

THE GIFT OF THE NILE.

Economists who study the increased productivity of the earth which is secured through irrigation, when they come to Egypt will ponder on the cotton yield. In the fullest sense that is what future Egyptian irrigation means. The showing of the cotton yield of the Nile regions in values presents a remarkable series of ascending figures. In 1906 the increase in the value of the crop over the previous year was \$30,000,000. Over cropping, boll weevil, and unfavorable conditions of the season from which Egypt is not more exempt than other cotton growing regions, have been balanced by bringing increased areas under cultivation, so that an actual increase of 20,000,000 pounds in the crop of 1907, as compared with 1897, was obtained, the production for those years, a decade apart, being 654,313,000 pounds and 675,000,000 pounds respectively. The area under cotton in 1907 was slightly in excess of 1,500,000 acres and the average yield per acre was 445 pounds. In Lower Egypt forty per cent. of the cultivated area, or 1,260,000 acres, is under cultivation, and all of this section through having perennial irrigation is cotton-bearing. So, by means of the Assouan dam, the engineers have assured the permanency of this source of Egypt's wealth, since cotton can be grown on the same lands two years out of five.

We may conclude that in cotton Egypt has a permanent world market, and for that reason this staple will be cultivated in preference to other crops. The change from the time of Joseph and his captive brethren to the epoch of Lord Cromer and the British Pro-consuls is one from corn to cotton.—(From The West in the Orient—Irrigation: An Old Force Newly Applied, by Charles M. Pepper, in the January Scribner.)

MR. SPURGEON'S ADVENTURE.

Mr. Spurgeon once had a singular adventure. He had been out in the country to preach, and, when travelling back to London, suddenly found that he had lost his railway ticket. A gentleman, the only other occupant of the compartment, noticing that he was fumbling about in his pocket, said: "I hope you have not lost anything, sir?" Mr. Spurgeon thanked him, and told him that it was his ticket that was missing, and that, by a remarkable coincidence, he had neither watch nor money with him. "But," added Mr. Spurgeon, "I am not at all troubled, for I have been on my Master's business, and I am quite sure all will be well. I have had so many interpositions of Divine Providence, in small matters as well as great ones, that I feel as if, whatever happens to me, I am bound to fall on my feet, like the man on the manx penny."

The gentleman seemed interested, and said that no doubt it would be all right. When the collector came to the compartment, he touched his hat to Mr. Spurgeon's travelling companion, who simply said, "All right, William," whereupon the man again saluted and retired.

After he had gone, Mr. Spurgeon said to the gentleman, "It is very strange that the collector did not ask for my ticket."

"No, Mr. Spurgeon," he replied, using his name for the first time, "it is only another illustration of what you told me about the Providence of God watching over you even in little things; I am the general manager of this line, and it was, no doubt, divinely arranged that I should happen to be your companion just when I could be of service to you. I knew you were all right, and it has been a great pleasure to meet you under such happy circumstances.—A. M. B. in the British Weekly.

LEARNING BIBLE FACTS.

I can point to two children, aged eight and ten years, who "call the Sabbath a delight." Their practical knowledge of the English Bible exceeds that of three-fourths of the students in the theological seminaries, so their father affirms; and as he was once a theologian himself, he should know whereof he speaks!

I determined that my children should not be of the large number of those reared in Christian homes who begin with Genesis and go all through the Bible to find a reference in Romans. I knew I would never have any amount of worldly goods to bequeath to them, but I made up my mind to impart to them a knowledge of God's Word that would be of far more value than anything the world could give.

At the very beginning I resolved not to present the study of God's Word to my children as a task or duty. I felt that if they were led to regard it as a privilege my battle was already half won.

Let each child have a Bible of his very own as soon as he can read, and frequently have a contest to see who will be first in finding a given reference. This exercise may be varied by calling for a favorite story or verse. The first one finding it may read it aloud. However, it is a mistake to tell where the passage is found, after the first time.

A good way to teach a Bible story is to conceal the names of the characters as the story is told. It is surprising to see how eagerly the children turn to their Bibles to find the name for themselves. Soon they will wish to tell a story in the same way, to see if the mother can tell the names.

