?"

"Better—better."

"Thank goodness, our opinions coincide. And now, since my novels are worth twice as much as those of Frederic Soulie and Eugene Sue, I demand in common justice to be paid double what you pay them for theirs."

There was nothing to be said, says one of Balzac's biographers. The unfortunate publisher had been trapped and owned it.

Distress Signals at Sea.

When ships at sea are in want of provisions and starving the signal used is a pendant with a ball underneath. Should the signal be reversed—i. e., ball uppermost—it would signify that the vessel addressed was running into danger. If a ball should be hoisted superior to a large square flag it would denote that the cargo is on fire or ship leaking and requires immediate assistance. All "distant signals" are answered by hoisting a ball at ship's masthead or masthead of signal staff on shore and, are used at all times when the colors of a ship's flag cannot be distinguished. The above are international signals.

Seaweeds.

Aside from their use as food by man and beast and as fertilizer in agriculture, seaweeds have numerous uses in the arts and sciences. From them are obtained soda, chlorides, sulphates, silicates, iodine, bromine and gelose. They have ever occupied an important place in the rude pharmacopoeia of the untutored savage as well as of the higher one of his more civilized brethren. Certain varieties are used in stuffing chairs and beds. They are especially suitable for the latter purpose, as their aromatic smell is said to drive insects away.

Fish Scale Jewelry.

The scales of the sea drum are extensively used in the manufacture of the sprays of flowers and other articles of fancy work which are sold at seaside resorts under the name of "fish scale jewelry." They are large and silvery and so hard that it is necessary to remove them from the fish with an axe or hatchet. The scales of sheepshead, tarpon, channel bass, etc., are also used for this purpose at times.

Sensible.

She—I suppose you would have me believe I am the first woman you ever loved? He—Not at all. I've loved scores of women, but you are the last one I have fallen in love with. She—Very well, then I'll say "Yes." As long as I am the last one you have loved we'll get along all right.—Boston Transcript.

Sure.

Mrs. Bunn—So your servant ran off. Don't you think she'll regret it? Mrs. Hunn—Yes, because my husband ran with her.—Manchester (N. H.) Mirror and American.

Only as we love can we work beautifully, harmoniously, courageously. Courage comes with love; it is love alone that makes tasks easy and fingers fly fast.—W. J. Colville.

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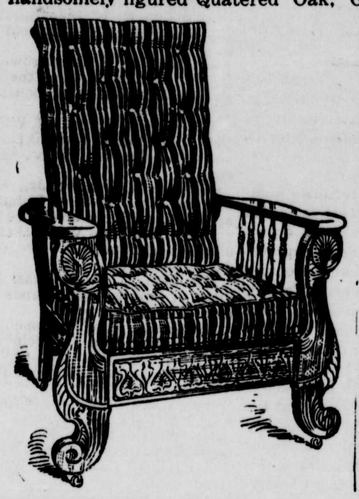

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