

## THE NORTH POLE.

Must we conclude that the North Pole is really inaccessible? It appears to us that the annals of Arctic research justify no such conclusion. The attempt which has just been made, although supposed at the outset to have been directed along the most promising of all the routes heretofore tried, turned out to be one of the most difficult and dangerous. Had there been land extending northward (as Shera Osborn and others pinned) on the western side of the sea into which Robeson Channel opens, a successful advance might have been made along its shores by sledging. McClintock, in 1853 traveled 1,220 miles in 105 days; Richards, 1,012 miles in 102 days; Meham, 1,203 miles; Richards and Osborn, 1,003 miles; Hamilton, 1,150 miles with a dog-sledge and one man. In 1854 Meham traveled 1,157 miles in only seventy days; Young traveled 1,150 miles, and McClintock 1,330 miles. But these journeys were made overland or over unmoving ice close to a shore line. Over an ice-bound sea journeys of this kind are quite impracticable. But the conditions, while not more favorable in respect of the existence of land, were in other respects altogether less favorable along the American route than along any of the others we have considered in our brief sketch of the attempts hitherto made to reach the Pole. The recent expedition wintered as near as possible to the region of maximum winter cold in the western hemisphere and pushed their journey northward athwart the region of maximum summer cold. Along the course pursued by Parry's route the cold is far less intense, in corresponding latitudes, than along the American route; and cold is the real enemy which bars the way toward the Pole. All the difficulties and dangers of the journey either have their origin (as directly as the ice itself) in the bitter Arctic cold, or are rendered effective and intensified by the cold. The course to be pursued, therefore, is that indicated by the temperature. Where the guly isotherms, or lines of equal summer heat, run northward a weak place is indicated in the Arctic barrier; where they trend southward, that barrier is strongest. Now there are two longitudes in which the guly Arctic isotherms run far northward of their average latitude. One passes through the Parry Islands, and indicates the sea north-east of Behring Straits as a suitable region for attack; the other passes through Spitzbergen, and indicates the course along which Sir E. Parry's attack was made. The latter is slightly the more promising line of the two, so far as temperature is concerned, the isotherm of thirty-six degrees Fahrenheit (in July), running here as far north as the seventy-seventh parallel, whereas its highest northerly range in the longitude of the Parry Islands is but seventy-six degrees. The difference, however, is neither great nor altogether certain and the fact that Parry found the ice drifting southward, suggests the possibility that that may be the usual course of oceanic currents in that region. North of the Parry Islands the drift may be northwardly, like that which Payer and Weyprecht experienced to the north of Novaia Zemlia. There is one great attraction for men of science in the route by the Parry Islands. The magnetic pole has almost certainly traveled into that region. Sir J. Ross found it, indeed, to be near Boothia Gulf, far to the east of the Parry Islands, in 1837. But the variations of the needle all over the world since then indicate unmistakably that the magnetic poles have been traveling round toward the west.

Mrs. Jane Grieve or Rigg, a native of Langholm, is now in her 102nd year, having been born in the year 1804. She now lives at Wimbledon, London. Her father, Wm. Grieve, was superintendent of the antimony mines on the estate of Sir F. Johnstone of Westerhall.

## SPARKLES.

Fish Lady—"And what do you do for a living, sor?" Gentleman—"Oh, I am a living, sor?" "So is me son; he's a traveler too. He travels up and down a ladder wid bricks and motar."

A gentleman was fishing in the Tweed one day at Melrose accompanied by a boatman, who was a bit of a character. He said to the boatman—"Can you tell me how it is, John, that they get far bigger fish up at Peebles than we ever get down at Melrose?" "Oh, it's juist the same fish, sir," replied John; "juist the same fish, but, ye s ee, they're bigger leers up at Peebles than we are doon at Melrose."

Wife—"You were late last night." Husband—"No, I wasn't. As I came in the front door the clock struck eleven." Wife—"But what time did you arrive at the top of the stairs?"

Amy—"Mabel, do you ever think about marriage?"

Mabel—"Think is no name for it. I worry."

How unconsciously humorous are the sayings of little people ament the arrival of a new brother or sister. The small stranger is usually warmly welcomed, though in different ways. One proud father approached his four-year old son and heir with—"Eddie, you have a dear little sister." "Have I?" said Eddie. "Is she pretty?" "No-o, not very," said his father, dubiously; "she has rather red little face." "Oh, that's nothing," said Eddie encouragingly, "that'll go off. I expect she got red 'cos she was so excited at coming to live with us."

Edna—Georgie, doesn't my hair look too sweet for anything in this style?

Georgie—I should say so. Why, it looks as though the only comb suitable for such a sweet puff would be a honeycomb.

## THE WISEST WAY.

Said Peter Paul Augustus: "When I am grown a man I'll help my dearest mother the very best I can."

I'll wait upon her kindly; she'll lean upon my arm;

I'll lead her very gently, and keep her safe from harm.

"But, when I think upon it, the time will be so long."

Said Peter Paul Augustus, "before I'm tall and strong."

I think it would be wiser to be her pride and joy

By helping her my very best while I'm a little boy."

"You advertise that there 's a fine stream of water on the place, but I don't see it," remarked a stranger who wanted to rent a small farm. "Just work that pump handle a little," said the landlord, "and you will see a fine stream of water. You don't expect to have the Niagara Falls on the place for \$27.50 a month, do you?"

## HEALTH AND HOME HINTS.

Pickles should never be kept in glazed ware, as the vinegar forms a poisonous compound with the glazing.

To drive a nail or tack easily and not split the wood, first stick the point into a cake of yellow laundry soap.

When purchasing tinned meat notice the tin. If it bulges outward in any part the meat is probably unfit to eat, an outward bulge being a sign that the tin was not properly sealed, and air has got in.

A person's eyes are out of line in two cases out of five, and one eye is stronger than the other in seven persons out of ten. The right is also, as a rule, higher than the left. Only one person in fifteen has perfect eyes, the largest percentage of defects prevailing among fair-haired people.

Currant Rice.—Boil one cupful of rice in a quart of water until perfectly tender. Drain, and add a cupful of fresh red currants; return to the fire, closely cover and cook for five minutes, or until the currants burst. Serve with hard sauce flavored with currant juice.

Stuffed Tomatoes.—Cut the tops off six large tomatoes and remove the pulp; crop two shallots, quarter-pound lean cooked ham, a teaspoonful of parsley, a few bread crumbs, and half-ounce butter, mix all together with the pulp and a little pepper and salt; fill the tomatoes with the ingredients and replace the tops; bake in a moderate oven till nicely browned, and serve hot on buttered toast.

Rhubarb and Custard.—Cut stale sponge cake in slices, and arrange in a glass dish in alternate layers with rich stewed rhubarb. Just before serving, cover with cold-boiled custard made as follows: Beat the yolks of three eggs with a fourth of a cupful of sugar, pour over them a pint of hot milk and cook in a double boiler until it will coat the spoon, stirring constantly. Flavor with lemon. Spread the whites of the eggs, whipped to stiff froth with three tablespoonfuls of powdered sugar, over the top.

After his plain talk about school inspectors at the British Association, Prof. Armstrong attended another sectional meeting and condemned fads in food. "We were," he said, "always being told that white flour was a mistake, and that wholemeal bread was better, whereas most of the things thrown out in making white flour were absolutely indigestible. The faddy talk about wholemeal bread was nonsense for the most part."

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