#### Mystery Land.

STORIES FROM WEST AF-RICA.

Mr. Alan Lethbridge, in his book "West Africa the Elusive" (Bale and Danielsson), gives a clear and interesting account of our West Coast Colonies as they are to-day, of their "heat and horror," of their immense wealth, and of their strange medical problems. Wounds in the white man will not heal there and no white child may be born. Nor has the secret of tropical fever yet been mastered, though Sierra Leone is no longer "the white man's grave."

He has some grim stories to tellone, which is new, of the haunted castle at Elmina, where no one sleeps without a qualm. It appears that a party of three men and one woman were playing bridge very keenly in the tropical night: "Of a sudden the lady put her hand to her eyes as though dazzled. Asked if anything were the matter she denied anything wrong and continued playing. Then again she clapped her hands to her eyes, gave an exclamation, and fainted dead away.' What she had seen she could not or would not say, but the tradition is that a headless woman walks the cas-

Nor does Mr. Lethbridge reject the nower of native magic. He vouches for one strange story: that at a point in the Niger delta in a hut near a store were a number of native workers, under medical supervision. Their headman said it was "no good place." "One morning a Kroo boy was reported dead: a post-mortem revealed no apparent cause of death. Next morning two men had departed this life and again post-mortems revealed nothing. On the third morning four men were dead and there was something like a panic."

All the men were at once removed and a fresh batch brought up to be placed in "the same sinister house." They too died in the same mysterious way, and it was decided to burn down the hut. "Then something fell to the ground and was seized by the headman, who rushed up to the doctor shouting, "Here be pleny bad thing, sah! Fit to kill all men, sah!" He held at arm's length two human finger bones which had been tied together with a bit of native twine in the shape

When this ju-ju was disposed of the deaths ceased. The Niger delta is not a place for lonely white men to take walks in the gloaming; an instance is mentioned of one "youngster" who did so and "two days later his mutilated corpse was found waterlogged in the sinister mangrove swamp." Nor is it a place to be buried in; we are told that in digging graves the water is reached and the mourners have to stand upon The coffin to hold it down.—Daily Mail.

#### Centenary of Asparagus.

The Pride of Argentenil.

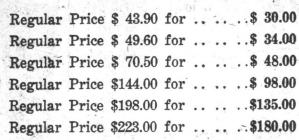
Asparagus, king of vegetables, celebrating its centenary this year. At Teast it is the centenary of the Argenteuil variety, which is practically The only one cultivated in Francethe fat, white, luscious sort with purple tips, which is perfect hot with helted butter or mousseline sauce, and even better cold with oil and vinegar. The story of how Argenteuil, a little village on the Seine a few miles from Paris, came to give birth to the giant which replaced the stringy stuff that our grandfathers called "spruce" is rather curious. Formerly Argenteuil and the neighbouring hamlets that slope down to the river produced a rather famous "small" wine much beloved by Parisians.

Astounding the Gourmets. But at the beginning of the last century the grape vines were attacked by a disease called pyrale, just as fifty years later all the vineyards of France were destroyed by the phylloxera and had to be replanted with American stock. One day a peasant, standing among his stricken, shrivelled plants, had the idea of planting asparagus among the rows. Three years later, when they had come to maturity, he was able to send to the Paris markets oct21,3m.eod asparagus of a size and succulènce that astonished and delighted the gourmets. The old peasant had endowed mankind with a new pleasure.

Next year all his neighbours were pulling up their vines and planting the "Argenteuil giant." and even to-day though the place is now a big railway junction surrounded by belching factory chimneys, the finest asparagus in the world is still produced in the district, sticks weighing pound each being by no means unusual. And all over the world the thick juicy variety has replaced spruce, fit only for soups and garnishing. But, alas! exactly a hundred years after this rebirth the spirit of the grape is taking its revenge of the usurping vegetable. The Argenteuil plantations are attacked by certain "fly" with a long Latin name which threatens to destroy the beds That is why the local authorities have decided to postpone till next year the official celebration of King Aspara gus's centenary.

