HOW THE CHILDREN PLAY IN JAPAN.

BY E. WARREN CLARKE.

The most interesting sights are the games and sports of the children. The Japanese believe in enjoying themselves, and the young folks are as bright and merry as the children of other climes. The girls play battledore and shuttle-cock, and the boys fly kites and spin tops. The girls enjoy their game very much, and are usually dressed in their prettiest robes and bright-coloured girdles; their faces are powdered with a little rice flour, their lips are tinted crimson, and their hair is done up in a most extraordinary fashion.

They play in the open street, sometimes forming a circle of half a dozen or more, and sending the flying shuttlecock from one to the other. They are very skilful, and rarely miss a stroke, The boys like a strong wind that their kites may soar high; but the girls sing a song that it may be calm, so that their shuttlecocks may go

right.
The boys have wonderful kites, made of tough paper pasted on light bamboo frames, and de-corated with dragons, warriors and storm hobgoblins. Across the top of the kites is stretched a thin ribbon of whalebone, which vibrates in the wind, making a peculiar humming sound. When I first walked the streets of Tokio I could not imagine what the strange noises meant that seemed to proceed from the sky above me; the sound at times was shrill and sharp, and then low and musical. At last I discovered several kites in the air, and when the breeze freshened

the sounds were greatly increased.

Sometimes the boys put glue on their kite strings, near the top, and dip the strings into pounded glass. Then they fight with their kites,

which they place in proper positions, and atmpt to saw each other's strings with the pulled glass. When a string is severed, a kite p. ided glass. When a string is severe, falls, and is claimed by the victor. The boys

also have play-fights with their tops.

Sometimes I met boys running a race on long stilts; at other times they would have wrestling matches, in which little six-year-old youngsters would toss and tumble one another to the ground. Their bodies were stout and chubby, and their rosy cheeks showed signs of health and

happiness. They were always good-natured, and never allowed themselves to get angry.

On the fifth day of the fifth month the boys have their Fourth of July, which they call the "Feast of Flags." They celebrate the day very reasonably with comes and tows. They have "Feast of Flags." They celebrate the day very peaceably, with games and toys. They have sets of figures, representing soldiers, heroes, and celebrated warriors; with flags, daimio processions, and tournaments. Outside the house a bamboo pole is erected by the gate, from the top of which a large paper fish is suspended. This fish is sometimes six feet long, and is hollow. When there is a breeze it fills with wind, and its tail and fins flan in the air as though it and its tail and fins flap in the air as though it were trying to swim away. The fish is intended to show that there are boys in the family. It is the carp, which is found in Japanese waters, and swims against the stream, and leaps over water-falls. The boys must therefore learn from the fish to persevere against difficulties, and surmount every obstacle in life. When hundreds of these huge fishes are seen swimming in the breeze, it presents a very curious appearance.

The girls have their "Feast of Dolls" on the

The girls have their "Feast of Dolls" on the third day of the third month. During the week preceding the holiday, the shops of Tokio are filled with dolls and richly dressed figures. This "Feast of Dolls" is a great gala-day for the girls. They bring out all their dolls and gor geously dressed images, which are quite numerous in respectable families, having been kept from one generation to another; the images range from a few inches to a foot in height, and represent court nobles and ladies, with the Minds of the court of the represent court nobles and ladies, with the Mi-kado, and his household in full costume. They are all arranged on shelves, together with many other beautiful toys, and the girls present offer-ings of rice, fruit, and "saki" wine, and mimic all the routine of court life. The shops display large numbers of these images at this greeful large numbers of these images at this special season; after the holidays they suddenly dis-

I once bought a large doll baby at one of the shops to send home to my little sister; the doll was dressed in the ordinary way, having its head shaved in the style of most Japanese babies. It was so life-like that when propped up on a chair was so life-like that when propped up on a chair a person would easily suppose it to be a live baby.

In going along the Tori I would often see a group of childrengathered around a street story-eller listening with widening eyes and breathless attention to the ghost story or startling ro-mance which he was narrating. Many old folks also gathered around, and the story-teller shouted and stamped on hi ing great attention, until just as the most thrilling part of the story was reached, he suddenly stopped and took up a collection! He refused to go on unless the number of pennies received was sufficient to encourage the continuation of the story.

