

YOUNG FOLKS

A MAGIC GARDEN.

Gertrude and Fannie played on one side of the fence, and Jessie and Alice on the other side. It was a picket fence, and so they could look through it and talk to each other between the pickets. Jessie and Alice had a set of paper dolls that came from the city. They were beautiful dolls, with dresses and hats which could be taken off and put on. One dress made the doll look like an English girl holding a flag, and another like an Irish girl, and the Irish girl had the cunningest fat pig under her arm. Then there was a dress that turned the doll into an Indian, and still another which made her a Dutch girl with wooden shoes, and a basket on her arm. Gertrude and Fannie's dolls were cut from magazines, and their dresses were some the girls had made from tissue-paper, and gold lace which the grocer had taken off a raisin-box and given them.

Gertrude and Fannie liked their dolls very much, and they had lots of fun making clothes for them, but they thought they never had seen any quite so nice as Jessie and Alice's. They all played happily together, but Gertrude and Fannie longed for something that should be as wonderful as the dolls.

"They always have nicer things than we do," said Gertrude one day.

"Yes," answered Fannie. "And they've got such a smart kitten! Jessie said last morning, when they would not let it in, it climbed up on the outside of the screen door and opened the top with its paw, and squeezed through, and then climbed down on the inside. That was pretty smart, I think, but our Puff can sit up on her hind legs and beg, and there are not many cats that will do that."

"No, indeed!" answered Gertrude. "But I wish, she added, 'that we could have something that would just make them open their eyes,' and she made her own so big as she said it that Fannie was almost startled."

"I just wish we could astonish them," they were not joking or cross over the matter, but they did love to surprise people.

It was not long after this that Gertrude and Fannie received a letter from a cousin who lived several miles away. "I have been having such fun," she wrote, "surprising people with magic gertrudes."

Gertrude and Fannie put their heads very close together at this, to read what followed, and then they clapped their hands.

"Just the thing!" exclaimed Gertrude. "Now we will have something to show Jessie and Alice, and won't they wonder about it?"

So they set out to gather a bunch of the violets which were to be found growing in abundance in a marshy field with them. About an hour later they ran out to the picket fence and called to Jessie and Alice.

"Wouldn't you like a bunch of violets?" asked Gertrude, handing a few through the fence.

"Why, yes," answered Jessie, in a somewhat surprised tone, and then she stopped in greater surprise, for the blossoms which Gertrude handed her were a beautiful shade of green.

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HOW CAPTAIN COOK DIED

HIJ RASHNESS WAS TO BLAME FOR THE TRAGEDY.

New Manuscript History Tells Story of His Voyage — Written by a Sailor.

There has recently been presented to the British Museum a manuscript volume entitled "Capt. Cook's Last Voyage, 1789." It was written by James Law, who served under the great discoverer on other small craft surrounding the British vessel; but at first nothing in the nature of hostility was encountered. On the contrary, the sailors readily acquired by trading such commodities as hogs for sailing, salt, and vegetables, and an "Elacon," or priest, even gave the commander a sucking pig as a peace offering. With the sucking pig he brought a piece of cloth, and after muttering some incantations he solemnly tied it round Captain Cook's neck.

It was not long, however, before trouble began, and it was brought about in the first place by the irresistible propensity the savages had for stealing, or, as Law quaintly puts it, "making use of their fingers too freely." They actually "conveyed" a wooden nail from the after hatchway of one of the ships, together with Capt. Cook's small boat's rudder, and other portable property. Some set to work industriously to rub off the sheathing of the Discovery, and, being discovered, seemed aggrieved on being told that their conduct was not permissible. The immediate cause of the final catastrophe was the trumpety theft of a pair of tongs and a chisel from the armorer's forge. The thief made off in a canoe, and a party of men in a canoe started in pursuit, while many muskets were fired at the canoes from the men on board ship. After this Captain Cook determined to secure the king as a hostage, and the narrative henceforth to the Captain's death had best be given in Law's own words, simply modifying the spelling somewhat.

As soon as he (Captain Cook) landed (from the pinnace) with a body of nine men, he went to the king's house, and asked him to go on board, which the latter very readily agreed to. The people on shore were alarmed at Captain Cook coming with such a body to invade their islands, and though the old king had got down to the beach, he prevailed upon him to go back, telling him he wanted to hurt him. One of his children stayed in the pinnace waiting for his father a long time till he was afraid. While King Oboe was hesitating whether he should go on board or stay, a man, more cautious than the rest in getting him back to his house, was exceeding saucy, and behaved in a very insolent manner to Captain Cook, who gave him a load of small shot.

