

evaporation becomes a cement to hold the particles of dust, &c., and to remove them requires both chemical and mechanical action. Warm water softens this cement, expands the furrows and makes the skin pliable; so that by rubbing, the soil is disturbed and partially removed. But chemistry must aid a little before the process is complete; soap is therefore added, the alkali of which unites with the oily matters, and the whole is easily disposed of. The towel is useful, because its soft threads of fibres work down among the furrows like so many little brooms, sweeping them out, hence it should be soft and pliable. Flannel is preferable to cotton for this purpose, and a sponge is best of all. Harsh, strong alkaline soap should be avoided, as it abstracts all the oil from the upper layer of the skin, and makes it chap or crack. Cold-cream soap is best, being neutral. Where a sponge is not obtainable, a very neat and serviceable wash cloth may be knit of soft cotton twine, either with a crotchet or white coarse wooden needles, knitting backwards and forwards, as garters are knit. A mitten knit of this cotton with a crotchet needle is very handy for this purpose, and makes a neat article for the washstand.

"IT'S VERY HARD."

"It's very hard to have nothing to eat but porridge, when others have every sort of dainty," muttered Charlie, as he sat with his wooden bowl before him.

"It's very hard to have to get up so early on these bitter cold mornings, and work hard all day, when others can enjoy themselves without an hour of labor."

"It's very hard to have to trudge along through the snow, while others roll about in their coaches."

"It's a great blessing," said his grandmother, as she sat at her knitting, "it's a great blessing to have a roof over one's head, when so many are homeless; it's a great blessing to have sight, and hearing, and strength for daily labor, when so many are blind, deaf, or suffering."

"Why, grandmother, you seem to think that nothing is hard," said the boy, still in a grumbling tone.

"No, Charlie, there is one thing that I think very hard."

"What's that?" cried Charlie, who thought that at last his grandmother had found some cause for complaint.

"Why, boy, I think that heart is very hard that is not thankful for so many blessings."

MOSQUITOES.

The Scientific American describes the origin of these annoying insects as follows:—

These pests of summer proceed from *animacules*, commonly termed the "wiggly tails." If a bowl of water is placed in the summer's sun for a few days, a number of wiggle-tails will be visible and will continue to increase in size until they reach three-sixteenths of an inch in length, remaining longer on the surface as they approach maturity, as if seeming to live on the influence derived from the two elements of air and water; finally they will assume a chrysalis form, and by an increased specific gravity sink to the bottom; a few hours only will elapse when a short black furze or hair will grow out on every side of each, and it assumes the form of a minute caterpillar. Its specific gravity being thus counteracted, it is wafted to the side of the bowl by the slightest breath of air. In a short time a fly will be hatched and escape, leaving its tiny house on the surface of the waters. Any one who has had a cistern in the yard, has doubtless observed the same effect every summer, although he may be ignorant of the beautiful and simple process of development. If a pitcher or cistern or other water is placed in a close room over night, from which all mosquitoes have been excluded, enough mosquitoes will breed in it during the night, to give any amount of trouble. The necessity of keeping yards and the surface of the ground near houses entirely free from stagnant water, in order to diminish the number of these "night birds," is evident.

THE CEDARS OF LEBANON.

The cedars have diminished from a forest to a grove. The prophecy of Isaiah has long since been fulfilled, and "Lebanon is turned into a fruitful field," "the rest of the trees of his forest are few that a child may write them." The cedars of Lebanon scarcely occupy a space equal to two acres of ground; but Lebanon is a fruitful field—the mulberry tree gives its luscious fruit, and the harvests are spontaneously yielded in autumn.

SIAMESE WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

Up to the age of ten years Siamese children are not troubled with any superabundance of clothing, and it is seldom that a child is seen wearing a garment sufficient to cover its body, except on days of festivals. Jewels, sometimes of great value, are put on children. Among the higher classes, girls and boys, up to the age of twelve, wear a number of gold chains, sometimes four, six or seven at a time, all different, and each having some amulet or ornament attached. The hair is allowed to grow long on the front part of the head, but the rest is kept shaved, leaving this circular patch to be twisted into a knot, which is kept in its place by a long ornamental pin. Often a wreath of white jessamine is twined to fit closely about this knot, and the effect is pretty. Boys and girls are dressed—if their scant measure of clothing may be called dress—exactly alike, so that it is not easy to distinguish them.

At the age of twelve, the lock is cut off, leaving a patch which bears a strong resemblance to a small, black hair brush. This, in a man, is combed back and allowed to grow a degree longer than in the woman; not so much so, however, as to suggest any marked difference to a stranger. The women keep their locks carefully oiled, combed and gunned, to stand upright, and they take infinite pains to keep the top of this brush smooth as velvet.

A Siamese lady's hair is held to be in perfect order when she can plunge into the river, and duck her head many times under the water without disturbing the smoothness and uprightness of her native hair brush. The ceremony of cutting off the lock of hair is kept with entertainments and rejoicings. It is the great event in young Siamese life, and resembles the coming out amongst young ladies in other countries; for in Siam, children are supposed to reach years of discretion rather early.

After a girl marries, she gives up the wearing of ornaments and trinkets. These are set aside and reserved for her children in their turn. Boys have an opportunity of learning to read by entering themselves as neophytes, or attendants on the priests. Whether girls have any schools or persons authorised to teach them, I do not know; but it is not uncommon in Siam to find women able to read and write. If