Street theatricals can also be seen, and travelling shows with monkeys, bears, and tumbling gymnasts, who greatly amuse the children. Sugar cardy and various kinds of sweet-meats are sold by pedlers, who are eagerly sought after by the little folk. Sometimes a man carries small utensils on the end of a pole, and serves out tiny griddle-cakes to the children, who watch him cook the cakes, and smack their lips in anticipation of the feast.

shallow dish of water, and as the children look on in wonder, the dissolving camphor gum sends the duck from side to side, as though it were

The boys delight in fishing, and will sit for hours holding the line by the moats and canals, waiting for a bite. I have seen a dozen people watch a single person fish, when there would not be a bite once in the half-hour.

There are few vehicles in Tokio, excepting the jinrikishas; and most of the people walk in the middle of the street. When riding on horseback it is impossible to go at a rapid rate without endangering the youngsters who sprawl about in the street. Chickens, dogs and cats are also in the way; the latter animal has no tail in Japan.

SOMNAMBULISM.

A Paris despatch to the London Standard says:—The Court of Appeal in Paris yesterday (Jan. 27th) was the scene of a most curious and remarkable spectacle. Last August a young man named Didier was arrested for an offence in the Champs Elysees and sentenced to three months' imprisonment. His friends, considering him innocent, advised him to appeal, and engaged Maitre Reitlinger as his counsel. earned gentleman at once demanded that his client should be submitted to medical examination, and the court appointed for that purpose Drs. Mottet and Mesnet, two well-known spe cialists in mental diseases, under whose surveillance the young man was placed for three months in the Hospital Saint Antoine. At the end of that period the doctors made the follow-

ing report: —
"Didier suffers from a most remarkable nervous affection. He lives in a state of constant somnambulism, the attacks of which can be prevoked at will. The numerous doctors who have watched him at the hospital have proved that he is entirely destitute of any will of his own, and submits to all injunctions in the most automatic manner. When he is in a state of somnambulism he can be made to write letters aud perform other things without being conacts may be accompanied by very strange phenomena. Thus, for example, if, having two sheets of paper before him, the one on which he has begun to write is taken away, he will continue his letter on the second sheet without perceiving the change. One day, while on the Place de la Bastile, he was seized with a fit of somnambulism and his comrades had to carry him to a lodging-house for the night. A student at the hospital saw him get out of bed one night, dress himself, and copy several pages of music. He was sleeping all the time. The next morning he was quite astonished at the work he had done. Various experiments were made on him. On two cassions he divined made on him. On two occasions he divined the secret thoughts of the doctors. One of these may be mentioned. A student said to him, in the night time, 'Look, Didier; there's a pretty woman. It was pitch dark, and, of course, there was no woman present. Didier replied, 'No, no; she is ugly; she has a child in her arms.' This remark corresponded exactly to the theoretically the tradestrate of the course of t the thoughts of the student. Didier then rushed

The prisoner, who is about 22, appeared in court, accompanied by his counsel and the doctors. His appearance aroused great curiosity, and all eyes were turned on him as he tottered rather than walked to the bar. Maitre Retlinger having addressed the court in his defence, the judges were about to withdraw to consider their verdict, when the doctors offered to confirm the statements made in their report by practical ex-

forward to save from falling the child which

he imagined he saw in the arms of the imaginary

statements made in their report by practical experiments on the spot. The Bench consented, and then occurred the following painful scene:—
"Dr. Mottet, followed by the magistrates and the prisoner, retired into a side room. Here, by the usual means of rapid passes of the hand before his averaged a strong fived gaza, the unfore his eyes, and a strong fixed gaze, the unhappy victim was mesmerised. Didier was then left in charge of two of the Municipal Guards on service, the doctor and the judges returned to the court and the door of the room was shut. Dr. Mottet now called the prisoner by name. The next second a fearful noise was heard. It came from the sick man. A few minutes before a touch of the finger would have almost knocked him over, so feeble and emaciated was Now, under the influence of magnetism, he was like a raging lion. Upsetting the guards who held him by the wrists, he rushed at the door, broke it open, and knocking down everybody in his path rau up to Dr. Mottet. Here he suddenly stopped, and fixing his eyes on his mesmeriser, trembled from head to foot in a through the court. The doctor then set to work. "Undress yourself," said he the prisoner. In Shrieks of horror ran a few seconds Didier stripped himself of nearly all his garments. 'Dress yourself again,' said all his garments. 'Dress yourself again,' said the doctor, and again the prisoner obeyed with the same lightning rapidity. The experiment appeared conclusive. Dr. Mottet then awoke his 'subject' by blowing on his face. Didier fell to the ground as if shot; the doctor, however, soon brought him round again. 'Why ever, soon brought him round again. 'Why did you undress yourself before these gentle-men?' asked Dr. Mottet. 'That was very improper.' Didier gazing with vacant astonishment, replied: 'What? undress myself! impossible.' And the young man clung to the doctor

