A Marvelous Showing.

The U. S. Government, through the Agricultural Department, has been investigating the baking powders for the purpose of informing the public which was the purest, most economical and wholesome.

The published report shows the Royal Baking Powder to be a pure, healthful preparation, absolutely free from alum or any adulterant, and that it is greatly stronger in leavening power than any other baking powder.

Consumers should not let this valuable information, official and unprejudiced, go unheeded.

ROYAL BAKING POWDER CO., 106 WALL ST., NEW-YORK.

Secret Societies.

I. O. O. F.—West Side Lodge No. 30, meets every Wednesday evening in Morrison's block.

I. O. O. F.—North Wichita Lodge, No. 38, meets every Monday evening at 308 North Main st. W. D. WADE, N. G. G. A. NORDSTROM, V. G. L. A. BAKER, Rec. Secy. L. F. SMITH, Per. Secy.

IDA PERDUCA, No. 66, I. O. O. F., meets every Friday evening.

A. F. & A. M.—Sunflower Lodge meets in Pulver block, east side, every second and fourth Tuesday.

E. of P.—Wichita Lodge, No. 41, meets every Monday evening at Castle Hall over 128-130 North Main Street. Visiting Knights are cordially invited. EARL BLAKE, C. C.
WM. A. WILSON, Jr., K. of R. S. W. A. HUNT, M. of F.

CRAWFORD GRAND OPERA HOUSE.
G. S. BOWEN, Local Manager

SATURDAY, NOV. 3.

TWO BIG SHOWS IN ONE—

A Cold Day.
A Chip of the Old Block.

2 | TWO DISTINCT PLAYS | 2

A Revelation in Fun,

Prices—$1.00, 75c, 50c, 25c. Seats on sale at Chas Messacher's and box office.

Southwestern Business College.

Night school opens Monday night, October 1. Bookkeeping, penmanship, shorthand and typewriting. For further particulars call at college office, corner Douglas and Topeka avenues. 114 tf

For bran, ship, corn, oats and hay; W. F. Puckett 119 W. Douglas. d&w&tf

Today, see Mrs. Wilman before you buy your millinery. She will cut the price to suit you, now that she is going away. 130 North Main street, up-stairs. 145

ROCK ISLAND ROUTE.
Cheap Rates.

Harvest excursions at one fare plus $2.00 for the round trip. Tickets sold Oct. 25 and Nov. 6 to all points in Texas. Return limit twenty days, good to stop off in both directions. Texas state fair at Dallas, Tex., Oct. 29 to Nov. 14. Round trip, $13.65. Tickets sold Oct. 19 and 26 and Nov. 2. Final limit Nov. 10.
127-25 J. H. PHILLIPS, Ticket Agent.

Back Line.

Exchange stables at Orlando and Still water. We make a specialty of carrying passengers between these points. Traveling men's patronage solicited.
SHIVELY, VANWYCK & SHIVELY.

To the Public.

The Burnett Paint company is ready to make good all work heretofore done and to promptly fill all orders for work sent to it. Get your roofs ready for the winter.
144-6t HIRAM BURNETT, Manager.

It is no mistake. Mrs. Wilman's closing out sale of millinery is the place to buy. 130 North Main street, up-stairs. 145

WICHITA COMMERCIAL COLLEGE,
Y. M. C. A. Building.

Night school now in session. Best advantages in the city. Bookkeeping, shorthand, typewriting, arithmetic, penmanship and spelling thoroughly taught by experienced teachers. Call and get terms.
119-tf E. H. ROBINS, President.

ADVICE TO MOTHERS.

Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup should always be used for children teething. It soothes the child, softens the gums, allays all pain, cures wind colic, and is the best remedy for diarrhœa. Twenty-five cents a bottle. Used by millions of mothers.

TRAVEL.

Via the St. Louis and San Francisco Railway
From Wichita to St. Louis and the East.

Two Express and Mail trains daily, morning and night, through to the St. Louis Union depot without changing cars of any class.

Chair cars (seats free) with porters in charge.

Pullman Palace Sleeping cars morning and night. It is the only line offering the latter service from Wichita to the public.

City Ticket office, No. 105 North Main st.

Passenger Station, corner Douglas ave. and Fifth ave. d&w tf

For sale—Two show cases and balance of stock this week. 408 North Main.
142 4*

Tours in the Rocky Mountains.