CAPT. COOK SHOOT A NATIVE.

"At this the native took no kind of notice, but laughed, which so enraged the Captain that he shot him dead with a ball (having a double-barrelled gun). This accident made the natives very angry, and several spears to revenge the death of the man, who, I believe, was an Aroon. Had Captain Cook come down to the boats directly, as he was advised, it would most probably have hindered some bloodshed, but he wrongly thought, as he said, that the flash of a musket would disperse the whole island. Led on by these ideas, he harkened to no advice till it was too late. When he got down to the beach a man came behind him and knocked him down with a club on his knees.

DASHED ON ROCKS.

"He immediately got up and rushed vent alone into the middle of the crowd, following the man, who he bears with the butt-end of his piece. He returned and was standing on the rocks when another came behind him, and stabbed him in the small of the back, which threw him into the water, not being able to swim. The rascal, seeing this, rushed on with great eagerness to the marines, and killed four, the other five being away their shot, were forced to swim off to the boats, leaving their arms behind them.

The natives pulled Captain Cook up on shore, and dashed his head against the rocks, and stabbed him in different places, though at the same time our people were firing at them from the boats. Out of the five marines that swam off two were unhurt. The lieutenant received a slight wound, either with a stone or dagger, on the left shoulder, the sergeant two, one on the thigh another on the head.

"The left (the remaining man) was a private who could not swim, besides a fractured skull, and would have sunk had not the lieutenant jumped out of the boat and saved him. It seemed the natives were not ignorant of our intentions, as while the old king was hesitating whether he would go on board or stay, a man made an effort to stab the lieutenant of marines with an iron spike, at which the latter, at Captain Cook's orders, pushed him back."

PROGRESS OF SCIENCE IN THE FURTHEST NORTH

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE PAST YEAR.

Mostly Along Practical Lines—Engineering, Physics, Photography, Chemistry.

There has been little sensational to mark the progress of science during the last twelve months. The attention of the public has been chiefly directed towards principles, or, rather, to the practical utilization of instruments already designed. Thus, considerable interest has been attached to Dr. Schliek's successful demonstration of a gyroscope on the rolling of a ship at sea; to Mr. Brannan's working model of a mono-railway, which owes the stability of its construction to the presence of two gyroscopes revolving in opposite directions; and to the successful installation by Marconi of a trans-Atlantic wireless telegraphy apparatus.

Among other notable instances of applied science are achievements such as the wireless telephone, the new instrument for transmitting pictures and photographs by telegraphy, and the building of the Lusitania and Mauretania, which have succeeded in reducing the time record of trans-Atlantic travel.

REVOLUTIONARY DISCOVERIES.

In pure theory, the experiments of Sir William Ramsay on radium phenomena and his expressed belief that he has succeeded in accomplishing the transmutation of elements have fascinated those who are at all interested in the constitution of matter. The results which are expected from the work that is now being done on a comparatively large amount of radium salt at Vienna are being awaited with very great interest.

It will be remembered that among other claims, Sir William Ramsay believes that he has succeeded in degrading the copper in a solution of copper sulphate into the first member of its group, lithium, and also into sodium by subjecting it to the influence of radium emanation.

The question of atomic disintegration is receiving greater attention year by year, and the results obtained from a mass of laborious research are of very great theoretical importance. A number of workers even urge that such a doctrine has been brought to show that the stability of matter, and of energy should be definitely abandoned.

BACTERIOLOGY.

The bacteriologists can claim the earliest recognition for their valuable work in Malta. The abandonment of cows' milk as an article of diet by all Europeans has entirely eliminated Malesse fever, and made the island one of the healthiest and most popular stations in the Mediterranean. More evidence has been brought to show that the rat flea is responsible for the dissemination of plague in India; knowledge has been accumulated on sleeping sickness; advance has been made in its early diagnosis, and experiments are being conducted in the hopes of discovering a remedy.

Antimony is one of the latest drugs that have been employed. It has been shown that typhoid bacilli may remain dormant for several years in a person who has suffered from the disease, and an epidemic may thus be started by the bacillus which, when they are long been cured. Anti-typhoid inoculation is being widely practised in Germany.

IMPRESSIONS OF A YEAR SPENT AMONG ESQUIMAUX.

Book by Knud Rasmussen, which is Unique as the Story of a Primitive People.