in his turn, now operated on the prisoner. Having mesmerized him, he ordered him to write from memory a letter addressed to him while in prison. Didier replied, 'I cannot; because I main the because I main th cause I am in prison.' The doctor insisted, whereon the prisoner sat down to a table, and wrote, word for word, the letter in question, without a single mistake. While he was writing it Dr. Mottet took a long needle out of his instrument case, and plunged it into the young man's neck, but he felt nothing. By this time, however, the Bench had seen enough of these painful experiments, and some of the audience crying out 'enough! enough!' the sitting came to an ends' The Court considering the prisoner was not responsible for his acts, quashed the verdict of the lower court, and the unhappy man was discharged.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

PRESIDENT HAYES has vetoed the Funding

RENEWED shocks of earthquake have occurred at Agram.

THE conspirators in the Kolapore affair have been found guilty.

A PARIS cable announces the death of M. Dulhuys, the French statesman.

A GENERAL raid on gambling houses is being made throughout Spain.

LONDON despatches say the certainty of war between Greece and Turkey is generally admitted in diplomatic circles. THE boat race between Oxford and Cambridge

will be rowed on Friday, April the 8th. Oxford is slightly the favourite in the betting. AT the general meeting of the Panama Canal

Company in Paris recently, M. de Lesseps said the canal would be completed in 1888. THE Speaker has again suspended Mr. Dillon

in the English House of Commons for making a very violent speech.

EXPERIMENTS are being made in Paris with an electric reporting machine which it is intended to introduce into the Assembly.

THE Princess Augusta Victoria of Holstein Augustenberg, and Prince Frederick William, eldest son of the Prince Imperial of Germany, were married in Berlin last week with great splendour.

DESPATCHES from Durban bring news of a disastrous reverse which has overtaken the British under Sir George Colley. That officer had occupied Magela mountain, overlooking the enemy, on the night of the 26th ult., with 20 officers and 627 men. The Boers attacked the British on the following morning, with such ferceness that the latter were compelled to abandon the position, and in the retreat the British lost terribly, among the killed being Sir George Colley himself.

HEARTH AND HOME.

To keep seeds from the depredations of mice, mix some pieces of camphor with the seeds. Camphor placed in drawers or trunks will prevent mice from doing them injury.

Woodwork strongly impregnated with tungstate of soda or silicate of soda—by treatment in strong aqueous solution of these salts—will be found to be quite uninflammable.

WHEN putting away the silver tea or coffee pot which is not used every day, lay a little stick across the top under the cover. This will allow the fresh air to get in and prevent mustiness; the article will then be ready for use at any time, after having been rinsed with boiling

BEEF-TOP SPINACH.—The top of young beets, if treated in the same way as spinach, but boiled for half an hour instead of ten minutes, will be found very similar to spinach, and quite as good, This dish should be garnished with slices cut from the roots of large red and white beets and from the roots of large red and white beets, and seasoned plentifully with pepper.

OAT-MEAL AND BEEF-TEA.—I find this quite useful to give strength to weak patients; take two tablespoonfuls of fine oat-meal and make it perfectly smooth in two spoonfuls of cold water; pour into this a pint of strong beef-tea; boil it eight minutes; keep stirring all the time; it should be very smooth; if lumpy pass through a sieve.

To SETTLE COFFEE. -To settle coffee without eggs, put the ground coffee—two tablespoonfuls or more, according to the size of the family—to soak over night in a teacup of water. In the morning add more water, and put it on to boil, boiling fifteen or twenty minu what water is necessary, and put the coffee-pot on the stove. In fifteen minutes it will be as clear as amber.

ORGAN FOR SALE.

From one of the best manufactories of the Dominion. New, and an excellent instrument. Will be sold cheap. Apply at this office.

CONSUMPTION CURED.