The "Scenic Line of the World," the Denver and Rio Grande railroad, offers to tourists in Colorado, Utah and New Mexico the choicest resorts, and to the transcontinental traveler the grandest scenery. Double daily train service with through Pullman sleepers and tourist cars between Denver and San Francisco and Los Angeles. For illustrated books address S. A. Hoover, General Passenger and Ticket Agent, Denver. d30-tf

Guest (at a down-town restaurant)—Gracious, do you know you're wiping that knife off with your handkerchief, man?

Mild-Eyed Waiter—That doesn't signify, sir, it's a soiled one.—Truth.

She (petulantly)—I don't care if you are captain, you needn't devote all your time to drilling your company.

He—But, my dear, a captain is known by the company he keeps.—Detroit Free Press.

Children Cry for Pitcher's Castoria.

RAILROAD TIME TABLES

ATCHISON, TOPEKA & SANTA FE RR.

TRAINS.	ARRIVE.	LEAVE.
NORTH AND EAST.		
No. 424 Kansas City Exp'ss		7 50 A M
No. 404 Chicago Vestibule Fast Express	1 45 P M	1 55 P M
No. 408 Missouri River Express	10 25 P M	10 35 P M
*No. 426 Englewood Exp'ss	3 45 P M	
No. 418 Local Freight	3 30 P M	3 55 P M
No. 428 Pasng'r	7 15 P M	
SOUTH AND WEST.		
No. 403 Oklahoma City and Fort Worth Express	6 50 A M	7 00 A M
No. 427 Caldwell and Panhandle Express		7 05 A M
No. 405 Fort Worth, Galveston and Texas through Express	7 05 P M	7 15 P M
*No. 415 Wichita Express	5 00 P M	
*No. 457 Englewood Accom.		6 30 A M
No. 417 Local Freight	12 10 P M	1 00 P M

* Daily except Sunday.

WICHITA AND WESTERN.

ARRIVE FROM WEST.	
*No. 420, Pratt and Kingman accommodation	1 30 p m
DEPART WEST.	
*No. 421, Kingman and Pratt accommodation	7 30 a m

* Daily except Sunday.

ST. LOUIS & SAN FRANCISCO R. R.

TRAINS.	ARRIVE	DEPARTS
No. 1 west bound also to Elsworth daily	5 30 a m	5 35 a m
No. 3 west bound Elsworth daily	4 50 p m	4 55 p m
No. 4 east bound daily	11 04 a m	11 05 a m
No. 2 east bound daily	10 30 p m	10 35 p m

MISSOURI PACIFIC RAILWAY.

TRAINS.	ARRIVE	DEPART
EAST.		
Chicago & Kansas City ex. (From Anthony)	8 30 p m.	8 35 p. m.
St. Louis Mail & Express (From Denver)	10 20 a. m.	10 40 p. m.
Mixed Express (To Anthony, mixed)	11 05 a. m.	4 30 p. m.
WEST.		
Mixed Express (To Anthony & Kiowa)	7 30 a. m.	
St. Louis Mail & Express (To Denver)	4 20 p. m.	4 40 p. m.
Chicago & Kansas City Ex. (To Anthony)	7 15 a. m.	7 20 a. m
Hutchinson & Geneseo (local Mixed)	6 40 p. m.	7 35 a. m.
Hutchinson & Geneseo (local Mixed)	6 45 p. m.	

Trains designated as local or mixed do not run on Sunday.

For full information call at city ticket office, 104 S Main street.

Depot corner Second and Wichita streets.

E. L. BRADLEY, P. and T. A.

CHICAGO, ROCK ISLAND & PACIFIC RAILWAY.

("Great Rock Island Route.")

In effect, commencing April 29th.

