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MISCELLANEOUS.

Sprockit—"I don't believe that Spencer is much of a bicyclist." Sprint—"Why not?" Sprockit—"When I told him I had a wheel he did not ask me whose make it was."

A Scotch minister announced from the pulpit: "Weel, friends, the kirk is urgently in need of siller, and as I have failed to get money honestly, I will have to see what a bazaar can do for me."

A little four-year-old occupied an upper berth in the sleeping-car. Awakening once in the middle of the night his mother asked him if he knew where he was. "Tourse I do," he replied. "I'm in the top drawer."

The new watch is to have a phonographic cylinder hidden away in it, and at the hour and at each quarter of an hour a tiny voice will be heard giving you the exact time. You will simply touch a spring, hold the watch to your ear, and the little fairy on the inside will whisper the hour.

Two thousand four hundred men can only produce for a short time with oars the propelling force that a steamboat engine of 400 horse-power can produce constantly. It would take 117,000 men at work and 117,000 in reserve to produce 19,500 horse-power, the power exercised by the engines of a modern vessel; and no conceivable means would enable them to give the vessel a speed of 20 knots an hour.

"Max O'Rell" relates that while he was teaching in an English school, a lady wrote to the headmaster: "DEAR SIR, It is our intention to place our boy under your care, but before we do so we should like to know what the social standard of your school is?" To which the headmaster replied, "DEAR MADAM, So long as your boy behaves well, and his fees are paid regularly, no inquiry will be made about his antecedents."

A lady, en route to the last drawing-room, found herself blocked in a line of carriages containing people who had not the *entree* to which she herself was entitled. Much annoyed, she leaned out of the carriage window, and said to a policeman on duty there, in imperious tones, "Perhaps you don't know that I am the wife of a cabinet minister?" "I couldn't let you pass, ma'am," he calmly replied, "even if you were the wife of a Presbyterian minister."

SOMETHING WORTH KNOWING.

Surely there is compensation or an antidote for every pain and sting which nature imposes on us. The sharp bitter weather of our climate might seem unbearable could we not find means of enjoying it without discomfort. It was long after wood was known to be a perfect nonconductor of heat and cold before any one thought of its possible uses in clothing, but now we take advantage of this fact. Wood is reduced to its strong silken fibres and then made into the fabric known as Fibro Chamois, which offers a perfect protection from wind, cold or sleet, that makes healthful warmth possible in all weathers to everybody—and a durable protection that never fails till the garment is worn out.

According to a return issued in India, it would appear that in the frontier operations there it is the officer who runs the greatest risk of being placed *hors de combat*. A return has just been issued showing the numbers killed and wounded in these expeditions from 1891 to 1894. During those four years 35 British and 19 native officers were killed or wounded, as compared with 43 British and 492 native soldiers. There were, therefore, nearly as many British officers wounded as British soldiers.

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The old Duke of Argyle has been thrice married, and has had in all twelve children. Despite these statistics, he lately addressed a homily to his tenants on the immoderate size of their families, saying that they could not expect to be prosperous when they had so many children to support. This excited the anger of some north country dame, who promptly retorted, "We may have done weel for our country, but hardly so weel as your grace."

The *Springfield Republican* tells a story of a boy of Boston, aged six, who seems to have an imaginative mind as well as a humane disposition. Recently his mother noticed that at bedtime every night he laid his little boots together upon their sides instead of setting them upright. "Please tell me why you always place your boots in that way," she said. "Why," answered the little boy, "its because they must be tired walking so much all day. I lay them sideways, so they can rest."

A BURMESE MARRIAGE.

After she has successfully undergone the ear-boring ceremony (which takes place when she is twelve or thirteen), the Burmese young woman is expected to think about getting married. Her parents leave her quite free to make her own choice, and were it not for an old superstition the course of her love would no doubt run smooth. But it has been handed down from generation to generation that a girl born on Sunday must on no account marry a man born on Wednesday. If she did this, something very dreadful would certainly happen to herself and her husband. There are other days, too, which makes an equally disastrous combination. To prevent these disastrous marriages, every young woman carries a record of her birthday in her name, and in this way. Every day of the week has a letter of the alphabet allotted to it, and the name of every infant must begin with the letter assigned to the day of its birth. But when the birthdays of the lovers make a happy combination, the marriage is speedily brought about. The ceremony is not a religious one. Friends of the two families assemble at the house of the bride's parents, and men and women squat down on the floor to chat, eat sweets, drink non-intoxicants, smoke or chew betel. After the guests have been enjoying themselves for some time it is publicly announced that the young people—mentioning them by name—will in future be man and wife. That is the whole of the ceremony, and the bride and bridegroom depart forthwith. Before sunset, however, according to the *Young Woman*, the unmarried male friends of the bridegroom indulge in a very old custom. They assemble outside the newly-married couple's house and pelt it with stones and sticks. When the assault has been kept up for some time, the bridegroom appears at his door, and smilingly distributes money among his friends, who then depart in high spirits, and do not trouble him any more until he is married again.

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