French Mother-in-Law is a Diplomat

Why, asks a writer in The London, English mother-in-laws would not glad-Daily Mail, is the mother-in-law a failure in England and a success in

"The English attitude toward her," she writes, "is aptly expressed in the hideous appellation 'mother-in-law!' Who could love a mother with the legal reminder tacked on? How much ore gracious is the courtly French esignation 'Belle Mere'!

"Of course, they have the mother-inlaw joke in France, but it is without malice, and in most cases without meaning, for Belle Mere is, far more often than not, an unmitigated success and a most welcome addition to the acousehold. In France it is rare for wife's mother to keep a separate establishment. Think of the expense establishment. Think of the expense mother who shares the house, she sets—and how much beter to share in- a halo upon the wfe. True, Belle come and motor car! Thus the young menage can afford a larger house and indulge in luxuries that might other

wise be beyond their grasp.
"But Belle Mere's benevolences do not stop here. The housekee passes into her experienced hands and she sees to it that during the first critical months of married life the young wife shall be free to go out with her husband and join in his plea sures and amusements.

"Later, too, when babies arrive, Belle Mere establishes herself as nurse in chief. It is she who accomplishes the children to the park or plays with them untiringly throughout

a rainy day.
"'What would you?' she says. 'My daughter must occupy herself with her husband. Otherwise . . .

When the King Opens

There are a pair of gates in London

that are kept permanently shut to

conveyances every day of the year ex-

cept one. These gates lead out of

Dean's Yard, Westminster, into a lane

Yeomen of the Guard still search the

ment, to ensure the safety of the

When the Sovereign reaches the

stand on the towers of the Houses of

Parliament, and send their messages

to other signallers on Government of-

thence it is conveyed to the troops be

Ministers await the arrival of the

King outside the House, and then take

up their position in the procession to

the Lords. Usually a large number of

to summons the Commons, who ente

national situation, and reviews the

legislation it is intended to introduce

during the next Parliamentary year.

Idea from Shepherd.

Robert Raikes, of Gloucester, is

almost one mass of thyme.

of the New Testament.

was a class every Sunday.

journey that was no doubt deemed cor-

peeresses attend as well.

the King's speech.

monarch and his Ministers.

under the Houses of Parlia-

Parliament.

"Yet there is nothing in all this that Belle Mere!"

won over to the daughter's viewpoint Oh, how wise and how truly kind is

Dangers of Dry Air in Homes.

ly do. Why, then, must English n

result in tears.

lies in tact and tactics

chter-in-law.

the young wife.

British mother-in-law!

"And Belle Mere?

his dinner?'

ers and married daughters live rigidly apart? Even a visit from mother-in-law to a young menage is too apt to

"The reason is not far to seek.

"From the moment her child is mar-

It is to idolise her son-

ried the French mother disciplines herself to what she considers a sacred

"The wife's mother and husba

speedily become fact friends. He consults her in all his difficulties. She

even advises him in his business af-

"Similarly if it is the husband's

Mere does the housekeeping, sees to

the cooking, helps with the sewing,

But the glory of it all she ascribes to

"How different is the method of the

" 'My darling,' she whispers, as soon

as she enters her son-in-law's house

tell me, are you happy? Is he all you

" 'My little,' she exclaims, 'that

young man is adorable and he wor-

ships you. But what have you got for

"In the quarrels of everyday life

Belle Mere invariably supports her

son-in-law. But, strange to say, both mother and husband are frequently

thought him? Is he kind to you?.

The air of our houses in the winter time is drier than that of any desert. This is not good for folks, one disadvantage of it being that the mucous membrane which lines the nose pas sages and throat is kept too dry, and liability to colds is increased.

that runs straight down to the House To remedy the trouble resort is had of Lords. They are only opened on o various expedients, such as keeping the day on which his Majesty the King supply of water in receptacles atopens Parliament in person.
On that day his Majesty proceeds ached to the furnace, in order that it may meisten the air by its evaporafrom Buckingham Palace in a wonder-This helps, though inadequate old coach, drawn by fet-black for the purpose. horses. Whilst the King is on his way

There is no such thing as absolutely dry air in nature. Always it contains more or less water, though a quantity of it may be rendered entirely waterfree in the laboratory.

