

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

ONE inch of rain-fall distributes 100 tons of water over an acre of land.

A New England mechanic has invented an apparatus for propelling canal boats by forcing a current of compressed air out against the water at the stern.

PINE leaves are said to be utilized in Europe as a substitute for hair in upholstery, and will make a kind of flannel very superior for hygienic purposes.

A careful calculator says, a bar of iron worth \$5 is worth when manufactured into horse-shoes, \$10.50; into table knives, \$180; buttons and buckles, \$4,035; springs of watches, \$250,000.

THERE are 400 religious journals in the United States. The Methodists have 47, the largest number; than come the Catholics, who number 41; the Baptists, 35; the Presbyterians, 29; the Episcopalians, 21; Lutherans, 14; German Reformed, 14; Jews, 9; and Congregationalists, 8.

AN Italian sonnet justly, as well as elegantly, compares prostration to the folly of a traveler who pursues a brook till it widens into a river, and is lost in the sea. The tolls, as well as risks, of an active life are commonly overrated, so much may be done by the diligent use of ordinary opportunities; but they must not all ways be waited for; we must not only strike the iron while it is hot, but strike it till it is made hot.

SPECTACLES were first invented in the thirteenth century. Francisco Redi, in a treatise on spectacles, says that they were invented between the years 1280 and 1311 A. D., by a monk of Florence named Alexander de Spina. Muschenbroeck says that it is inscribed on the tomb of Salvinus Armatus, a nobleman of Florence, who died in 1317, that he was the inventor of spectacles. By others Roger Bacon, in England, who died in 1292, has been considered the inventor.

THE BREAD OF RECONCILIATION.—In parts of Switzerland, when two men have quarreled with each other, and their friends are anxious to see them reconciled, they endeavor to bring them unawares under the same roof. If the two enemies sit down at the same table they are pledged to peace. They break a piece of bread together, and are friends once more. It would be a good idea if every boy or girl who quarrels with another boy or girl, should "make up," and become reconciled the moment they happened to eat bread together in the same county; at least that is what we think about it.

TAKING MEDICINE.—Napoleon, who was a man of great intuition, once said to the Italian physician, Antonmarchi: "Believe me, we had better leave off all these remedies. Life is a fortress which neither you nor I know anything about. Why throw obstacles in the way of its defense? Its own means are superior to all the apparatus of your laboratories. Monsieur Covisart candidly agreed with me that all your filthy mixtures are good for nothing. Medicine is a collection of uncertain prescriptions, the results of which, taken collectively, are more fatal than useful to mankind. Water, air and cleanliness are the chief articles in my pharmacopoeia."

THE ONION AS FOOD.—It is stated that the onion forms one of the common and universal supports of life in Spain and Portugal. Authority shows, according to analysis, that the dried onion contains from twenty-five to thirty percent of gluten, and ranks in this respect with the nutritious pea and the grains. "It is not merely as a relish that the wayfaring Spaniard eats his onion with his humble crust of bread as he sits by the refreshing spring; but it is because experience has long proved that, like the cheese of the English laborer, it helps to sustain his strength also, and adds, beyond what its bulk would suggest, to the amount of nourishment which his simple meal supplies."

HOW TO IRON LINEN.—A *Hearth and Home* correspondent says that linen if placed immediately after being ironed near the stove or in the hot sun, is stiffer when dry than if it is permitted to dry slowly. It is a good plan to lay collars and small articles on a waiter, and set them on a kettle or other support on the stove, till they are quite dry. Sometimes the iron will stick in a manner perfectly unaccountable; if it is rubbed on a board on which fine salt has been sprinkled, and then passed over a brown paper with wax in its folds, the sticking propensities will be checked. A bowl of clear water and a clean old linen cloth, is useful to remove any specks the linen may acquire before or while being ironed.

SCALLOPED OYSTERS.—Crush and roll several handfuls of Boston or other fryable crackers. Put a layer in the bottom of a buttered pudding-dish. Wet this with a mixture of the oyster liquor and milk, slightly warmed. Next have a layer of oysters. Sprinkle with salt and pepper, and lay small bits of butter upon them. Then another layer of moistened crumbs, and so on until the dish is full. Let the top layer be of crumbs, thicker than the rest, and beat an egg into the milk you pour over them. Stick bits of butter thickly over it, cover the dish, set it in the oven, bake half an hour; if the dish is large, remove the cover, and brown by setting it upon the upper grating of oven, or by holding a hot hovel over it!

