

SCIENTIFIC AND USEFUL.

OVERREACHED HIMSELF.—A man entered a hosiery store in Hartlepool, England, and asked to be shown "a few socks." When he learned the price per pair of woolen ones he put them aside, and said, "An'll keep on wearing cotton ones. They say if you wear reel along through winter and summer yer feet disson't get cauld." Some cotton ones were handed out and he persuaded the shopman to drop the price. He then said, "An can buy them in Middlesburrow for half the money." "It doean't seem possible," remarked the dealer; "will you swear to it?" "An will noo."

The dealer told him to go to a justice, make the affidavit, and he should then have four pairs at his own price. The stranger was as good as his word, and he chuckled over his shrewdness until the document was made out and he had been sworn. Then the justice remarked, "Five shillings is the fee." Something came over the stranger about then. His knees wobbled a little, and he swallowed as if something choked him. He handed over the "five bob," walked out, and the four pairs of socks are still on the shelf.

TO CUT GLASS IN ANY SHAPE.—Mark out on the glass the line which is to be cut, so that it may be easily followed. Then heat the end of a slender glass rod, or of a rat-tail file, to redness in the flame of a gas lamp, and bring the hot end in contact with the glass, a little in advance of the crack, exerting a little pressure. The sudden expansion of the glass by the heat communicated to it will cause the crack to jump to the rod; advance the rod a little, and the crack will follow. In this way, by moving the hot point little by little, the crack can be made to follow it to the line which it is desired to traverse; and by then following this line the desired result can be attained without much difficulty. When it is found that the crack does not follow promptly, the rod must be held a few minutes in the flame and again applied. Care must be taken not to advance the hot point too far at each step. With a little practice and the exercise of patience, a crack may be induced to travel anywhere over a glass surface by this simple method, which is in common use in the laboratory for trimming and utilizing broken beakers and other glassware which would otherwise be useless.

TO CURE A FELON.—A correspondent of the *Michigan Farmer* says: "I wish to tell those who may suffer from that terrible scourge, felons, of a painless remedy that will effect a perfect cure in twenty-four hours, as I have had occasion to prove within the last three days. A lady came here who had been suffering over two weeks with a felon on the end of her middle finger. I saturated a piece of wild turnip, the size of a bean, with spirits of turpentine, and applied it to the affected part. It relieved the pain at once. In twelve hours there was a hole to the bone, and the felon was destroyed. I removed the turnip and applied healing salve, and the finger is well."

TO PREVENT IRON OR STEEL FROM RUST.—A method of preventing iron or steel from rusting is to heat it to a temperature of boiling water and cover it with a good coat of copal varnish. Let it stand at this temperature for half an hour or so, and then rub off the varnish while hot with a soft rag. The varnish fills the pores of the iron, thus sheltering them so as to be impervious to moisture. Another method is to heat the metal so as to melt beeswax when rubbed upon it, letting it remain, after being well-rubbed, until it is about to harden, and then rub off with a coarse woolen-cloth.

LITTLE THINGS WORTH KNOWING.—Many workmen met with little casualties, sprains being very common. Hot water is the best thing that can be used to heal a sprain or bruise. The wounded part should be placed in water as hot as can be borne for fifteen or twenty minutes, and in all ordinary cases the pain will gradually disappear. Hot water applied by means of cloths is a sovereign remedy for neuralgia and pleurisy pains. For burns or scalds apply cloths well saturated with cool alum water, keeping the injured parts covered from the air.

POISONOUS SOLDER IN CANS.—Dr. John G. Johnson, having had six cases of poisoning from the eating of canned tomatoes, read an excellent paper on the subject before the New York Medico-Legal Society, which is published in the *Sanitarium*. He concludes, after a careful review of the subject, that: First, these were not cases of sickness from spoiled tomatoes; second, they were cases of corrosive poisoning from muriate of zinc and muriate of tin; third, this poisonous amalgam must be abandoned; fourth, exemplary damages, "at the discretion of the jury," will be sustained by the courts for this reckless tampering with human life in using a dangerous means when a safe one could be used; fifth, the canners have only themselves to thank for the present panic in their business, for they have persisted in the use of this dangerous amalgam, knowing it was dangerous; sixth, every cap should be examined, and, if two holes are found in it, send it at once to the health board, with the contents and the name of the grocer who sold it; seventh, reject every article of canned food that does not show the line of resin around the edge of the solder on the cap, the same as is seen on the seam at side of the can; eighth, "standard" or first-class goods have not only the name of the factory, but also that of the wholesale house which sells them, on the label. "Seconds," or doubtful or "reprocessed" goods, have a "stock label" of some mythical canning house, but do not have the name of any wholesale grocer on them. Reject all goods that do not have the name of some wholesale firm on the label. A "swell" or decomposing can of goods can always be detected by pressing in the bottom of the can. A sound can pressed, will give a solid feel. When gas from the decomposition of the food is inside the can, the tin will rattle by pressing up the bottom as you displace the gas in the tin. Tenth, reject every can that shows any rust around the cap on the inside of the head of the can.

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