TRAINS.	ARRIVE.	LEAVE.
GOING NORTH AND EAST.		
No. 6, Kansas City, St. Louis and Chicago limited, daily	9 05 A M	9 40 A M
No. 8, Colorado Springs, Denver and Pacific Coast Express, daily	9 35 A M	9 40 A M
No. 4, Kansas City, St. Louis and Chicago night ex. daily except Sunday	11 15 P M	11 35 P M
No. 12, Accommodation, daily except Sunday	11 10 A M	12 01 P M
GOING SOUTH AND WEST.		
No. 5, Oklahoma and Texas express daily	7 02 P M	7 07 P M
No. 1, Ft. Worth, New Orleans and Pacific Coast ex. daily	7 02 P M	7 07 P M
No. 3, Oklahoma ex. daily except Sunday	5 15 A M	5 20 A M
No. 11, Accom. daily except Sunday	7 10 P M	7 15 P M

Through reclining chair cars on all trains, and Pullman sleepers from Wichita to Kansas City and Chicago without change on night trains. Tickets sold and baggage checked through to all points north, south, east and west, and steamship tickets sold to all European points at lowest rates. City ticket office 105 East Douglas avenue, corner Main street; passenger station corner Douglas and Mead avenues. Telephone 561.

J. H. PHILLIPS, Ticket Agent.
JNO. SEBASTIAN, G. T. & P. A., Chicago, Ill.

MISS ANNIE'S SCHOOL.

While Johnie searches Asia o'er,
To find the Hoang Ho,
I shut my eyes and see once more
That school of long ago.

It was no kindergarten shoot,
That child of modern rule,
Academy nor institute,
But just "Miss Annie's school."

Miss Annie's face was round and fair,
Her eyes were big and blue,
And everything, we did declare,
In all the world, she knew.

She always tried to make it clear,
With gentle word or kiss:
"What country south of Turkey, dear?"
Oh, Polly Ann will miss!

But no! Miss Annie smiled. "What's that
Lies under in the pan
When mother roasts the turkey fat?"
"'Tis Greece!" laughed Polly Ann.

Such grand excursions as we had
On continent and sea,
The while we held, with hearts so glad,
That charmed geography.

"The Mississippi river take,
For voyage of to-day;"
Each pupil sought Itasca lake,
And then we sailed away.

One blissful hour we journeyed south,
No craft so swift could run,
And then we landed at the mouth,
And lesson time was done.

But in that hour what things we saw,
What people strange we met!
The painted warrior and his squaw,
The black-robed Jesuit.

All passed like figures in a dream,
With buffaloes and deer,
And left beside that mighty stream
The hardy pioneer.

We heard the slave in rice-fields speak,
And felt his plaint was true;
The tears rolled down Miss Ashle's cheek,
And we—yes, we cried, too.

Oh, shade of old De Soto grave,
All honor be your due!
And seven la Salle—who else so brave?—
I take no praise from you.

But as in thought once more I view
The Mississippi flow,
I know it was Miss Annie who
Discovered it for me.
—Ruth Siddons, in Youth's Companion.

A MONSTROUS EEL.

He Made It Decidedly Hot for a Boatload of Fishermen.

A party of anglers had an exciting time with an enormous eel on Culver's lake, New Jersey. They narrowly escaped danger in the fight. The party consisted of Charles J. Charles, John Iffland and Aaron G. Baldwin, well-known Newarkers, and John Culin, of Marksboro. They started in the morning after black bass. Suddenly Culin felt a tugging at his line. It was a vicious pull, and nearly drew him out of the boat. He drew back, however, and exerted all his strength in jerking in the line. He got his victim close to the side of the boat.

Instantly a monstrous eel leaped out of the water and into the boat. It squirmed all around, and then made a savage attack on the angler. Culin held on to the pole and got twisted up with the eel. He fell on the bottom of the boat with the eel on top. Culin's

HE TRIED TO STRIKE THE EEL.

companions attempted to help him, and got tangled up in the effort. First the eel was underneath and then Culin. The creature was as large and thick as a big blacksnake, and jumped around Culin and covered him with slime, almost ruining his clothes.

Then it began biting. It snapped like a serpent. It displayed great strength, and grabbing one of Culin's shoes, which had become untied, pulled it off and then bit off the heel. Culin's friends became alarmed, and one of them got hold of a hatchet that was lying in the stern of the boat. He made several efforts to strike the eel, but the latter squirmed around so he could not succeed. At last by a lucky blow he severed the head from the body, and in a moment the creature was dead. In the eel's mouth was a piece of the wood at the side of the boat that it had bitten off just before it was killed.

Culin was in a sorry plight and was thoroughly frightened. All the party were greatly excited and contended that they had encountered a sea serpent or a mongoose or something of the kind. But investigation proved that it was only a tremendous eel, about six feet long and eight or nine inches in circumference.

