

Odds and Ends.

THE original Cinderella was an Egyptian girl, whose story has enchanted children for nearly two thousand years, with various additions and alterations. The real Cinderella was Rhodope, a beautiful Egyptian maiden, who lived six hundred and seventy years before the Christian era. One day, Rhodope went to bathe in a stream near her house, leaving her sandals—which were very small—lying upon the bank. An eagle, flying overhead, seeing them, took them for toothsome morsels, and pouncing down, carried one of them off in his beak. Quite unwittingly, the eagle played the part of the fairy god-mother of the European story, for flying over Memphis, he dropped the sandal immediately at the king's feet as he was dispensing justice. Its small size and beauty at once attracted the Pharaoh's attention and roused his curiosity. Messengers were despatched throughout the length and breadth of Egypt to discover the wearer of so dainty a foot-covering, and when it was found to belong to Rhodope, she was carried to Memphis, where she became the Queen of King Psammetikh, of the twenty-sixth dynasty, who roused the anger of his countrymen by the favour he showed to foreigners.

NEARLY every fairy tale and nursery rhyme has a foundation in fact, and in the case of "Little Jack Horner" and his famous pie the original hero was an ancestor of the present family of Horner, who live at Mells Park, Somersetshire. Some three hundred years ago an abbot of Glastonbury was ordered to give up the title-deeds of the property that is now called Mells Park, and was then the property of the abbey of Glastonbury, or else to lose his head. The abbot naturally felt that his life was of greater value to him than the property, so despatched the title-deeds by a faithful and trusty messenger called Jack Horner. But for greater security he placed the documents in a pie which was to be delivered untouched into the hands of the authorities. Jack Horner however was seized with hunger not unmixed with curiosity on his journey, and opening the pie took out the documents—"the plum" of the nursery rhyme. Then he replaced the pastry and putting the title-deeds in his pocket went his way. What happened to the abbot is not known, but the title-deeds remained in the possession of the Horner family until at last they became owners of Mells Park.

THERE is a man-cook in London who is said to make an income of over £2000 a year. He is not attached to any one hotel or household, but goes from house to house during the London season. Early in the evening he sets out from his own home in his brougham and drives to the house of some rich person who is giving a dinner-party. Arrived there he goes at once to the kitchen and tastes every one of the dishes that are to appear on the table, ordering a little more sugar to be put into this *entrée*, a pinch of herbs here, a dash of salt there, and when everything suits his palate, he pockets his fee of five guineas and drives away to the house of another dinner-party giver, where he goes through the same process with the dishes there. He visits many houses each night, and in some instances has carefully arranged the dinner beforehand, merely looking in at the last moment to see that his instructions have been properly carried out.

"GREAT is truth and mighty above all things. The 'ought,' which is ours now, will one day become the final 'must be' of the universe. No real martyr for conscience' sake has ever failed to put trust in this principle"

Jackson.

"SOME read books only to find fault, while others read only to be taught; the former are like venomous spiders, extracting a poisonous quality, where the latter, like the bees, sip out a sweet and profitable juice."

THERE are three places in the world to which the great plagues of cholera and kindred epidemics that have swept over the world may always be traced. These are Hurdur in India, Mecca in Arabia, and Nijni-Novgorod in Russia. Hurdur and Mecca are the meeting-places of thousands of pilgrims every year, whilst Nijni-Novgorod is famous for its annual fair.

A YOUNG Scotsman has made a miniature train which is only twenty-nine feet in length, but which is perfect in every particular. He never had any technical training, but made all the patterns and the castings, and put them together with his own hands. The engine is a little over six and a half feet long and drags six cars, in each of which two children can be comfortably seated. Six gallons of water in a tank in the tender with five gallons in the boiler of the engine provide enough steam to propel this miniature train for two hours, while a small electric battery beneath the engine supplies light for the various lamps in place of oil. It is a brilliant example of engineering talent upon the part of its maker.

THERE are many stories told of the kindness of Queen Margherita of Italy, but this one is the latest. Some time ago the Queen asked one of her little *protégés* to knit her a pair of mittens for her birthday, providing her with money for the material. On the Queen's birthday she received a most beautiful pair of mittens from the little girl, and in return sent another pair to the child, one of which was filled with money and the other with sweets, together with a message asking her to say which she liked best of the two mittens. A little time afterwards the Queen received this letter: "Dearest Queen, your lovely presents have made me shed many tears. Papa took the mitten with the money; my brother had the bon-bons."

MACHINERY has now been applied to paper-hanging. The machine has a rod on which a roll of paper is fixed, and a paste reservoir with a feeder placed so as to touch the wrong side of the paper. The end of the paper is fastened to the bottom of the wall, and the machine started up the wall, it being held in place by the operator. A roller follows the paper as it unwinds and presses it against the wall. When the ceiling is reached the paper-hanger pulls a string which cuts the paper pasted from the roll. It is a very ingenious contrivance and will save much labour and time to paper-hangers.

A LITTLE time ago mention was made in this column of the fact that an attempt to use glass in place of marble for statuary was being carried into effect. Now glass is being used for ladies' attire. A manufacturer at the present moment is turning out thousands of bonnets made of glass cloth, which whilst it has all the shimmer and brilliancy of silk is quite unhurt by rain. For a long time past a tissue has been made in Russia which is made of the fibre of a curious soft stone found in the mines of Siberia. This is shredded and spun into a cloth which, while being as soft and pliable as ordinary dress material, is so durable that it never wears out, and from this an enterprising firm has taken the idea of making spun-glass dress lengths. The Siberian material when dirty is thrown into the fire, being like asbestos, and by this means it is entirely cleaned. Spun-glass cloth however only needs to be brushed hard with soap and water, and is never the worse for being stained or soiled. This extraordinary departure is the invention of an Austrian and is, as yet, very costly. Not only can dresses be made of it but serviettes, table-cloths and window-curtains also. A finer cloth, which it is said can be worn next the skin without discomfort or danger, is also made from glass.

THE greater part of the left-off clothing of the whole world goes to Dewsbury in Yorkshire. Carts laden with bales of old clothes from all parts of the United Kingdom, from all parts of Europe, America and Canada, from many parts of Asia and from New Zealand and Australia, fill the streets of that town daily. All kinds of clothing, old woollen underclothing, stockings, carpets and curtains, in fact every variety of worn-out article which has the least amount of wool in its composition, no matter how ugly its colour or how unpleasant its smell are sent there, and made by a variety of processes into shoddy. When a place so small as Catania in Sicily alone exports seventy tons of ragged left-off clothing every year, the amount from all the great world-centres may be in some measure estimated. Shoddy-making is one of the most curious industries in England.

"HE is not truly patient who is willing to suffer only so much as he thinks good, and from whom he pleases. But the truly patient man minds not by whom he is exercised, whether by his superiors, by one of his equals, or by an inferior; whether by a good and holy man, or by one that is perverse and unworthy. But indifferently from every creature, how much soever, or how often soever, anything adverse befalls him, he takes it all thankfully as from the hands of God, and esteems it a great gain. For with God it is impossible that anything, how small soever, if only it be suffered for God's sake, should pass without its reward."

A little common-sense philosophy.

"Credit is obtained by not needing it."

"To find time," remarked an industrious man, "never lose it."

"I generally divide my favours," said Fortune, "by giving a gift to one and the power to appreciate it to another."