

Young Folks.

MOTHER DUCKS.

The wild duck is apt to be rather queer as a mother. She often seems to have the most strange ideas about good places for the nursery.

little friends in a pair of sand-wasps, which lived in a crack of the window in his drawing room, one of which he had saved from drowning in a basin of water, and every spring he would look out eagerly for them or their young which came out of, or returned to, the same crack.

SOUTH AFRICA IN BRIEF.

Important Dates Connected With Colonial History. The following are the dates of some of the more important events in the history of South Africa:

BIGGEST EXPLOSION.

It occurred at Johannesburg Six Years Ago. The recent explosion at the arsenal in Johannesburg is by no means the first experience that the Boers have had of the frightful powers of high explosives.

WAS A WAIF.

From street wail to Governor—that is the life story of John G. Brady. As a boy he roamed the streets of New York until the Children's Aid Society picked him up and sent him out West "to grow up with the country."

GIRLS AND VEILS.

At what age should a girl begin to wear a veil? There is as much difference of opinion on this point, it seems, as on that of other vital questions.

LITTLE GIRL OF LONG AGO.

The school girls' dress at about 1830, or even as late as 1837, was as follows: Pantalines were universally worn both summer and winter, writes an old lady.

A LOVER OF ANIMALS.

Charles Kingsley seems to have loved every living creature around him, and he taught his children to respect even the most loathsome insects.

A NATION OF HYPOCRITES.

Beers' Treatment of the Native a Horrible Nightmare in the Nineteenth Century. The following is an extract from Glad Tidings, published in Edinburgh, Scotland, concerning the Boers:

"For over two hundred years the progenitors of the Transvaal Republic and their descendants have crushed, maltreated, and, as far as they had the power to do so, robbed of all rights belonging to them as fellow human beings, the colored peoples of this land.

HIS ALLOWANCE.

Baggage Allowed a Cavalry Officer on Duty at the Front. In the war in South Africa a British mounted officer knows exactly what he may carry. In his pockets or harness, or slung on a belt he is restricted to a whistle, compass, notebook, water-bottle, clasp-knife, besides sword, pistol and ammunition.

WHAT ICELANDERS EAT.

In Iceland the native's dinner usually consists of dried fish and butter. The fish is ling or cod, which, when caught is split and then hung on the lines by the seashore to dry in the cold winds and hot sun.

NEARLY ALL GERMANS.

Out of a total of 278 prisoners of war who were temporarily confined in the great goal at Pietermaritzburg it is reported that 268 were Germans.

THE YEARS.

"Althwart the silence of our dreams, Their memories fall like filial gleams From some dim flickering star That hangs afar."

WOMAN'S FEARS.

Mrs. W. K. Clifford, the English novelist, does a great deal of her writing at night, but once confessed to Prof. Huxley that she very foolishly gets scared when everyone has gone to bed.

ALL AGES TO FIGHT.

The Boers at Pretoria are making most preparations for the threatened siege. All burghers from 15 to 60 years of age have been called to arms.

HEALTH.

TAKE CARE OF THE TEETH.

Most people have a general idea that it is wise to take care of the teeth, and accordingly do so, as they suppose. They rub a brush hurriedly two or three times over the front of the teeth before going to bed or on getting up in the morning, and think they have cleaned their teeth.

The proper time to brush the teeth is after each meal and at bedtime. Before they are done all particles of food should be removed from between the teeth by means of a toothpick, or better, dental floss.

Finally, not the least important point in the care of teeth is a regular semi-annual visit to the dentist, that he may examine the teeth and fill at once any beginning cavity.

TO BE BEAUTIFUL.

Extreme self-respect is one of the cardinal principles that guide the woman who would be really beautiful. This being "nice to one's self," as a pretty girl describes it, insures an attractive personality and it prevents the possibility of being surprised in some embarrassing condition of mind or attire.

Aside from the habits of thought, the hundred little habits that the muscles acquire must be watched. The woman who is not nice to herself gets into the habit of scowling when she is alone over her work.

THE SOLDIER'S PAROLE.

It is a Purely Voluntary Compact Between Captor and Captive. Parole is much to be understood, is a purely voluntary compact. The captor is not obliged to offer to parole his prisoner—the prisoner is not obliged, and cannot be compelled, to give his parole.

THE BLACK CAT FAD.

The latest idea in the way of a portebonheur is to carry a tiny puss of wondrous goldsmith's work swinging as a pendant from the end of your forget-me-not chain.

TRANSVAAL IN PARIS.

A Boer farm and homestead, it is said, to be one of the features of the Paris Exhibition. In this form will be exhibited the chief wild animals of the Transvaal. The means of transportation in the country are also to be illustrated.

THE PIOUS BOER.

Encourages Sale of Liquor to Native and Derives Immense Profits From It.

The Scotsman prints the following about certain phases of Boer government in the Transvaal. There has been in the circumstances a wonderful absence of open lawlessness and brutal roidness from the very early days; but there is a considerable section which prefer a dishonest living.

THE SYNDICATES.

But the class in question finds its principal scope under syndicates, such as that for the illicit sale of liquor to natives and that for illicit gold buying, under which a certain proportion of the gold won by the mining companies is stolen. It will be sufficient for the present purpose to give some account of the method of working of the first named syndicate.

NOT ABOVE SUSPICION.

The drink is surreptitiously sold at the Kaffir eating houses, which are licensed by a Government Board and hawked by the "Peruvians." This humble instrument gets £10 a month for his services; when he is fined, his fine is paid, and for the time he is in jail he draws double salary on release.

GREAT AND FINAL STRUGGLE.

These guns, whose shells can wreck solid stone buildings as completely as if their objective were so much cardboard, are believed to be at Pretoria, mounted on substantial bastions in the fort, and intended to resist the British when the march on the Transvaal capital takes place.

NO SUBSTITUTE.

The Missionary—Why do you drink this awful liquor? Hungry Man—By gosh, parson, it's his only liker in the camp. We have no...

MYSTERY OF TWO GUNS.

THEY ARE BELIEVED TO BE NOW AT PRETORIA.

Mammoth Ordnance That May Assist in the Defence of Pretoria when it is Besieged by the British.

One of the revelations of the war has been the extent and the excellence of the Boer armament, says a London letter. That the Transvaal Government was preparing for the inevitable was whispered from time to time after the Jameson raid.

THE POWER OF A 12-INCH GUN.

The power of a 12-inch gun, such as that now in the possession of the Boers will be better appreciated when it is explained that it fires a PROJECTILE WEIGHING HALF A TON.

Both of these guns are too heavy for the system of fighting which the Boers have pursued up to the present; in fact, they are too cumbersome for land warfare altogether.

One explanation is that they were intended to assist the Transvaal in its designs on Delagoa Bay. Another is that they were the nucleus of President Kruger's great dream of a Transvaal Navy!

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