

Paper is now used in Germany instead of wood in manufacturing lead pencils.

Europe and British India consume about 120,000 gallons of handkerchief perfumes per annum.

Of the 270 fulminating factories started in Europe during the present century 261 have been destroyed by explosion.

They have captured a wild man down in Florida, swimming the lakes from island to island, who is supposed to have escaped from some asylum. He was nude and covered with hair; he could give no account of himself.

The smallest steam engine in the world has been made by a watch-maker in Philadelphia. It rests on a twenty-five cent piece. The cylinder is a little less than 1-6 of an inch in diameter. The balance wheel will make 1,000 revolutions a minute.

Our needful knowledge, like our needful food,
Unheded, lies open in life's common field,
And bids us welcome to the vital feast !

Young.

Correspondence.

THE SPARROW.

I have read with interest and pain what is said upon the destruction of the sparrow. I have known sparrows all my life and that is not a short time. I studied their habits for many years and I don't believe the thirtieth part of what is written to their prejudice. I am amazed at the *furor* excited by them, especially in the "Quaker City." While I was in it at the Centennial Exhibition of 1876, I was delighted with the sparrows and the attention paid them. I have fed them in London, Paris, Dublin and Philadelphia. A pair had their nest in my Venetian shutters in Dublin and their young ones spent their nights on the corbel of the sill on the outside of my window. I know that they have faults but where are the birds without them. I admire their pluck and energy and the manner in which they work for their living during our inhospitable winter when the birds of passage leave us to mourn their absence. I have too much of the spirit of a naturalist to look with complacency on the extermination of any creature with which nature has furnished us. I believe that there is a place in the economy of nature for all. I place the above *vis a vis* to the sentiment expressed in page 132 "Yet I cannot like the sparrow, etc." Some speak about the sparrows destroying or driving away other birds. I would like to be informed where these birds are, to be driven away. I live in a part of the country where there should be plenty of birds. I am as-