



LITERARY NOTICES.

JOAN OF THE SWORD HAND, by S. R. Crockett, with fifteen full page illustrations. A captivating romance of the fifteenth century. "Joan of the Sword Hand" is a charming young princess, who is none the less charming for her ability to defend herself and her kingdom when the necessity arises (as it does more than once) by her dexterous use of the sword. Especially does this accomplishment serve her in good stead when, secretly and in disguise, she visits the court of the royal suitor who has been chosen for her, determined that unless her heart sanctions it, the marriage shall never take place. As might be expected the adventurous Princess Joan falls in love with some one else, and her adventures thereafter are many and exciting. Mr. Crockett has never done better work than in "Joan of the Sword Hand." Joan is a noble woman, full of daring and high-spirited independence worthy of a later century. The following extract is a key to her character throughout: "Ladies," flashed Joan "I am sick for ever of hearing that a lady must not do this or that, go here or there, because of her so fragile reputation. She may do needlework or embroider altar-cloths, but she must not shoot with a pistol or play with a sword. Well, I am a lady; let him counter it who durst. And I cannot broider altar-cloths, and I will not try; but I can shoot with any man at the flying mark. She must have a care for her honor, which (poor feckless wretch!) will be snatched if she speaks to any as a man speaks to his fellows. Faith! For me I would rather die than have such an egg-shell reputation. I can care for mine own. I need none to take up my quarrel. If any have a word to say upon the repute of Joan of the Sword Hand, why let him say it at the point of her rapier." Price of book, paper 75c., cloth \$1.25. Published by the Copp, Clark Company, Limited, Toronto.

THE BIOGRAPHY OF A GRIZZLY.—Mr. Ernest Seton-Thompson, author of "Wild Animals I Have Known," has given us another unique book, "The Biography of a Grizzly." The writer is a master in the lore of wild wood animals, and so well interprets their obscure language that you feel they possess every human emotion. In reading his biography you grow to love that great gray grizzly, Wahb, whose life-story is so affectionately and faithfully told by Mr. Thompson, from that unhappy night,—the first after Mother Grizzly's death, when, as a lonely little cub, he crawled into a hollow log, and tried to dream her warm arms of fur were still about him, and "snuffled himself to sleep,"—until at the end of life he bravely turned aside into Death Gulch, where on the "rocky herbless floor" he lay gently down and passed into a possibly dreamless sleep.

Some bits of wisdom from the Biography:—

"Any creature whose strength puts him beyond danger of open attack, is apt to lose in cunning."

"The All-mother never fails to offer to her own, twin cups, one gall and one of balm. Little or much they may drink, but equally of both. The mountain that is easy to descend must soon be climbed again."

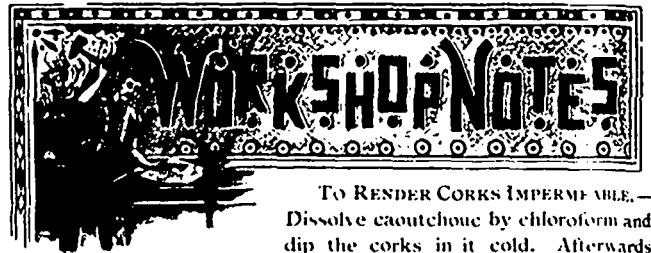
"The smell of food will draw a hungry creature, but disgust a gorged one. We don't know why, and all that we can learn is that the desire springs from a need of the body."

"The long strain of waiting begot anxiety, that grew to be apprehension, which, with the sapping of his strength, was breaking down his courage as it always must, when courage is founded on muscular force."

The book is handsomely bound, a veritable portfolio of art, every page cleverly illustrated by the author with humorous or pathetic suggestions. The Copp, Clark Co., Limited, Toronto, are the publishers.

UPWARD OF FIFTY writers and artists contribute to the *May Ladies' Home Journal*, consequently variety is combined with excellence throughout its pages. Rudyard Kipling drolly tells of "The Beginning of the Armadillos." Mary B. Mullett writes of "The Real Thrums of Barrie." Clifford Howard, of "The Flower that Set a Nation Mad," Mabel Percy Heskell, of "A Famous Boston Belle,"

and the Rev. Cyrus Townsend Brady continues his experiences as "A Missionary in the Great West." Ian Maclaren's article answers the query "Is the Minister an Idler?" and Edward Bok writes of early marriage and of domestic science in the schools. Two pages of pictures, "Through Picturesque America"—the second of a series—reveal the beauties of our country's scenery. The drawings "The American Girl on the Farm," by H. C. Christy, and "The Minister at Tea," by A. B. Frost, worthily fill a page each. Fashions for women and for girl graduates, cooking, and in fact every phase of home making, from the "Etiquette of Dances and Balls" to "How to Treat and Keep a Servant," are included in the May Journal. By The Curtis Publishing Company, Philadelphia. One dollar a year; ten cents a copy.



TO RENDER CORKS IMPERMEABLE.—Dissolve caoutchouc by chloroform and dip the corks in it cold. Afterwards dry in the air, which allows the chloroform to evaporate. Then the corks will be as impermeable to acids as alcohol.

IMITATION OF AMBER.—Melt carefully together pine resin, one; lacca in tabulis, two; white colophony.

VARNISH FOR OXIDIZED SILVER.—Alcohol (95 per cent.), 16 parts; red arsenic, three parts; essence of lavender, one part.

VARNISH FOR METALS.—Copal, 250 grammes; linseed oil varnish, 500 grammes; essence of turpentine, 500 grammes. Apply hot in several coats, and after cooling wash with hot water, then with cold water. The varnish is applied only to large pieces of iron or castings.

TO GIVE BRASS A GOLDEN COLOR, it is dipped, until the desired shade is obtained, into a solution of about 80° C., produced as follows: Boil four parts of caustic soda, four parts of milk sugar and 100 parts of water for 15 minutes; next add four parts of blue vitriol, dissolved in as little water as possible.

HARDENING OF PLASTER FOR CASTS.—The casts, models, etc., of plaster have the great defect of being fragile. Here is a means of rendering them resistive: Instead of employing the plaster alone, take six parts of plaster and one part of fat slacked lime, reduced to a fine powder and well sifted. Use it like ordinary plaster. When the articles are dry dip them into a solution of sulphate of zinc. The plaster pieces prepared in this manner will be very hard and infrangible.

ECONOMICAL NICKELING SMALL OBJECTS.—To nickel plate small articles such as pins, étuis, penholders, crayons, etc., in an economic and durable manner, without a battery, place the objects first in a solution of potash for two to three minutes, then remove them and pass them through clear water; next place them in a bath composed of 50 grammes of sulphuric acid per liter of distilled water. Move them about well in this bath for 10 minutes, then add to the bath: Chloride of sodium, seven grammes per liter of water; mercuric sublimate, 11 grammes per liter of water; sulphate of nickel, one gramme per liter of water. Agitate again for five to six minutes and pass through clear water. On the other hand, prepare another bath as follows: Distilled water, one liter; cream of tartar, one gramme; metallic tin, 150 grammes. Boil for three hours, and after that put the objects which have undergone the first operation into this bath. Let them boil for two hours, next rinse and dry in sawdust. Not only will the articles be durably nickelled, but they will also be covered with a double and very adhesive white metallic coating. The first bath must be prepared in an iron vessel; the second is a tinned copper one.