The percentage of water that air can House of Lords guus are fired in St. hold in suspension depends upon the James' Park. The moment of arrival temperature of the latter. In air at 70 is signalled by hand. Flag-signallers degrees Fahrenheit there may be as much as eight grains of water to the cubic foot, but no more. It is then the land was inundated by a flood staturated." This means that sixty which wind out out only This means that sixty overlooking the park. From cubic feet of air would be required to hold one pound of water.

But air at 10 degrees will hold in suspension a little more than twentysix grains of water. On the other hand, air at a tem-

perature 20 degrees below zero can old less than one-fifth of a grain of water

Everybody stands, and it is "hats oft" for the Black Rod when he passes A glass of ice water in a warm room down the central corridor on his way apidly accumulates moisture on its outside. This is because the air ima few minutes later at a rapid march mediately surrounding the glass is their pace is always quick-to hear cooled and thereby rendered unable to hold its water, which condenses upon The King's Speech is prepared by the surface of the glass. the Cabinet, and deals with the inter-

The clouds in the sky are composed of tiny globules of water. Formerly it was supposed they were hollow like soap bubbles; else, it was argued, how could they float?

Sunday School Founder Got The "Phrenology" Humbug.

There has recently been a marked snowledged as the founder of the Sun- and charlatans are coming money by day School, says the London Dally examining people's "bumps" and draw-News, but nothing is neard of Eming therefrom analytical conclusions manuel Twynning, the shepherd of in regard to their talents and traits Magpie Bottom, Sheepscombe, Glou- of character.

cestershire, from whom Raikes got his The cleverer fakers in this line sne cialize in the alleged study of physiog-Magpie Bottom is a beautiful nomy as indicative of psychic traits crinkle at the edge of Sheepscombe, etc. This sort of thing "goes" wonderwhere the lane departs down the valfully well, inasmuch as the average ley, at last reaching Gloucester, eight person is much interested in his own miles away," the writer says. "I don't face and in what it may be supposed know where marjoram grows so well to express.

as along the dry banks of the lane by Physical anthropologists, however, Magpie Bottom; and the common-like are firm in asserting that there is field just over the wall is in summer nothing whatever in the idea. is no essential relation between the From Gloncester to Sheepscombe features of a human individual and his is a good deal more than the Sabbath character-beyond, of course, the fact that disposition and temperament may rect in the time of Robert Raikes; and and commonly do so modify the musthe young man must have been up cular structure, especially about the here to take a service. At any rate, mouth, as to render the expression in-Magpie Bottom there dicative. Thus, for example, a sour was shepherd Emmanuel Twynning in temper or a crafty habit of mind will that the messeented little paradise, show itself in a person's face more with a wing of children round him, ex- and more as he grows older.

plaining perhaps the pastoral parables A prominent chin does not neces sarily signify firmness of character; "Master Bob Raikes stopped, pernor, when exaggerated, does it mean haps joined in a hymn and talked to brutality. Story-writers nowadays the shopherd, asking him how he went teach us that eyes set "too close toon when it's weather was not so favor gether", indicate slyness and meanable. He was told that on wet days ness. There is no more truth in that , indicate slyness and meanbandy cottage sheltered the idea than in the notion that a big nose class, and that; come wet or fine, there suggests generosity.

"Thring the walk back to Gloucester ed one might say that it depends fun-Where beauty of feature is concern the thought book root and, without the damentally upon the shape of the skull thyme and the marjoram and the in- mask. A woman's skull is more light. treme. consequent chirruping of grasshop-pers, took a book up his shepherding even the texture of its bones is more in the and streets of the cathedral delicate.

> A "duck of a man" often makes goose of a husband.

work, stand it near a fire so that the they ate chaff and that three-fourths oil may melt, and then remove and of a pound of this had to suffice for clean with pure paraffin, putting it six persons for a day. In a village or active service during the war; 103 into every oil hole. Work the machine nearby a population of 2,000 before well, and then wipe every part with had dwindled to 200. a clean cloth.

THEORETSAME IN NORTH CHINA

THE RESULT OF FLOOD AND OF DROUGHT.

Five Provinces, Chihli, Shan tung, Honan, Shensi and Shansi, Swept by Scourge

In Cidna ten persons are dying every minute from starvation. This means that six hundred people pass away each hour and fifteen thousand penish between sunrise and sunrise. Fortyfive millions are directly affected and one-third of this number are actually starving and will succumb before spring. Such is the appalling situation to-day in the land of the yellow man in what is rapidly becoming the

The world's ear has long been attuned to the piteous plea for help. Un-til the great Chinese famine developed, most of the appeals for aid have come from the innocent victims of The tragedy there was man-The Far Eastern which now implores the assistance of western civilization is the result of food and drought. Man had no part in sowing this whirlwind of death and suffering. The elements are solely

Eighty-five Millions Affected.

