

## BRIC-À-BRAC.

THE LATEST METHOD.—Jones : 'I see Smith has taken to riding a bicycle. What on earth is he doing that for?' Robinson : 'Oh, a very simple reason—to prevent Mrs. Smith going with him.'

IT DOESN'T ALWAYS PAY TO BE MEEK.—'You are an idiot!' angrily exclaimed a domineering wife. 'So my friends said when I married you,' replied the husband. And she became more infuriated than ever.

FROM A LADIES' LOGIC CLASS.—Professor : 'Miss C., give me the example of a true conclusion drawn from two false premises.' Miss C. : 'Logic is an easy study; that's false. I don't like easy studies; that's false. I don't like logic; that's true.'

CELTIC ENGLISH.—Scene—Hurricane deck of West Highland steamer; the fares are about to be collected. Mate vociferously to Donald, a deck hand : 'Donald, come up here and stood where you'll stood, and I'll go doon an' stood where am I.'

A canny Scotchman inquired of a fellow-trader, 'Is Colonel X a man to be trusted?' 'I think you'll find him so,' was the reply. 'If you trust him once, you'll trust him for ever.'

Doctor X is as bad a sportsman as he is a physician; but this does not prevent him, as regularly as the season comes round, from spending a fortnight in the fields with his dog and his gun. 'And that's the only period of the year when he doesn't kill anything,' said one of his colleagues kindly.

Some enthusiastic anglers from Paisley were fishing from Rothesay quay this summer. A small boy among them tumbled into the water, and would have been drowned had not an old veteran jumped in after him and landed him safely. A bystander complimented the angler on his heroism, and asked him if the boy was his son. 'No,' replied the old man, 'but he micht jist as weel hae been. The young rascal had a' the bait in his pouch.'

Squibb's boy has been for some months an inmate of a lawyer's office. He entered with the determination, as he announced to his family, to become Secretary of State. There would seem to be some probability of his succeeding, to judge from the following note sent the other day to his anxious mother, who had inquired why he did not come home to see them oftener : 'The impossibility of my absence will be readily apparent when I convey the intelligence that my senior principal is at the current juncture exhaustively engaged in the preparation of a voluminous series of intercalatory interrogatories to be propounded to a supposedly recalcitrant witness whose testimony is of cardinal importance in the initial stages of an approaching preliminary investigation involving the most momentous consequences.'

## A BALLADE OF EVOLUTION.

In the mud of the Cambrian main  
Did our earliest ancestor dive :  
From a shapeless albuminous grain  
We mortals our being derive.  
He could split himself up into five,  
Or roll himself up like a ball ;  
For the fittest will always survive,  
While the weakest go to the wall.

As an active ascidian again  
Fresh forms he began to contrive,  
Till he grew to a fish with a brain,  
And brought forth a mammal alive.  
With his rivals he next had to strive,  
To woo him a mate and a thrall ;  
So the handsomest managed to wive,  
While the ugliest went to the wall.

At length as an ape he was fain  
The nuts of the forest to rive ;  
Till he took to the low-lying plain,  
And slew but omitted to thrive.  
Thus did cannibal men first arrive,  
One another to swallow and maul :  
And the strongest continued to thrive,  
While the weakest went to the wall.

## ENVOY.

Prince, in our civilized hive,  
Now money's the measure of all :  
And the wealthy in coaches can drive.  
While the needier go to the wall.  
—*St. James' Gazette.*