HOW TO MEASURE A SHOE.—Boots and shoes, as worn in civilized countries, go far toward distorting the beauty of the feet. In measuring a foot for a boot or shoe, the first thing which should be considered is the place for the great

toe. Upon this toe, in walking, the weight of the whole body turns at every step; in a natural foot, therefore, the middle of the toe should be in a straight line with the heel. A central straight line drawn from the point of the great toe to the middle of its root, if continued, would pass exactly to the middle of the heel. But, by the misfitting boot usually worn, the point of the toe is pressed inwards, the root outwards. No last, or model of a foot already injured by wearing ill-fitting boots or shoes should ever be made of the exact size of such a foot.

OIL-CLOTH MADE FROM CARPET.—The following recipe is communicated to the *Cultivator and Country Gentleman*, by a correspondent, who signs herself "Daisy Eyebright": Nail the old Brussels carpet loosely to the floor, in a large attic or wood-house chamber not in use. Then paint it over with a thick coat of linseed oil and burnt umber. Let it dry in thoroughly; add a coat of good varnish. Let that dry for a week or two, and it can be scrubbed and washed with milk and water like any oil-cloth. Paint it on the wrong side, and nail it down closely, for it need not be taken up for many years. As the varnish and paint wear off, renew them, and thus it will last four times as long as common oil-cloth. If "B" shoes, he can ornament it with a border of scarlet, green or blue lines.

THE INSANITY OF DRINK.—Not the least remarkable feature in modern drinking habits, is the fact that drinkers will imbibe the most horrible concoctions rather than not drink at all. There is something intelligible in a man getting drunk on good wine or beer; but what possible pleasure or advantage can be derived from drinking such stuff as that termed in Edinburgh "hard ale," which, it appears from an analysis submitted to the Public Health Committee of Edinburgh, is composed of certain vegetable extracted matter of similar origin to that found in ordinary beer in a state of decomposition, communicating to the liquid a highly obnoxious taste and odor. "The liquid," adds the analyst, "consists mainly of decomposed beer mixed with water, and cannot fail, if partaken of in any considerable quantity, to be detrimental to health." There are it seems, five shops for the sale of this delightful mixture situated in different parts of the old town at Edinburgh.

PECULIARITIES OF LANGUAGE.—In our language we miss many of the dainty words in which the French language abounds, and which possess so much meaning. Yet all languages are equally defective. The Hindoos are said to have no word for "friend." The Italians have no equivalent for our "humility." The Russian dictionary gives a word the definition of which is, "not to have enough buttons on your foot-man's waistcoat;" a second means to "kill over again;" a third "to earn by dancing." The Germans call a thimble a "finger-hat," which it certainly is, and a grasshopper a "hay-horse." A glove with them is a "hand-shoe," showing that they wore shoes before gloves. The French, strange to say, have no verb "to stand," nor can a Frenchman speak of "kicking" any one. The nearest approach he, in his politeness, makes to it is, to threaten to "give a blow with his foot," the same thing, probably, to the directness, the energy, of our "kick." The terms "up-stairs" and "down-stairs" are also unknown in French.

THE CHIN.—Fortune tellers are generally skillful physiognomists, and all the features of the human face do their share in enlightening the understanding of seers. The chin, at the present day, is rather difficult to read, on account of the increasing custom of wearing a beard. A good chin should neither project nor retreat much. A very retreating chin denotes weakness, and a very projecting one harsh strength, united with firmness amounting to obstinacy. A pointed chin generally denotes acuteness and craftiness. A soft, fat, double chin, generally denotes a love of good living, and an angular chin, judgment and firmness. Flatness of chin implies coldness; a round dimpled chin, goodness; a small chin, fear; sharp indentings in the middle of the chin point to a cool understanding. The color and texture of the skin, and of the hair and beard, have also a direct harmony with the features; these should be studied more than they have been. A facility in drawing faces is of great use to the student of physiognomy, as it enables him to note peculiarities of feature which no written description would be capable of preserving.

NATTY BUMPO'S GRAVE.—All who have read the famous "Leather Stocking" novels of J. Fenimore Cooper, will remember the hero of the five novels, who goes by a different name in each book. In the best of the series—"The Pioneers"—he is known as "Leather Stocking." It will be news, more or less interesting, to many of our readers, to know that the remains of the original of the character—who was called "Natty Bumpo" in the flesh—are buried in this county. The novelist makes his hero die on the prairie in Illinois, and from the description of his death Thackeray seems to have taken some hints to make the death of Colonel Newcome more impressive. But the fact seems to be that "Natty" is buried in the old Baptist burying-ground at Hoosick Falls; and there, a wooden plank which marks his grave. The board stands about two feet out of the ground and is rounded on top. On the face fronting the street is painted the inscription, "The Grave of Leatherstocking." It stands almost directly east of the centre of the church. So it seems that it was in Hoosick and not on the prairie that the old scout and hunter said "Here," when his name was called by the irresistible voice that shall summon us all.