Clearly to understand the dreadful Chinese dilemma you must know first of all that in the northeastern corner of the oriental republic are the provinces of Chihli, Shantung, Honan, Shensi and Shansi, five of the most populous districts of a much-populated country. Under normal co eighty-five million people live here. and they comprise more than one fourth of the entire human element in China. Ninety per cent. are farmers, whose principal crops have been wheat, millet, corn and beans. So densely settled is this region that the crops, large es they are in ordinary times, are barely sufficient to feed the inhabitants. And decrease in productivity, therefore, automatically works a hardship because in this particular section of China transportation facilities are hopelessly inadequate.

The people of these five province are simple, frugal and thirfty folk. They usually harvest two crops a year. In 1916 the output was only fair and there began the series of circumstances which has now engulfed then in sorrow and suffering. Before the autumn harvest was well under way which wiped out entire towns and villages, ravaged the countryside and caused a loss of \$100,000,000.

The Chinaman is by temperament a stoic, and the farmers began to rebuild their shattered fortunes. Illluck dogged them, because the crops of 1917 and 1918 were reduced. Still they persisted and again sowed the fields in 1919. Both crops that year, as well as the following year, were complete failures. The net result is that the advent of the present winter found eighty-five millions of people virtually stripped of sustenance without resource of any kind. What little grain had been husbanded was soon wiped out. When hundreds of thousands sought to escape to other provinces and take up the burden of life anew, they were met by cordons of police at the frontiers and forbidden to enter. Forced back to their own desolate firesides they had to make the most out of nothing.

Greatest Calamity in Hist

Other calamities pale before this colassal visitation. The world war cost approximately 17,500, lives. The black death in England in 1348 and 1349 caused 2,000,000 deaths. The Irish famine of 1846 killed 1,000,000, and the Indian famine of 1866 took toll of 1,450,000. The Chinese famine of 1878 with its 9,500,000 victims does not equal the present peril which, as I have already intimated, will depopulate China to the extent of 15,000,000 before it has run its dread course. It s, therefore, the supreme affliction vet imposed upon mankind.

The whole pain-ridden narrative of human suffering contains no more poignant revelations than are disclosed in China to-day. Here are some specimen chapters of tragedy culled from the larger story of a nation in distress:

A missionary encountered a woman wailing on the banks of a river. When he asked her the cause of her grief she

"I have thrown my baby into the waters rather than have him die of starvation in my arms as two of my accustomed to eat. And we might add other little ones did."

Along the highways in the devastated area it is no uncommon sight to behold girls tied to trees by their the gradual decrease in the body's parents and left to starve. This shows that the pangs of hunger have driven many thousands of men and women insane. With this maddening hunger has been born a desperation that forces parents to every terrible ex-

To visit the famine field is to touch grief and encounter sacrifice. Life is literally eked out. In Honan a representative of the Associated Press found a family lying exhausted by the roadside. When he asked them how When a sewing machine will not they had subsisted they told him that

A family of five plodded northward

and the worst is yet to come



on the public road in the Shensi province until the mother's strength failed. Their funds were exhausted and they had to have food, The eldest child, a girl, was sold at the first vil-lage for ten dollars. Before the day ended the mother dropped again; she was unable to carry her newly born baby any further, and it was thrown into a convenient well. Three day later this entire family had been wiped out. It is a common occurrence.

.II. Wellington

Collapse of Family Structure,

I could continue these stories of acrifice and suffering indefinitely. Yet I have only revealed one phase of the nideous picture. The famine area is blasted and blighted. Some parts of it are like the ravished region of northern France. The farmers have stripped their houses of everything and this even includes the wooden supports and roofs. In order to obtain money for food, the animals land, furniture, farm implements clothing and bedding are being dis osed of at pathetically low prices.