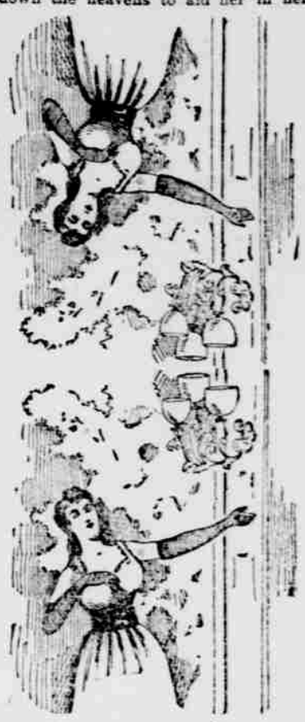
Don't, in buying baking powder, let the grocer offer you any substitute for Dr. Price's. Stand firm in your demand for the superior article.

INSURANCE IN GERMANY.

Obligatory Funds Established to Keep Workingmen from Poverty.

All kinds of legislation looking to improving the condition of the workingman fill the statute books of the states and the German empire. There are obligatory pension and insurance funds established to keep him from poverty and the poorhouse. The statistics of the imperial insurance office show that insurance legislation, if not all that it ought to be, or that its friends would wish, is nevertheless a great source of satisfaction to legislators, whose highest aim is to give labor no good reason to complain of the government. During the past year 278,777 persons were insured in the accident branch, and 226,650 in the invalid and old-age branch, i. e., were participators in the benefits. Thus, within ten years after their establishment, those funds are furnishing means of decent existence to over 500,000 persons—1 per cent. of the population—when incapacitated from work either by injury or old age. Of course, were these funds not in existence, many of those enumerated would get support from the communal poor funds, but it would not be given and received as a right, but as a charity, and while many could not be helped, each amount would have been the merest pittance. The great advantage of the state insurance is that it is given and received as a right—no shame being attached to its acceptance. The communes have gained, the burden once borne by them being now borne by the manufacturers.

That the genius of a variety singer should rise to the height of dragging down the heavens to aid her in her



THE MIRAGE SINGER IN A FRENCH CAFE-CHANTANT.

short skirt display or force the sun into partnership with her in her act would probably never have occurred to any artist outside the French capital. But in a city where one woman advertises her thinness as a drawing card and another acquires glory because of her awkwardness, any eccentricity is regarded as fin de siecle and sure to bring profit to the originator. The versatile performers of Paris are more prolific in the tricks of their profession than any others the world over.

The latest sensation in Paris this summer is known as the "mirage song." It was introduced by a charming young lady, who was favored, like Lole Fuller, with an inventive brother, who, in this instance, had made a study of a higher art than song and dance, and was thus able to help his sister by calling upon the natural resources of the universe.

The method employed to produce the illusion is a very simple one, and consists in concentrating upon the singer a powerful light, which throws a reflection of her figure upon a sheet of glass suspended above her, its edges adroitly concealed. The reflection is, of course, inverted above her head and appears to be floating in the air. Every gesture that she makes is reflected by the figure above her. As she appears in the glass to be standing on her head, the interest of the spectators is excited by the contemplation of her skirts and her manipulation of them without making an indecorous display

As an aid to superior cookery Dr. Price's Baking Powder, besides its greater purity, is of higher leavening power than any other.

A WIFE'S DEVOTION.

How She Earns a Comfortable Living for Her Maimed Husband.

A comfortably constructed invalid carriage, pushed by a sweet-faced young woman who would have been taken for a daughter of the occupant of the carriage, rolled up on the pavement in front of the Sixth street entrance to the Palace hotel, Cincinnati, the other evening. The corridor of the hotel and the pavement were thronged with guests of the hotel. All were watching this curious couple. The carriage stopped and the young woman took a position alongside it. The occupant of the carriage unstrapped a mandolin from his back. Soon the great crowd was listening to "Summer Will Come Again," which the young woman sung with all the grace of a professional, being accompanied by the occupant of the carriage on the man-

A PRETTY PICTURE.

dolin, which he handled in really excellent style. Several songs followed, the couple being handsomely repaid by the hotel guests. The sweet-faced young woman and the invalid carriage with its burden then proceeded on. Few who saw the couple knew that they were husband and wife. Harry L. Blake is the name of the mandolin player, says the Enquirer. He is about forty years of age, while his wife is at least twenty years his junior. He was a brakeman for the Oregon Navigation Railroad company, and lost a leg while employed by that company, besides sustaining other injuries. They have traveled all over the country, he and his wife entertaining thousands in their travels.