SCIENTIFIC AND USEFUL.

THE greatest care should be taken in the preparation of food for the sick. It should be just right, or the weakened and sensitive appetite will refuse it. If gruel is scorched in preparing, or whatever you attempt fails the first time to be as nice as it should be, throw it away and make more. Be scrupulously neat in serving it up. Use your prettiest dishes and finest napkins. Something depends upon looks; and the eye of a sick person may be unusually critical. Except in the preparation of light puddings, the process of baking is inadmissible for the sick. Roasting is better—a light roast potato is sometimes very acceptable. Meats should be delicately broiled, except when balled for broths.

LIE DOWN AND REST.—Dr. Hall says the best medicines in the world, more efficient than all the potions of the *materia medica*, are warmth, rest, cleanliness and pure air. Some persons make it a virtue to brave disease "to keep up" as long they can move a foot or wiggle a finger, and it sometimes succeeds; but in others the powers of life are thereby so completely exhausted that the system has lost all ability to recuperate, and slow and typhoid fever sets in and carries the patient to a premature grave. Whenever walking or work is an effort, a warm bed and cool room are the very first indispensables to a sure and speedy recovery. Instinct leads all beasts and birds to quietude and rest the very minute disease or wounds assail the system.

So much nonsense is talked about disinfectants, that we gladly reproduce the pith of a paper read by Dr. Lethby on the right materials for sanitary employment, and the best way of using them. To disinfect and render safe articles in a sick room, all clothing, bedding, &c., should be boiled or plunged into boiling water before being taken from the room, and in addition to that they should be steeped in a solution of four fluid ounces of carbolic acid (Calver's No. 5) to a gallon of water. All superfluous carpets and curtains should be removed from the room early in the case, and free ventilation and the utmost cleanliness should be always practised. As regards the use of aerial disinfectants, acid vapours are the most effective, such as chlorine or chloride of lime, or acetic acid; for these only are capable of destroying the vitality of vaccine lymph, and, therefore, by inference, of other contagious elements. It is only after the room is vacated, however, that the best agent, which is burning sulphur, can be used. Plenty of this shut in for eight hours makes all wholesome. Salts of iron and alumina, in the proportion of 1 to 3,500, are the best neutralisers of sewage; while vegetable charcoal, broken small and placed upon trays above the outlets of sewers or drains, will disarm noxious emanations. A few drops of Condy's Fluid, or of chlorozone, will purify suspicious water—for which also charcoal, from time to time well aerated, is by far the best and safest filtering agent. Charcoal respirators of the Steinhause pattern will keep a man from catching malarious fever in Indian or African swamps.

THE TEETH.—Dr. Hayes, an eminent surgeon-dentist residing in London, gives the following useful hints about the care of the teeth. They are simple, timely, and deserve attention:

"In the first place, the teeth should be fairly used. By this I mean, not made to perform the duties of crackers for nuts, experimented on to ascertain their strength, or by ladies to rival scissors in cutting thread; for rest assured—in every case, more particularly the last—the party having recourse to such practices will surely some day rue them; the teeth so unwittingly injured being always the first to part company from their fellows. Those who indulge in such or similar habits may truly be called the dentist's friends. Cleanliness is absolutely essential for the preservation of the teeth, and they should be brushed at least morning and evening, that any seculence which may be attached to them, either during sleep from the stomach, or by day from meals, may not be allowed permanently to adhere, causing, firstly, discoloration, then tartar, and subsequently, if I may so express myself, undermining the constitution of one or more, as from their position they may be more or less liable to corrosion. In order that the teeth should look natural—that is, retain their natural color—a dentifrice free from the smallest particle of acid should be used at the matin hour, and the mouth rinsed with tepid water, for extremes of heat and cold are most highly prejudicial, not only to their color, but also to their durability; and I know no method so simple of converting a really useful and ornamental set into one of pain and subsequent extraction, than the use of washing in either one or the other. The person who habituates him or herself, to any extent, to hot soup, tea, or other drinks, assuredly rivals the friend to the dentist just named. Brushes for the teeth should be of medium substance of bristle, and those made on what is called the penetrating principle are best. I would also observe that children at an early age should be instructed in the use of the toothbrush, and taught the value and importance of the teeth, in order to inculcate habits of cleanliness and a due appreciation of the ornaments of the mouth. A brush properly selected (not too hard) may be used by children of five years of age, every morning; and by being part and parcel of the general ablution, and thus directing habitual attention to the teeth, a useful and cleanly habit will be engendered which will insure for them proper care through life."