A lamentable feature of this sordid drama, and one of the most difficult elements that will enter into the ultimate problem of reconstruction, is the utter collapse of the Chinese family structure. Many of the farmers in the afflicted area are selling their farms at from one-fifth to one-tenth the nor mal price. Wealthy men in the market towns and some from outside the ravaged area—the vultures that pres on need-are buying up these parcels of land and extorting the hard bar born of dire distress. This means that the farmer, whose principal asset is his plot of ground hecomes an outcast. If he should survive these days of gloom his hearth. and noblest lady of the land. tone is destroyed and he becomes wanderer on the face of the earth.

ranges from fifteen to twenty mouths. With the land gone it is impossible to earn enough in one generation to buy back the lost acres. In China land is it passes from generation to generation. Thus the cataclysm that sweeps through the prostrate region is not only sending millions to the grave but carrying other millions down into the hopeless sink of poverty.

China is doing her share. Provinces, officials and merchants have contributed largely to the relief fund. A governor general of one province, who recently died, made a bequest of half a million dollars in his will. A wealthy Chinese merchant of the Straits Settlements has donated \$1,500,000. Merchants' Guild of Shanghai contri buted \$1,000,000. Chinese students in Peking borrowed from Canadians their Tag Day and raised thousands of dollars for the sufferers in this enterprising western manner.

Longevity and Chewing.

How reasonable it would seem to be o learn to chew food twice as long as we do, and as a natural consequence, eat half as much as we are that a natural result also would be that we would live twice as long. Old age comes on, we are told, by

power to eliminate waste matter. People who practice "Fletcherizing." or very thorough chewing, are adding many years to their lives.

We are accustomed to thinking of meat as being the only food which requires very thorough mastication. Everything we eat or drink should be taken slowly so as to be well mixed Even milk should be with saliva. slowly sipped instead of being drunk

Any practice which eliminates doc tors' bills and improves the health is a great economy, of course, but think, too, of cutting that grocery bill in half! When ordering two pounds of steak for dinner, remember that one pound will do even better than twoif you take time to chew it well,

The First Tag Day.

Montem, a curious custom long ago allowed to lapse, used to be an institution at the great public school of Eton in England. In his reminiscences, Mr Montagu Williams gives us a descrip

Montem took place once every three rears. It was originally founded for the benefit of any college student who in his last year attained the highest place in the school, but who, by reason of no vacancy's occurring in time had not the luck to be sent up to King's College, Cambridge. All the money that was taken, under the peculiar name of "salt," pockets on the day that he left, and was supposed to go a long way toward paying his expenses at either Oxford or Cambridge. The amount collected was sometimes one thousand of even twelve hundred pounds.

There was a certain number of sixthform, or upper division, boys, who wore fancy dresses and acted as salt bearers. They carried large silken bags into which they put the money collected from visitors and passers by. The donors received in return for their contributions little pieces of blue paper on which was inscribed the motto for the montem of that particu lar year. The cotto for the last mon tem was pro more et monte.

Royalty itself was not free from the tax. Two salt bearers were stationed at Windsor Bridge, and when the queen drove down the hill-and she never missed a montem—the elder of the two stepped forward, stopped the carriage and, taking off his hat with the words, "Salt, Your Majesty, salt," placed under contribution the highest

The average Chinese family group X-Ray Aids Customs Officials. It is hard to see how we managed to get along without the X-ray. Nowhold the domestic circle together or to adays it finds so many employments, most of them very necessary. Surgeons use the X-ray to examine fractures of bones; dentists, to discover lible to music; the specimen at the Zoo hidden abscesses at the roots of teeth,

> The newest use for the mysterious ray, however, is to detect dodgers of smugglers. Packages are examined for contraband without disturbing the wrappings; cakes of soap in which may be concealed are similarly inspected, and the customs officers do not hesitate to go so far as to radiograph the shoes a woman has on her feet. She is not even obliged to take them off. There may be a ring hidden in the heel of a neat boot, or in the sole.

> During the war the X-ray was used to detect contraband in bales of cot-ton and other material shipped to Europe. It did the work so well that many manufacturers and shippers make a business of "shadowgraphing" articles in search of flaws.

One of the most remarkable new uses for the X-ray is to detect the presence of valuable pearls in mussels and pearl oysters. This is already done commercially in Ceylon. Oysters which are thereby proved not to contain pearls are restored to the beds, thus avoiding their needless destruction.

Tree Seeds for Great Britain.

In response to requests from forestry authorities in the United Kingdom tree seeds were collected in British Columbia by officers of the Dominion Forestry Branch. These were forwarded to the Forestry Commissioners for Great Britain to be used in the carrying out of reforestation plans under way in the United Kingdom. The seeds included those of Douglas fir, Sitka spruce, alpine fir, and of other species which the British authorities desire to test .- Annual Report, Director of Forestry, Ott. wa.

