

received there they were maxified, by the aid of a magic lantern, to a large size, and thrown upon a screen. A staff of clerks immediately transcribed the messages, and sent them off to the places indicated by the advertisers.

### A CHANCE FOR INVENTORS.

The legislature of New York is discussing a bill that in its provisions offers the sum of 50,000 to any inventor that shall succeed in constructing some device by which some kind of motive power other than animal, can be applied to the propelling of boats on the canals of that state, without injury to the canals themselves. All the applications of the steam engine have been found so objectionable from their agitation of the water, and thus causing injury to the banks of the canals, that they have been discarded. The sum offered looks like a large one, but when we compare it with the advantages that would accrue to commence from the success of the invention, it is really insignificant.

## Hearth and Home.

### "OUR GIRLS."

Dio Lewis has written much that everybody should read. He has written one book that every girl and every woman should read. It is entitled "Our Girls," and is published by Harper & Brothers, of New York.

Hear what he says about ornamenting one's self excessively:

"The trimming mania is frightful. What do you think of one hundred and twenty yards,—three hundred and sixty feet,—four thousand three hundred and sixty inches of ribbon in the trimming of one dress;

"I wish I could command for an hour the pen of Jenkins, and give the names of the various ribbons, and shades of ribbons, of the laces, their origin, styles and value. (Each kind of lace has a history, which is dear to the heart of the devotee of fashion.) I wish I could describe the hundred and one rimps and frills, and things. I wish I could command the pen of one of these amazing writers about woman's dress. I would give you ten pages of it.

"I say again, that the trimming mania has become insufferable. Unless a woman has a dress-maker, she must be the varietal slave.

"Gather in one place all the artists, authoresses, and women of finest and highest culture, and how many of them do you suppose could be bribed to go into the street all rigged out in ribbon, gimp, frills, edgings, ruches, fringes, satins, velvets, buttons, nail-heads, etc., etc.

"I have met many of the women who may be classed as above, and I cannot now recall one who was fashionably trimmed.

"This rage is, in essence, tawdry and vulgar. It is cheap in everything but money.

"What a barbarism to bore a hole in the flesh, and stick in a trinket. I have seen several ears in which the ring had cut its way out, making a slit, and a new hole had been punched in one of the pieces.

"Men have fallen into this vulgar barbarism. American savages offer many instances of men with gold or silver trinkets in the ears. But among lower savages in different parts of the world the custom is quite general, and many of them add an ornament in the nose.

"My own wife, in her girlhood, had her ears pierced, but I have never seen them embellished with trinkets."

### HARD BEDS

The idea that the soft side of a plank makes the best couch when one gets used to it, was long ago exploded. People who know "what is what," who read the newspapers and mean to be somebody, don't believe a word of it. Those who have settled down to a Diogenes-in-the-tub life accept the doctrine. It is true that the tired man or woman will sleep soundly on a hard bed, and habit may make the hardness dear to them. It is also true that Napoleon's soldiers slept while on their march homeward from Russia, and some of them may have become attached to locomotion and sleep united. Notwithstanding all this, those who have once felt the almost human kindness and warmth of a hair mattress beneath them, cannot go back to straw and husks without a pang.

We do not recommend softness, but elasticity. Feathers, except in very cold weather, are unwholesome, because they retain an excess of warmth about the body, and also because they absorb the perspiration thrown off by the pores, and permit the body to re-absorb the excrementitious matter. A bed of soft, fresh straw, evenly distributed and covered with a thin cotton or wollen mattress, may be a good resting place, and furnish sweet sleep. But how can man or woman rise refreshed, from a couch of straw or shuck mattress, which has been in nightly use without renewal for a series of years? Yet there are portions of this very land of plenty, where travellers are put to sleep upon just such beds as this.

Every man in grazing districts, may own a dozen or two coarse-wooled sheep. These and their increase will in a short time give him wool mattresses, than which none are more pleasant, more wholesome, or durable. The tag-locks washed and carded, should be hoarded by every farmer's wife for this purpose. In cities and villages, and in the more populous parts of our country, those who can afford good sleeping places generally have them.

As a general rule the better care one takes of his or her body, in feeding it with skill, clothing it with discretion, and giving it due and refreshing sleep, the more work he can do, and the higher the quality of his work.—Selected

### WASTE PAPER FOR HOUSEHOLD USES.

Few housekeepers have time to black their stoves every day, or even every week. Many wash them in either clear water or dish-water. This keeps them clean, but they look very brown. After a stove has once been thoroughly blacked, it can be kept looking perfectly well for a long time by rubbing it with paper every morning.

If I occasionally find a spot of gravy or fruit-juice that the paper will not take off, I rub it with a wet cloth, but do not put on water enough to take