

## VARIETIES.

**A HAPPY THOUGHT.**—It was Lady Holland who, by the merest accident, introduced dahlias into England. "Having been much gratified somewhere in the South of Europe by her first acquaintance with Palestine soup, and, ascertaining that the main ingredient was the Jerusalem artichokes, Lady Holland procured what she supposed to be a root of it, and forwarded it (probably by a king's messenger) to her gardener at Holland House. When a beautiful flower came up instead of a succulent vegetable, she gazed on it with a feeling near akin to the fox-hunter who complained that the smell of the violets spoilt the scent. But the value of her acquisition began to break upon her when the London seedsmen who came to look at it, offered thirty guineas for a root."

Another version is that a root was given to her at Valentia in 1804 by a celebrated botanist, who had just received it, an unknown rarity, from South America.

The cat's-eye is a stone of yellow-green tint, a species of the sapphire. It has threads of white asbestos within it and the light is reflected from these in an intense manner. When this stone is properly cut, a white band of light is seen floating in its interior, that changes position as the gem is moved before the eye, which peculiarity probably suggested the name by which it is generally known.

**CHARMS OF NOVELTY.**—Novelty has charms which our minds can hardly withstand. The most valuable things, if they have for a long time appeared among us, do not make any impression as they are good, but give us a distaste as they are old. But when the influence of this fantastical humor is over, the same men or things will come to be admired again, by a happy return of our good taste.

**EMPLOYMENT** for the mind is what thousands of women are in need of. After the plodding routine required for material necessities has been gone through with for the day, and the tired body requires and enjoys rest, the minds of many women reach out hungering and thirsting after intellectual food. Not having that craving satisfied is what causes unhappiness for many.

**THE WIFE'S ANSWER.**—A husband, finding a piece broken out of his plate and another out of his saucer, petulantly exclaimed to his wife: "My dear, it seems to me that everything belonging to you is broken."—"Well, yes," responded the wife; "even you seem to be a little cracked."

**SCRAPS.**—The best education one can obtain is the education experience gives us. In passing through life, learn everything you can. It will all come in play. Don't be frightened away from any pursuit because you have only a little time to devote to it. If you can't have anything more, a smattering is infinitely better than nothing. Even a slight knowledge of the arts, sciences, languages, opens up a whole world of thought. A little systematic endeavour—one hour, or even half an hour, a day—and a man may be considered learned before he dies. Learn thoroughly what you do learn, be it ever so little, and you may speak of it with confidence. A few clearly-defined facts and ideas are worth a whole library of uncertain knowledge.

**MARVELOUS.**—Among other wonders of Brazil is the wonderful pottery tree of Para. The tree attains the height of one hundred feet before sending out branches; the stem is very slender, seldom much exceeding one foot at the base. The wood is hard and contains a large amount of silica—not so much, however, as the bark, which is largely employed as a source of silica in the manufacture of pottery. In preparing the bark for the potter's use it is first burned, and the residue is then pulverised and mixed with clay in varying proportions. With an equal quantity of the two ingredients a superior quality of ware is produced. It is very durable, and will bear almost any amount of heat. The natives employ it for all culinary purposes. When fresh, the bark cuts like soft sandstone, and the presence of silica may be readily ascertained by grinding a piece of the bark between the teeth.

**QUITE NATURAL.**—Naturallists, when they write, are in the habit of recording such wonderful things, that one would imagine they laboured under the idea that, instead of a natural history, they were writing a history for naturals.

**"TOMMYCIDE."**—"Ma," said a little girl to her mother one day, "her's a word in the paper I want to know the meaning of. What is a homicide?" "A homicide, child, is one who murders another." "Well, ma, when Jack killed our old Tom cat, that was a Tommycide, wasn't it?" "Pshaw, child!—go away, and don't bother me."

**BE ECONOMICAL.**—"Take care of the pennies." Look well to your spending. No matter what comes in, if more goes out you will always be poor. The art is not in making money, but in keeping it. Little expenses, like mice in a barn, when they are many, make great waste. Hair by hair, heads get bald; straw by straw, the thatch goes off the cottage; and drop by drop the rain comes into the chamber. A barrel is soon empty if the tap leaks but a drop a minute. When you mean to save, begin with your mouth; many thieves pass down the red lane. The ale jug is a great waste. In all other things keep within compass. Never stretch your legs further than your blankets will reach, or you will soon be cold. In clothes, choose suitable and lasting stuff, and not tawdry fineries. To be warm is the main thing; never mind the looks. A fool may make money, but it takes a wise man to spend it. Remember, it is easier to build two chimneys than to keep one going. If you give all to back and board, there is nothing left for the savings bank. Fare hard and work hard when you are young and you will have a chance to rest when you are old.