Knud Rasmussen, whose mother was an Esquimaux woman of Danish Greenland, whose father was a Dane and who has lived most of his 27 years in his native land for a year in the huts of the Smith Sound natives, the most northern people of the world. The book has been translated from Danish into German and is attracting much attention because it has great literary merit, and also the story of a primitive people it is unique.

He had rare advantages for writing such a narrative, because he is an educated man, trained as an ethnologist and partly of the same blood as the tribe that opened their doors and hearts to him. He went among them as a brother, they welcomed him sympathetically and affectionately, and their idiom differs so little from his own that he was one of them from the day they first saw him.

THE SUNLESS WINTER.

and he joined them in the hunt for seals, and in the spring killing of the birds which they pack away for winter use.

They liked him and wished him to live with them always. They would be happy if only he would marry one of the native girls and settle down. Several of them were already married, and then she pulled off her boots. He says he was impressed with her modesty. The woman said to him: "This is my daughter. Don't you think she is beautiful?"

Rasmussen says that these Polar Esquimaux are always waiting so hard a fight with nature that they think very little of anything except the practical side of life. They carelessly live their lives as long as meat is plentiful. They do not count the days nor reckon time. But the boys from the time they can talk play at hunting and the ambition of their lives is to become good hunters.

"Among all things a man should possess, the chief is a wife. The first thing he gets is a woman, and next come his dogs and then a canoe, and last, and most difficult to get, is a gun."

"You have all these things except a wife. You will keep your things in order and your hot warm and go along to help you when you are in your journey. If possible, and if not, he borrows somebody else's wife."

THE EXCELSIOR LIFE INSURANCE CO.

1907 a Prosperous Year.

The annual statement of The Excelsior Life Insurance Company issued recently, indicates a year of increased business. The total income was \$427,450. That the Excelsior Life Insurance Company is pre-eminently a policyholder's company, may be judged from the fact that for three successive quinquennial periods it has paid very satisfactory profits to its policyholders, and further its record and present position as an excellent policyholder's company is unexcelled as regards those features of the business which policyholders are particularly interested in—security—interest earnings—the highest in Canada—economy in management—an unparalleled low death rate.

The popularity of the "Excelsior Life" may be judged from the fact that new insurance applied for during the year amounted to \$2,711,000. The total amount of insurance now in force reaches almost eleven and one-half million dollars. The assets of this company amount to \$1,111,000. It has a Reserve Fund largely in excess of Government requirements. Although it has been only eighteen years in existence The Excelsior Life is one of the strong Canadian Companies. Its success is indicative of shrewd and capable management. On its Board of Directors are to be found the names of gentlemen distinguished for their integrity and business capacity. It is largely owing to their executive ability that the Excelsior Life occupies the high position it does amongst insurance companies. Any one thinking of insuring their lives would do well to have the Excelsior figure on the proposition. Full and complete information may be obtained on application to the Head Office in Toronto. The Company want good active agents in every place where it is not represented.

Them on his sledge he held out his feet to a young woman expecting that she would pull off her boots. She dropped her eyes and blushed, but made no move to perform the expected service. "What is your name?" he asked the girl.

"The people here will tell you my name," she answered, and her gaze wandered off over the ice while all the men and women laughed.

A woman came to the girl and told her to do what the stranger asked her and then she pulled off her boots. He says he was impressed with her modesty. The woman said to him: "This is my daughter. Don't you think she is beautiful?"

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ON THE FARM

TEST YOUR SEED.

If you buy seed of the seed man, demand a guarantee from him of its quality; then test the seed yourself, and find out if he is telling you the truth. Reliable seedsmen will guarantee their seeds, and if they do not do so, don't buy. Also don't grumble at the price of guaranteed seed.

One of the simplest and best methods of testing the germinating power of seed, is as follows: Secure a piece of blotting paper, or flannel cloth, moisten and fold together, after placing a counted number, say 100, of the seed between the folds. Put the blotter or cloth on a plate, and cover with another inverted plate, and place in a warm room. From 10 to 25 or 30 days should be allowed for the test, depending upon the kind of seed. The germinated seed should be counted and removed from day to day and at the end of the test the percentage of good seed may easily be computed. Seed may be tested in soil, but the germinations are likely to be from 10 to 15 per cent. lower than by the foregoing plan. The cloth or blotter plan is simple, and can be carried on during the cold weather, and before the busy season opens.