HUMOROUS SCRAPS.

When is a lady like a show-window?—When she takes great pains with her sash.

A FRENCH writer has described a young lady as a creature that ceases to kiss gentlemen at twelve and begins again at twenty.

In a letter to a friend, a young lady of Illinois states that she is not engaged, but she sees a cloud above the horizon about as large as a man's hand.

AN old lady from the country, with six unmarried daughters, went to Augusta, Ga., the other day hunting for the patrons of husbandry. She meant business.

WESTERN women are grumbling terribly because the managers of the agricultural fairs don't give at least a year's notice when they offer prizes for the finest babies.

THE rallying cry in Kansas, upon which newspapers of divers views are unanimous is: "Let no man be elected to office who owes over five years' subscription to a local paper."

RESPECT for old age never had a brighter illustration than in the case of the young lady who always refuses to go to the wash-tub when her mother or grand-mother is present.

A GUSHING, but ungrammatical, editor says: "We have received a basket of fine grapes from our friend—, for which he will please accept our compliments, some of which are nearly an inch in circumference."

A MEMPHIS reporter who paraphrased the prevailing weather without even once alluding to "the beautiful snow," was promptly ejected from the fourth story window, as unworthy a position on a first-class journal.

WHEN you see two young persons seated in the centre of a pew in church, you may make up your mind they are engaged, or going to be; but when one is at the head and the other at the foot of the pew, you can immediately determine that they are married.

MISS POPE, one evening in the greenroom of the theatre, expatiating in all the warmth of her early enthusiasm on the genius of Garrick, and on his fine features, exclaimed, "What an eye he had! It looked as if it could pierce through a deal board." "Then," said Wewitzer, "it must have been a gimlet eye."

A MAN at Trenton, who found several thousand dollars over two years ago, and has advertised it every day since that time, gets great credit for his honesty. Any man would have quit looking for an owner long ago; yet this Trenton man keeps on advertising. But he owes the paper in which it is advertised, and pays at full rates out of the money fund. After three years more of advertising the whole amount will have been absorbed.

A MISTAKE happened some time ago at a funeral in Mary-le-Bone. The clergyman had gone on with the service, until he came to that part which says, "Our deceased brother or sister," without knowing whether the deceased was male or female. He turned to one of the mourners, and asked whether it was a brother or sister. The man very innocently replied, "No relation at all, Sir, only an acquaintance."

"Oh, I met such a beautiful girl in the street to-day!" said a gentleman to a lady friend, to whom he was doing the agreeable, not in any evening's since. "She was dressed in deep mourning. I think I have never seen a sweeter face." "Who could it have been?" said his listener, smoothing down her bombazine dress, and glancing at the crape folds to see if they were properly adjusted. "Pretty, you say? Who could it have been?—I wasn't out."

A CERTAIN Sunday-school teacher was in the habit of making a collection in his juvenile class for missionary purposes. He was not a little surprised, however, one day, to find a bank-note among the weight of copper. He was not long in finding it to be of a broken bank; and on asking the class who put it there, the donor was pointed out to him by one who had seen him deposit it. "Didn't you know that this note was good for nothing?" said the teacher. "Yes," answered the boy. "Then what did you put it in the box for?" The boy coolly replied, "I didn't s'pose the little heathens would know the difference, and thought it would be just as good for them."

YEARS ago, when the cost of postage was much greater than at present, jokes were sometimes played off, the fun of which was to make a man pay heavy postage for very unnecessary information. When Collins, the artist, was once with some friends around him, one of them resisted every attempt to induce him to stay to supper. He withdrew, and the friends in council over the banquet resolved that the sulky guest should be punished. Accordingly, on the following day, Collins sent him a folded sheet of foolscap, on which was written, "After you left, we had stout and oysters." The receiver understood what was meant, but he was equally resolved to have his revenge. Accordingly, bidding his time, he transmitted, in a folded band, a letter to Collins, in which the painter read only, "Had you?" There-with the joke seemed at an end; but Collins would have the last word. He waited and waited till the matter was almost forgotten, and then the writer of the last query opened a letter one morning in which he had the satisfaction of finding an answer to it in the laconic but expressive words, "Yes, we had."