**GUTTING THE FISH.**—One evening a red-headed Connaught swell, of no small aristocratic pretensions in his own eyes, sent his servant, whom he had just imported from the long-horned kingdom in all the rough majesty of a creature fresh from the "wilds," to purchase a hundred of oysters on the city quay. Paddy stayed so long away, that Squire Trigger got quite impatient and unhappy lest his "body man" might have slipped into the Liffey. However, to his infinite relief, Paddy soon made his appearance, puffing and blowing like a disabled bellows, but carrying his load seemingly in great triumph. "Well, Pat," cried the master, "what the devil has kept you so long?"—"Long! a thin, may be it's what you'd have me come home with half my *arrant*!" says Pat. "Half the oysters?" said the master. "No, but too much of the *fish*," says Pat. "What fish," said he. "The oysters to be sure," says Pat. "What do you mean, blockhead?" says he. "I mean," says Pat, "that there was no use with loading myself with more nor was useful." "Will you explain yourself?" says he. "I will," says Pat laying down his load. "Well, then, you see, please your honour, as I was coming home along the quay, mighty peaceable, who should I meet but Shammus Maginnis; 'Good morrow, Shamien,' sis I. 'Good morrow kindly, Pauden,' says he; 'what is it you have in the sack?' sis he. 'A *cwt* of oysters,' sis I. 'Let us look at them' says he. 'I will, and welcome' said I. 'Arah! thunder and pratees!' sis he, openin' the sack an' examinin' them, 'who *sould* you these?' 'One Tom Kinahen, that keeps a small shop there below.' 'Musha then, bad luck to that same Tom that *sould* the likes to you,' sis he. 'Arrah, why, avic!' sis I. 'To make a *Bolshour* ov you and give thim to you without gutting thim,' sis he. 'An arn't they gutted, Jim, aron,' sis I. 'Oh! bad luck to the one o' them; sis he. 'Musha, then,' sis I, 'what the dhoul will I do at all at all, for the master will be mad,—'Do,' sis he, 'why, I'd rather do the thing mysel' nor you should lose your place,' sis he: so wid that he begins to gut them wid his knife, *nate* and *clain*, and afeered ov dirtying the flags, begor he swallowed the guts himself, from beginin to ind, tal he had thim as you see thim here," dashing down at his master's feet his bag of oyster shells, to the no small amazement of the Connaught worthy as you may suppose.

**TRANSPARENT CEMENT FOR GLASS.**—Dissolve 1 part Indian rubber in chloroform, and add 16 parts by measure of gum mastic in powder. Digest for 2 days, shaking the bottle frequently, apply with a fine camel's hair brush.

**MOUTH WASH.**—Proof spirits 1 qt. borax and honey, of each 1 oz., gum myrrh 1 oz., red sanders wood 1 oz. Rub the honey and berax well together in a mortar, then gradually add the spirit, the myrrh and sanders wood, and macerate 14 days.

**CAMPHOR SOAPS.**—Curd soap 28 lbs, otto of rosemary 1½ lbs. Reduce the camphor to powder, add one ounce almond oil, then sift it; when the soap is melted and ready to turn out, add the camphor and rosemary.

**WHITE WINDSOR SOAP.**—Curd soap 1 cwt., marine soap 21 lbs., oil soap 14 lbs; oil caraway, 1½ lbs. oil thyme and rosemary of each ½ lb., oils of cassia and cloves of each ¼ lb.

**BROWN WINDSOR SOAP.**—Curd soap ½ cwt., marine soap ¼ cwt, yellow soap ¼ cwt, oil soap, ¼ cwt. Brown coloring (caramel) ½ pt., oils caraway, cloves, thyme, cassia, petit grain and French lavender of each 2 oz.

**SAND SOAP.**—Curd soap 7 lbs., marine soap 7 lbs., sifted silver soap 28 lbs., oils thyme, cassia, caraway and French lavender of each 2 oz.