As to the germinating power of good seed, it should not be lower than 75 per cent., for the leading grain crops. The United States Department of Agriculture places the standard of germination for clean seed, harvested and preserved under favorable conditions, and not over one year old, for a number of vegetables and grains, as follows: Beans, 90 per cent.; seeds, 12 plants from 100 seed balls; cabbage, 90 per cent.; carrots, 80; cauliflower, 80; celery, 60; corn, (flint and sugar) 87; cucumber, 87; lettuce, 85; musk melon, 87; onion, 80; parsley, 70; parsnip, 70; peas, 83; pumpkin, 87; radish, 90; spinach, 84; squash, 87; tomatoes, 85; turnips, 80, and water melons, 87 per cent. These figures are based upon results secured in a sun testing apparatus, where the conditions of moisture and temperature could be controlled. Under ordinary methods the percentage obtained might not run as high, but would give a good idea of the vitality of the seed.

Testing your seed is advisable, whether you buy your seed or grow it yourself. Unless the germinating power of the seed is known, it is impossible to tell how much seed to sow to the acre. It is, of course, better to have a little more, to fall back upon seed that is over a year old, the testing process is necessary.

Some recent French tests have shown that two year old carrot seed gives less leafy plants, and more highly colored roots than fresh seed. With pumpkins, squashes, melons and gherkins, seed two and three years old, proved most satisfactory. In a general way, therefore, it may be said that the best results, there are some exceptions, more particularly in the case of vegetables. Generally speaking, it may be stated that fresh seed should be used, when it is desired to produce a plant, or plants which it is desired should head or fruit well, like cabbage, melon, cucumber, etc., it is preferable to use two or three years old seed.

TREATMENT FOR SMUT.

The only way that smut can be eradicated, or lessened, in the grain crop, is to treat the seed before sowing. The two treatments most generally in use for this purpose are the formalin and bluestone methods. The former is gradually replacing the latter method.

For smut in oats put four ounces of formalin into 12 gallons of water. Put the oats in a pile and sprinkle the liquid over them, turning the grain so that all are well wetted; let the oats lie for a short time, and then spread out to dry. This quantity of fluid should be sufficient for treating 25 bushels of seed. This treatment is simple and very effective. Care should be taken to see that all the grain is thoroughly moistened by the solution, and that the seed is well dried afterwards.

Some recent tests made by Prof. Shuff, of the Central Experimental Farm, would indicate that the formalin or formaldehyde solution, should not be prepared until just before it is to be used. If the solution is made and exposed to the air for several days the more quickly than the formaldehyde, thus leaving it stronger than intended, and more liable to injure the grain.

Another treatment, beside the bluestone, is the hot water treatment. But this is more difficult to manage, entails more labor, and is hardly as effective as the others. The formalin treatment is now considered the simplest, and most reliable, and can be handled by any farmer with little difficulty. Where smut is bad, no seed should be sown without being treated, and to be on the safe side, all seeds should be so treated.

ALAS!

He went to the doctor,
To down a cough, but
(Excuse the poor rhyme)
He was made to cough up.

A New Orleans woman was thin. Because she did not extract sufficient nourishment from her food. She took Scott's Emulsion. Result: She gained a pound a day in weight.

ALL DRUGGISTS: 50c. AND \$1.00

UNCENSORED.

"Maria," said Mr. Quigley, entering his home in some excitement, "I want you to promise me not to look at the papers for the next three months!"

"What for?" wonderingly asked Mrs. Quigley.

"I have just been nominated for a public office," he faltered, "and I don't want you to find out what kind of a man I really am."

UNCENSORED.

It will be seen that Law, while showing no animus against Captain Cook, certainly conveys the impression that his sad fate might have been averted had he displayed more tact and patience. When the writer comes to speak of the measures of retaliation for which our men were responsible he does not hesitate to stigmatize them as "most brutal," and some of the stories he tells are truly of a most harrowing character.

NEW APPLIANCE.

Scientific appliances are so important to the advancement of science that no apology is necessary for mentioning the vessels of radium, iridium and of fused silica, that have been manufactured in Great Britain during the last year.

I GRASPED MY SPEAR

and crept toward him and came near enough to see that his breast was covered with blood and that I had driven my knife straight through his smout and it was still in the wound.

"My right arm was not hurt, and I got up on my feet and drove my spear through his heart."

It is the custom in Danish West Greenland, where Rasmussen was born, for the young native women to gather around a newcomers and help him off with his overclothing. He forgot that the Smith Sound natives might not be acquainted with this act of courtesy and hospitality, and when he first reached