The Pacific coast of Costa Rica produces a species of shellfish from which a rich purple dye for silk is obtained.

Matching Wits With a Grizzly,

The cunning of an old bear that Mr. Enos A. Mills tells about in his book The Grizzly, shows what a wity antag-onist you will have against you if you ever try to match wits with old eph-

After passing an hour or more with out seeing the bear, says Mr. Milles who was following a grizzly to study his behavior, I climbed a cliff, hoping to get a glimpse of him on some ridge ahead. I could see his line of tracks crossing a low ridge beyond and felt that he might still be an hour or so in the lead. But I describe the lead of th the lead. But in descending the cliff. I chanced to look back along my trail. Just at that moment the bear came out of the woods behind me. He was trailing me!

I do not know how he discovered that I was following him. He may rate, instead of coming directly back and thus exposing himself, he had very nearly carried out his well-pland surprise when I discovered him. I found out afterwards that, leaving his trail far ahead of me, he had turned and walked back in his own footprints for a distance. After trampling this stretch a number of times he had leaped into scrubby timber and made off on the side where his tracks did

Afer discovering him on my trail I went slowly along as if unaware of his presence. He followed within three hundred feet of me. When I stopped he stopped. He occasionally watched me from behind bushes, a tree or a

I concluded to turn the tables on him. After crossing a ridge where I was for the moment out of his sight, I turned to the right and ran for nearly a mile. Then, circling back into our old trail behind the bear, I travelled serenely along, imagining that he was far ahead. I was suddenly start-led to see his shadow move from behind a boulder near the trail, only three hundred feet ahead of me! At the place where I had left the trail to circle behind him he had stopped and apparently guessed my me or, turning in his tracks, he had come a short distance back on the trail and lain down behind the boulder to wait for me.

I went on a few steps after discover ing him, and he moved to keep out of sight. I edged toward a tall spruce, which I planned to climb if he charged. Pausing by the spruce, I could see his silver-gray fur as he peered at me from behind the boulder. I concluded finally that it was best not to follow him farther. Going a short distance lown among the trees, I built a rousing fire. Between it and the cliff I spent the night, satisfied that I had ad adventure enough for one outing.

Music Hath Charms.

Do animals like music? The effect of it on various wild creatures was reently studied at the London Zoological Gardens. For most of the tests a violinist supplied the music.

Whether tarantulas listened or did ot listen could not be determined; they remained unmoved and sulky. Not so the scorpions: after a few notes, they became agitated and writhed and danced tumultuously; their excitement increased with every crescendo and decreased with every dimin-

In the reptile cages the effect was nore marked. The monster lizard listened and swayed; the black snakes were attentive and started up and hissed. A box crept as close as possible to the instrument and seemed enraptured. Of all the snakes the cobra is said to be the most sur did not belie the reputation of its kind. On hearing the violin it raised itself on its tail in the traditional attitude. spread its hood and swayed to and fro.

The polar bear stood up at the front of its cage to listen and showed much pleasure. The wolves snarled and cowered in fear, with their tails between their legs. Their hair bristled, and their bodies quivered with fright The foxes and jackals acted in the same way.

The elephant did not care for the music; on the contrary it trumpeted and snorted with rage. Some of the monkeys listened eagerly, with nods and gestures of appreciation; others scowled and turned away in disgust.

After the violinist, players on the piccolo and the flute performed. As rule, the shrill notes of the piccolo annoyed, frightened or enraged the animals, whereas the softer tones of the flute soothed and pleased them.

Motoring on a Wall.

The first motor vehicle introduced into West China has caused a great sensation.

A missionary residing in Szechanu returning from a holiday, took back with him a motor-cycle, the gift of some friends in America. It is the first thing on wheels seen west of Hankow, and the ewner spends mos of his time demonstrating its powers to schools and civic bodies in the previncial capital.

This motor-cycle has given its own er more publicity than all the mission ary work he has done in the city.

There is a certain amount of thril in navigating the first motor-cycle through the narrow streets of a Chi nese city, and up to the present the only comfortable place for driving has been found to be the top of the city

Your body contains as much phos phorus as 5.000 boxes of motches.

in Glencester lire, though at Sheepscombe frere are at present none." There were 426 Canadian chaplains

gained rorrie, 21 were wounded, and

There we will plenty of Twynnings