

ness custom. I wish, too, that people who wear a corset could see the indecency of their own dress as other people see it. A respectable elderly woman, stooping forward, invested in a corset, exposes quite as much of her own person to the patient lying in the room as any opera-dancer does on the stage. But no one will ever tell her this unpleasant truth.—*Notes on Nursing.*

HORRORS OF SWINE AMONG THE SCOTTISH PASSENGERS.—If that animal crossed their path as about to set out on a sea voyage they considered it so unlucky an omen that they would venture off. A clergyman of one of these fishing villages having mentioned this superstition to a clerical friend, and finding he was rather incredulous on the subject, in order to convince him, told him he would allow him an opportunity of testing the truth of it, allowing him to preach for him on the following day. It was arranged that his friend was to read the chapter relating to the herd of swine into which evil spirits were cast. Accordingly, when the first verse was read in which the unclean spirit was mentioned, a slight commotion was observable among the Scottish audience, each of them putting his or her hand on any near object of iron—a nail on the seat or backboard, or the nails on their shoes. At the repetition of the words again and again, more commotion was visible, and the words “cauld air” (cold iron), the antidote to this baneful spell, were heard issuing from various corners of the church. And finally, on his coming over the pulpit again, when the whole herd ran violently down the bank into the sea, the alarmed fishermen, irritated beyond bounds, rose, and left the church in bodies.—*Ramsay's Reminiscences.*

LOWERS AND FOLIAGE OF INDOOR PLANT CASES.—Miss Maling in her interesting little work on this subject, recently published in England, has prominently before us a modified form of indoor case for plants, which is called the Indoor Plant Case, “the original idea of which was of course taken from the Wardian case,” to which the chief addition seems to be the provision of a simple plan for heating, so arranged that the plants may either be cool if they are of the kind to bear a low temperature; or “at 10 degrees notice the heat can be raised to any temperature up to 90 degrees.” When we think of the effect on plants and flowers that during summer months our open drawing-room stands, it is admitted that something more is wanted. “I have, till quite lately,” writes Miss Maling, “been interesting myself in these cases, and trying to work them up to something like the Wardian case, without much noting the time they lasted; still the lamentations of friends and time after time this flower and that and another flower lasting with me, while

theirs meanwhile had gone through many a change—all this made it quite evident that two months were long for primroses, and five weeks for hyacinths; while for geraniums and gloxinias, fuchsias and begonias, I venture not to speak. I may say, most truly, that I know no other means of keeping flowers anything like so long as two months, either in a drawing-room with its dry air, or in a green-house with its passing currents, and certainly not in a garden bed in the finest season. Yet, after all, the secret is a very simple one. It is merely the stillness around them which preserves the flowers so very long unchanged; while the peculiar arrangement by which the heat is supplied provides that soft, dewy atmosphere in which so many of the prettiest plants delight.”

UNLUCKY PEOPLE.—It is a part of the great fact of luck—the indubitable fact that there are men, women, ships, horses, railway engines, whole railways, which are unlucky. I do not believe in the common theory of luck, but no thoughtful or observant man can deny the fact of it. And in no fashion does it appear more certainly than in this, that in the case of some men cross-accidents are always marvelling and the effect they would fain produce. The system of things is against them.

They are not in every case unsuccessful, but whatever success they attain is gained by brave fighting against wind and tide.

At College they carried off many honors, but no such luck ever befel them as that some wealthy person should offer, during their days, some special medal for essay or examination, which they would have gained as of course. There was no extra harvest for them to reap; they could do no more than win all that was to be won. They go to the bar, and they gradually make their way; but the day never comes on which their leader is suddenly taken ill, and they have the opportunity of earning a brilliant reputation by conducting, in his absence, a case in which they are thoroughly prepared. They go into the church and earn a fair character as preachers; but the living they would like never becomes vacant, and when they are appointed to preach on some important occasion, it happens that the ground is a foot deep with snow.—*Frazer's Magazine.*

AMMONIA IN RAIN.—Any one may satisfy himself of the presence of ammonia in rain, by simply adding a little sulphuric or muriatic acid to a quantity of rain water, and by evaporating this nearly to dryness in a clean porcelain basin. The ammonia remains in the residue, in combination with the acid employed, and may be detected either by the addition of a little chloride of platinum, or more simply by a little powdered lime, which separates the ammonia, and thus renders sensible its peculiar pungent smell. The sensation perceived on moistening