An old physician, retired from practice, having had placed in his hands by an East India missionary the formula of a simple vegetable remedy for the speedy and permanent cure for Consumption, Bronchitis, Catarrh, Asthma, and all Throat and Lung Affections, also a posi-A showman will put a piece of camphor on he tiny model of a duck which he floats on a local control of the tiny model of a duck which he floats on a local control of the tiny model of a duck which he floats on a local control of the tiny model of a duck which he floats on a local control of the volument of the duck of the tiny model of a duck which he floats on a local control of the volument of the duck of the

all Nervous Complaints, after having tested its wonderful curative powers in thousands of cases, has felt it his duty to make it known to his suffering fellows. Actuated by this motive and a desire to relieve human suffering, I will send free of charge to all who desire it, this recipe, in German, French, or English, with full directions for preparing and using. Sent by mail by addressing with stamp, naming this paper. W. W. SHERAR, 149 Powers' Block, Rochester,

NOT A HALF-WAY CURE, but positive, permanent relief, soon experienced, follows the use of Thomas' Eclectric Oil for coughs, colds, sore throat and chest, rheumatism, neuralgia, piles, sores and diseases of horses and cattle. Indorsed by professional men of eminence; inexpensive and popular, it in every case proves itself worthy of the general confidence reposed in it. The ingredients which compose it are the purest and most effective medicinial oils; no alcohol impairs its strength by causing evaporation, and it can be used as an outward application or an internal medicine. No lotion or onguent can compare with it either in efficacity or purity. As it is sometimes imitated by unprincipled dealers, purchasers should see that each wrapper bears the fac-simile signature of S. N. Thomas, and the firm name Northrop & Lyman blown in the bottle. Sold by all druggists. Prepared by Northrop & Lyman, Toronto, Ont.

OUR CHESS COLUMN.

Solutions to Problems sent in by correspondents will be duly acknowledged.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

J. W. S., Montreal.—Papers to hand. Thanks. Student, Montreal.—Correct solution received of Pro-blem No. 310.

E.D.W., Sherbroke, P.Q.—Correct solution received of Problem No. 317.

THE CANADIAN CHESS CONGRESS AT OTTAWA.

OTTAWA.

In our last Column we endeavoured to give the most important particulars connected with the Ninth Annual Meeting of the Canadian Chess Association, held at Ottawa a few days ago, and subjoined will be found a table of the games played in the Tourney.

It ought to be a satisfactory circumstance to Canadian players that altogether the gathering was a successful one, and we trust that it will be the means of infusing new life into an Association which may do much for the advancement of a scientific recreation in the Dominion of Canada.

advancement of a scientific recreation in the Dominion of Canada.

To the gentlemen who had the management of the business of the meeting, too much praise cannot be given, and the arrangements of the Secretary-Treasurer, Rev. T.D. Phillipps, M.A., added much to the comfort of the competitors. The generous gift of a silver cup, as first prize, by the President, T. Le Droit, Esq., of Quebec, as a matter of course, excited more than ordinary interest in the results of the Tourney, and we must not forget to state that the presence, among the contestants, of Mr. Schull, a gentleman who has in the mother country a high reputation for skill in the game, addedsgreatly to the excitement of the battle, besides enabling our Canadian friends to form, to some extent, an estimate of their own standing as chesplayers.

The Rev. T. D. Phillips informs us that members of Senate and Commons, ten in number, had arranged with an equal number of the Ottawa Chess Club to play a match on Saturday, the 5th inst, but we have not yet heard the result of this contest. We may add that this encounter has been brought about by the recent Dominion (Chess Tourney, and is an indication of the interest taken in our noble game by our combined legislative wisdom.

TABLE OF GAMES PLAYED.

G. H. Taylor	J. W. Shaw	L. Sehull	T. D. Phillipps	D. R. MacLeod	F. X. Lambert	S. Jarvis	J. Henderson	G. W. Casey, M.P	J. Вагту	COMPETITORS.
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1	co	7		*	<u>ş</u>	\$	\$	-	2	SCORRE.

1 signifies a game won. 0 Game lost. 🛊 Game drawn.

THE WINNERS.

J. W. Shaw, 1st prize, 8 points; L. Schull, 2nd do, 7 points; J. Barry, 3rd do, 62 points; T. D. Phillipps, 4th de, 6 points; J. Henderson, 5th do, 52 points.

In our last week's Problem No. 318, a black Pawa hould stand on Black's Queen's Bishop's second.