91d the Practice Exist Before the Discov

There is some reason to think that in several old books of housewifery certain herbs named are to be "smok ed," which means, perhaps, inhaling, we should say; but the other signification is by no means impossibeen found under conditions which

out of mind."

If people were already familiar with the practice of suncking herbs we should have an explanation of the astonishing rapidity with which they took to tobacco. It may be noted that Carter found the Indians of Hochelaga, on the St. Lawrence, smoking an herb which we recognize from his description as lobelia, as well as tobacco. His sailors did not care for the latter, but the former met with their approval from the first, for it was "as good as drink," to them. The medicine men smoked lobelia before prophesying, and under its effect they raved. Has this property of the weed been tested by the savants?

PRIMITIVE CANNONS.

They Have Been Made of Every Conceiv-

Cannons for use in warfare appear to have been made of many substances which would appear very unsuit able to our modern ideas. It must however, be remembered that in the early days of artillery powder was very coarse and slow-burning, and the range was very small. The wear and tear, therefore, on the bore of the gun was nothing compared to what it is now. For instance, the Swedes in the time of Gustavus Adolphus used cannon of leather, and in 1639 similar weapons were made in Scotland under the direction of Sir Alexander Hamilton, who had seen service in Sweden. Cannon have also been made of wood and stone, sometimes lined with a bore of metal and sometimes not. Cannon made of almost pure gold have been found in India. It is said that after Cortex left Mexico the Mexicans tried to imitate his camnon in terra-cotta. Krupp has been credited with an experiment in paper guns, that is to say, field pieces of small caliber composed of a metal core surrounded by compressed paper pulp. Such guns would, off course, be very much lighter, and would be much easier to carry about than metal guns. Of guns not used in warfars the most curious were those used to fire salutes at a winter fete in Petersburg in the year 1740, when aix guns were made of ice. It is said that they had an effective range of 60 yards, and that they all withstood the test of firing without bursting.

CANDID.

A bachelor farmer a little past his prime, finding himself hard up, thought the best thing he could do would be to marry a neighbor of his who was reputed to have some bawbees.

Meeting with no obstacles to his wooing he soon got married.

One of his first purchases he made with part of her money was a horse. When he brought it home he called out his wife to see it.

After admiring it she said: Well, Sam, if it hadna been for my siller it wadna hae been here yersel!

FAKEN IN.

Henderson—Did Parker let you in on Cannon have also been made of wood

MODERN SPANISH TORTURE.

How the Jatlers Extort Confessions From Prisoners

In view of the inquiry which it is understood has been granted by the Spanish Government into the charges of torturing prisoners in the casemates of Monjuich, it may be of interest to set out some of the items in the indictment made out against the authorities. It is said, in the first place, that a reward of 10,000 pesetas was offered to any jail official who could extort an avowal of guilt from a prisoner. Acting under this stimulus, the jailers are stated to have forced he wretched creatures under their control to run around their cells day and night for eighty hours at a stretch heavy whips being used to keep the victims awake. The officials are also said to have deprived them of all food save salt stockfish and ardent spirits,

save salt stockfish and ardent spirits, confession being the price of a glass of water. Not a few paid it, slacked their thirst, and, it is contended, were summarily shot.

It is further alleged that wedges were driven under the nails of prisoners with hammers, and allowed to remain until the nails sloughed away. Even more horrible mutlations are stated not to have been uncommon. One of the most cruel devices, borrowed from the inquisition, was, it is affirmed, a machine like a diver's helmet, fitted with a tube allowing the victim to breathe, while a screw compressed slowly the sides and top, thus producing inconceivable agony. One prisoner, Moras, is stated to have undergone this torture more than once, and to have been driven mad by it.

NO WONDER.

Small boy-I don't wonder that wo-

men's heads so often ache.
Little girl—Why?
Sinall boy—Every time they see any
of their children they've got to think
up some reason for not letting them
do what they want, to.

THE CRESCENT.

It Is the Symbol the Turk Has Used for

The origin of the Turkish crescent is cople smoked before tobacco was in- lost in antiquity. As the emblem of troduced, says the London Standard. progress and increase it figures in the warship of Astarte, the chief goddess of the Phoenician Pantheon, who, under various names, was adored by every Semitic race. It is not, therefore. sirprising that the crescent ble. A vast number of clay pipes has should be the chosen emblem of a conquering and spreading people. The seem to prove that they were deposited long before Raleigh's birth; and a pipe of early date is so utterly unlike the modern form that these could not have been dropped by laborers of the present day. At an antiquarian meeting many years ago an old gentleman teld how his grandfather used to give him coppers for wading into the pool dam at Newcasile-under-Lyme to gather "buck-bane," which the vet-yan moked to relieve asthma. That reminiscence carries us back a century and a half, and it is probably that buckbane had been used for asthma "time out of mind."

If people were already familiar with the practice of sanoking herbs we should have an explanation of the astomishing rapidity with which they took to tobacco. It may be noted that Carter found the Indians of Hochelaga, on the St. Lawrence, smoking an harb which we recognize from his deseem to prove that they were deposited hordes of Genghiz Khan carried it on

Football Championship for 1895.

The knowing ones are speculating on the foothball possibilities of the season. Ottawa is not likely to retain the honors of the championship, as Queen's will put in a team sure to smash all records. It is often the case that very slight causes will lose a victory. It is stated that a painful corn made useless one of the best American players. It follows that no team can hope to win this year that neglects to hope to win this year that neglects to supply its members with Putnams Painless Corn Extractor, the only safe, sure, and painless remedy for corns.

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per day.

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CANDID.

Henderson—Did Parker let you in on that big real estate deal of his? Williamson, sadly.—Yes, I was tak-

Pharaoh 100." Payne, of Granby, Que

MIGHT BE WORSE.

Sally Slimm-I've been down to Sandbur Beach, and I was almost eaten up Polly Plump-Well, dear, they left you the bones, anyhow.

O'KEEFE'S LIQUID MALT Invigorates and Strengthens. W. LLOYD WOOD, Toronto, GENERAL AGENT.

TOOK HER AT HER WORD.

I'll know better next time, said Mrs.

Ferguson, speaking of it afterward. It told George's uncle to consider himself at home in our house.

Well?

Well, it wasn't five minutes afterward that he began to grumble about the cooking. the cooking.

La Toscana, 10c. RELIANCE CIGAR FACTORY Montrea

NOT IN THE WOOD.

Summer Boarder-I think, considering the price I pay, and the poor ac-commodations you have, you might at least treat me with respect. Mrs. Hayfork—Well, mum, to tell the truth, I can't feel much respect for people what pays the big prices I charge fer the sort of accommydations I give.

SNOWSTORM STARTED A FIRE.

In February of the present year a farmer living at Hebuterne, Belgium, placed a quantity of quicklime near a shed on his farm, and left it there all night. In the course of the night snow fell onto the line, and the heat thus developed became so great that it set the shed on fire, completely destroying it and its contents. The matter is simple enough when explained, but it would otherwise not be easy to regard a snowstorm as a probable cause of fire.

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Wilter—I don't think that can be so. I saw him to-day, and he appeared to be as crazy as usual.

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Laundress—Yes, mum; he's always finding something for me to do.

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