Another favorite exercise is to have the children stand in a line like that of an old-fashioned spelling match. Instead of spelling they are to name the books of the Bible in their order. The player who misses sits down at once. The more the merrier for this game. Persons and places can be learned in the same way. A place is named, and then the children name some person associated with the place. In preparation for this exercise let a list of places familiar to the children be made. They should then be allowed to add to the list as they find others in their own reading.

The geography of Palestine may be made real and interesting in this way: Let two or three breadths of carpet represent the Holy Land, while two strings running parallel form the Jordan River; drawn apart they outline the Sea of Galilee and the Dead Sea. Let the site of Jerusalem be marked by a temple made of building blocks. A small rug or a piece of cloth will serve as a wilderness.

The Sunday school lessons can be taught by indicating thus the places mentioned. The journeys of the lesson characters may be traced, marbles being used for persons. The children's imagination will provide for many interesting little details.—Mrs. J. B. Howard.

NO HANDICAP ACCEPTED.

To be able to rise above serious limitations is a great victory; but a still greater is to refuse to admit that one's limitations are handicaps. So many of us wish to let others know that we are having a hard fight! We are glad when the conversation drifts in the direction where we can naturally talk of our impediments. A recent writer in The Outlook says of Edwin Grasse, the blind violinist, that he "will not allow himself to be advertised as the 'blind violinist'; for he desires no handicap in the race." Let us never forget that many others are having greater difficulties than we, and let us scorn to make allowance for our frailties. We shall best overcome our limitations by refusing to recognize them.

WEIGHED FOUR POUNDS.

WHEN FOUR MONTHS OLD.

Most of the sickness that comes to babies and young children is due to the stomach or bowels being out of condition. It is then that they are cross, peevish and upset the whole household. These are troubles that Baby's Own Tablets always cure promptly. Here is proof: Mrs. J. Stewart, Everton, Ont., says: "My little girl thrived so badly that at the age of four months she weighed four and a half pounds. Her stomach was badly out of order, and although the doctor treated her he did not help her. Then I got Baby's Own Tablets and right from the first they helped her and now she enjoys perfect health." If your little one is ailing try Baby's Own Tablets—always do good; cannot do harm. Sold by medicine dealers or by mail at 25c a box from the Dr. Williams Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

BLIND ANIMALS.

Most of our boys and girls are familiar with the saying, "blind as a mole," but, like many other popular sayings, it is incorrect. The English mole has eyes, though they are small ones, and, indeed, it does not need to see much, its life being nearly all passed underground. In America there is a water mole with eyes so tiny that it is difficult to put a human hair into the opening. Still, in Southern Europe there is a species of mole which does not have so much as a suggestion of eyes.

When we come to the reptile family, we discover another mistake, for the blind-worm, a familiar British snake, is not blind, but has quick and clear sight. Snakes which are nearly or even totally blind are, however, found in caverns, and these find their prey—chiefly small insects—by the sense of touch. Fish also exist which have never seen the light of day, and one species, found on the coasts of Great Britain, lives as a parasite upon larger fish, clinging to them by its suckers.

Many people suppose that most caterpillars are blind, their eyes not being noticeable; but, nevertheless, they possess these organs—usually three of them, set in a triangle. We generally find that even those dwelling in the heart of a tree have eyes. Many varieties of beetle, however, are quite blind, and so are multitudes of tropical ants—the "driver" ant, which is one of the most active of his kind, among them.

STORY OF A DOG.

She was wiser than we knew, this dog I shall tell you about, although we had given her credit for being wiser than all other dogs.

She had a bed in the corner of the kitchen, and in it were three little baby dogs.

One morning when I went to make my usual call and inquire after the health of the babies, the bed was empty. I found the little mother in a favorite nook in an upper room, but nowhere could I find the puppies, until after a long search I happened to go near a lounge in the dining room and noticed that two pillows that belonged on it were on the floor, one on top of the other. I raised the top one and there lay three little fat puppies fast asleep.

Don't you see what it meant? Why, I do, as plainly as if I had found a letter saying, "I need a rest but I wanted my babies to keep warm, so I brought them here"; but how she managed the whole thing no one will ever know.—Christian Intelligencer.

Scientists declare that city air contains fourteen times as many microbes as country air.