

times, suddenly there came a grinding sound; it almost pitched over on its side, but righted itself, and then it remained perfectly firm and still. By and by Jill managed to creep in, too, and here they were found next morning when the water had gone down, to the great delight of little Nellie, who was crying because she thought Jill and all her puppies had been drowned.

BUTTERFLY WINGS.

In an interesting article on moths and butterflies, Agnes Giberene gave the following explanation of the zig-zag flight of the butterfly: "It has been suggested," she writes, "that the uneven flight of these beautiful insects is due to the large size of the wings in proportion to the body, but whatever the physical cause its advantages are obvious. A bird darting at a butterfly will again and again miss its aim through the erratic motion of the insect, and to this irregular flight many a butterfly owes its escape from capture. A butterfly's wing is a beautiful structure. Each wing is made of two delicate membranes, elastic and transparent, laid one upon the other, as upper and under skin, and, despite their apparent fragility, strong to beat and resist the air. Each membrane is more or less covered on its outer side with something which to the naked eye appears to be fine dust, and not long ago it was the fashion to speak of this dust, when seen under the microscope, as consisting of infinitesimal feathers. More rigid examination however, shows these supposed feathers to be minute and delicate scales. They vary a good deal in shape, being sometimes cut or toothed, or notched at the edges. But they vary in colour even more than in shape, partaking of every imaginable hue, from the deepest black to the purest white. Minute as each scale is, it is exquisitely fashioned and finished, each having its own peculiar markings, characteristic "sculpturings," and exquisite tinting. These scales are arranged on the wings like tiles on the roof of a

house, in orderly rows, the row above always slightly overlapping the row below, and the patches of brilliant colour visible to the naked eye are due to massed scales of one colour or another. A single wing contains an almost inconceivable multitude of scales. One-quarter of an inch of the wing of a peacock butterfly was found to have on one side alone about 6,300 scales, so that in the whole square inch there would be over 100,700 scales, and Lenvenhock has calculated that the wings of a silk moth have upon them more than 400,000 scales."

THE SNAKE WAS TICKLED.

The traveller in the uncivilized regions of South America has to face many perils. If he escapes the savages, who are adroit and bitter enemies, if he can secure water and food, and survives the intense heat, and believes his expedition has every chance of success, he may die within an hour from the bite of a poisonous serpent.

M. Thouar, in his diary kept during his explorations in the Pilcomayo Delta under a commission from the Argentine Government, describes an experience which prompted him to eternal vigilance in regard to snakes.

He was lying in his hammock; the sergeant of his guard was asleep under a tree close by. Suddenly he noticed an immense serpent coiled about the sergeant's leg, and extending its head toward his bare chest.

What should he do? To wake the man meant certain death to him; but how kill the creature or attract it away without waking him? He recalled a method of capturing the cobra of India.

He prepared a slipknot. By stealthy, almost imperceptible movements, he attracted the serpent's attention. It turned its head.

Then he leaned from his hammock, and with a long piece of grass tickled it gently on the throat.

It raised its head. He cast the noose over it, and drew it tightly round the reptile's neck.


It was not a moment too soon; the sergeant awoke. He fainted with fright, but the danger was past.

The slipknot had saved him, and a stroke of the sabre cut off the serpent's head.

HISTORY TOLD IN KNOTS.

Tying knots in the handkerchief to jog one's memory had its origin in China thousands of years ago. Before writing was invented in that country, which did not happen until 3000 B.C., memorable and important events were recorded by long, knotted cords. The most ancient history of China is still preserved as told by these knots. When Emperor Tschang Ki invented writing, the entire system of "knotting" was abandoned. And to-day the memory knots made by us in

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A word of stocks on the carpet floor—special lines for sure and quick clearing before removal on the first of July. These lines are marked lower than the discount of 15 per cent. would figure. The prices quoted are the net prices:

- Nairn's English Oilcloth, choice of any patterns left, special sale price per square yard, 25c.
- English Linoleums, very large assortment, so that customers will not have difficulty in making choice, 12 patterns ranging from 25 yards to 200 yards each. Special sale price per square yard, 30c.
- Brussels Squares, with interwoven borders in rose debarrie, forest green and tapestry blue, grille patterns, in size 9x10-6, 9x12, 10-6x13-6, 11-3x13-6, sold regularly at from \$15.00 to \$24.00. Special sale price, \$12.50.
- Goat Skin Rugs, size 6x3, in grey and natural brown. Special sale price; \$1.00.
- Reversible Smyrna Rugs, in Oriental colors, size 2-6x5 and 3-6x5. Special sale price, \$2.
- Dagdag Wilton Rugs, size 3x6, and heavy Teprak Rugs, size 3x6, regularly sold at \$7.50. Special sale price, \$4.
- Heavy Reversible Hemp Squares, suitable for summer cottage, in one piece, with border. Special sale price, size 9x7-6, \$1.00; 9x10-6, 1.50; 9x12, \$1.75.
- Extra Heavy Reversible Hemp Squares. Special sale price, size 9x10-6, \$2.50; 9x12, \$3.25.

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handkerchiefs are the only surviving descendants of that ancient custom.

—True prayer is surely not some fine phrases we may utter. The form of words does not determine the character of the petition. Stumbling, broken speech may mean a great deal more than any

rhetoric. It is what is under the prayer that gives it value; what the heart really means, not what the lips may happen to say. Our neighbour hears the words we utter but he cannot know our heart, and the words count for nothing with him if he sees that the heart and lip are not in accord.

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DIVIDEND NO. 80.

Notice is hereby given that a Dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum on the Capital Stock of the Company has been declared for the six months ending 30th June, 1899, payable on and after the 3rd July, 1899, at the Office of the Company, corner of Victoria and Adelaide streets, Toronto.

The Transfer Books will be closed from the 16th to the 30th June, inclusive.

By order of the Board.
S. C. WOOD, Managing Director.
Toronto, 15th June, 1899.