BOWRING'S just opening a splen did line Pound Tweeds; mostly suit lengths. Now is your chance to get a good Suit for about a quarter the price you pay for regular. No neity to boost these goods. nseives.-nov16,3i

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#### pair ship, and the Black Hawk, flotilla ments. **Utilizing Old Battleships**

trenchment is being put into practice cruised around the world in 1908 and pounds. Then he consulted a doctor. with the utilization of naval repair now lying out of commission in the It was something that could be ships in the salvage of old battleships Philadelphia navy yard. Machinery, checked, controlled and perhaps enand otherwise materially assisting in motors, blowers, searchlights, tele- tirely cured if the patient would folthe countless jobs which ordinarily phones, copper cable and even furni- low faithfully the prescribed treathave gone to navy yards. It has been ture, which may have future useful- ment; and then he was told that the the custom heretofere to allow repair ness, have been removed and brought general benefits he would derive from ships to undertake small necessary from Philadelphia to be used in the the treatment were such that his life. jobs for the fleets only when they were outfitting of the Great Northern as might be prolonged to a greater limit anchored far from navy yards or other flagship of the Atlantic fleet. Exten- than it would have reached if he had land bases. Through the rearrange- sive alterations are to be made by the never had this ailment at all. ment of ship repair allotments, it now, Prometheus, with a force of 250 arti- "I might add that this friend has has been found practical to have these ficers. This work will be completed now recovered several of his lost indispensable "mother" ships do much in time to allow the Great Northern to pounds, he is feeling very chipper and more than was formerly required of leave for the winter manoeuvers early cheerful and he fully expects to live them. So henceforth they will spend next year. The Prometheus, of 12,000 to be a very old man. long periods in the navy yards and, it tons gross, was converted from a col- "The fact is that many things that is expected, effect economies in naval lier in 1915 to a modern repair ship, we may look at, when they come upon and cuffs of a smart coat. It is equipped to handle heavy ma- us, as drawbacks are in reality bless-The Prometheus, Atlantic Fleet re- chine and blacksmith work or such ings in disguise.

HOW CAN I, SIR,

fine tasks as adjusting of chronometers and binoculars. It is commanded by Captain Paul Foley. It is expected that another source of economy will be the establishment of a reclamation store at the naval operating base, Hampton Roads. There, all salvaged material of further usefulness will be stored and issued.

#### All for the Best.

MR. GOSLINGTON PHILOSOPHIZES ON HUMAN ILLS.

"Glimmerby, my friend Glimmerby," said Mr. Goslington, "propounds the theory that both poverty and worry are conducive to longevity, and think there is something in that. am not so sure about the worry, and yet, I think even that may be true! can see, for instance, that if a man vorried hard enough he would keep himself lean and so escape the ills and inconveniences attendant upon besity; but that poverty tends to engthen life I have no doubt what-

"The man who is poor, as we most of us are, has to work for a living. Surely it is in work that we are most blessed: and if we have work to do in which we are interested, that appeals to us. then are we fortunate indeed; we find a pleasure in labor and a joy in accomplishments; and it makes me smile to think how in such work we forget our worries entirely, "So we don't really need to con sider whether worry is a life prolonger or not; all we want to lengthen our days is to be poor, poor enough so that we have to work and keep plugging; but I do wonder that Glimmerby did not mention along with poverty and worry, as among the things that might

ship are lying in the New York navy "Some years ago a friend of mine yard after having engaged in dismant- began to lose weight and he kept on NEW YORK, Nov. 12.—Naval re- ling the pre-dreadmoughts which in that way until he had lost 25

tend to prolong life, our physical ail-

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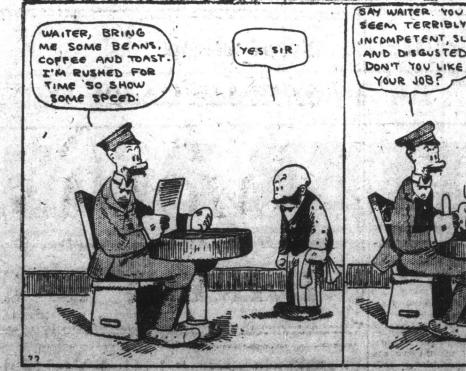
Lamb dyed green makes the collar Coat-dresses have band collars of fur and gauntlet cuffs of the fur.

Schr. Ida M. Zinck has cleared for Maaga, taking 4.261 quintals of cod fish shipped by the Nfld. Coal and Trading Co.

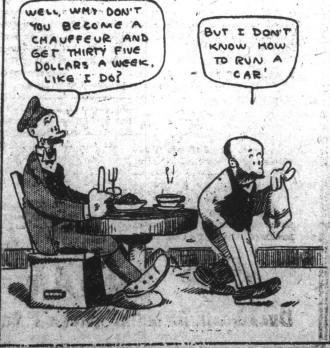
MITT AND JEFF

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