An Unkind Cut.

The pompous and aristocratic gentleman had gone to the genial, talkative, rather obsequious little tailor to have his shiny coat replenished with buttons. A few days later, the little tailor met his patron and thought he would be very agreeable.

"Ah, colonel," he smiled, "good morning; how are those buttons coming on?"

"They are not coming on," grunted the old gentleman, "they are coming off, sir."—Detroit Free Press.

His Ambition.

Visiting Pastor—What would you like to be when you grow up?

Hopeful Small Boy—I'd like to be a preacher.

"Would you really?"

"Yes, sir. I'm awful fond of good eatin'."—Puck.

BURNING A GHOST

Story of a Haunted Country House in New York State.

The Old Dwelling Went Up in Smoke, and the Uncanny Spirit of the Murdered Peddler Has Not Since Made Its Regular Appearance.

Few primeval regions there are that do not have their familiar legends of a peddler having been a guest over night at some tavern or isolated house and never being seen again. But no place ever had such a sure-pop, mysteriously disappearing peddler as the old Rogers homestead, midway between Pleasant lake and Thompsonville, near Monticello, N. Y.

Nearly fifty years ago a man named Smith Rogers built a house in that out-of-the-way spooky spot, and lived there several years with his family. Then he traded the property for something else, and the house and land became a regular trading piece in the real estate market. Thirty-five years ago the property fell into possession of a New York land shark, and he sent a man up to live in the house and look after things. The name of this man the local chronicle does not give, but it gives the name of the weary Jew peddler who stopped at the house one night and asked for a place to sleep. His name was Moses Liberman, and he sold jewelry. He obtained shelter from the man who lived in the house. He was seen to go into the house by a backwoodsman named Master. Nobody ever saw him come out again.

"Soon after the disappearance of the peddler," says the local chronicle, "strange and weird noises were heard in and about the old house. Heavy footsteps could be distinctly heard nearly every night after twelve o'clock, sometimes in the attic, then in the cellar, and again coming up the hill just beyond the house. On dark, dreary nights, as the wind sighed around the house and through the trees, the voice of the peddler could be heard muttering Jewish phrases or groaning in agony. Occasionally the stooped form of the peddler, with a face white and deathlike, appeared at the bedside of those at the old house, striking terror to them."

This went on until no one would live in the house—the man who was there when Peddler Liberman went in and didn't come out again having disappeared soon afterward—and it had not been occupied, except by rats and bats and owls, for thirty years and more. But people passing the lonely, deserted spot at night always heard the tramping and language and groans of the unfortunate peddler, and frequently saw his spooky face at the paneless windows. Some persons who passed there many times a month, though,

THE GHOST DISTURBING THE SLEEPERS.

never heard or saw the peddler's ghost, but others never went by the place without both seeing and hearing it.

The last person who saw Peddler Liberman in the flesh, except the accommodating gentleman who gave him quarters that fatal night, was the man Masten, and it is a strange coincidence that the last person who saw the pedder as a ghost was a son of that Masten. The other afternoon he came to Thompsonville in great excitement.

"The ghost is on the rampage in the old Rogers house," he reported. "He is cutting up fearful, and it is enough to scare bears the way he is going on."

To see and hear a ghost in the daytime was something so very unusual and unconventional that two or three persons from Thomsonsville went back with Masten to see how a daylight ghost looked and acted. Before they got to the ghost's abode, however, they saw smoke rising in that direction. When they came in sight of the house it was wrapped in flames, and, dry as tinder as it was, it was soon consumed. The peddler's ghost has not been seen or heard since. A week never passed when it was absent, so the natives declare their belief that the spook was burned with the old house, and some of them say they are not sorry.

Man-Rat Contest in England.

The town of Wolverhampton enjoys the distinction of having invented a new sport, which, as long as the novelty lasts, is likely to be popular among the colliers in the "Black country." At a tavern in the outskirts of that town a man was matched against a rat tied to a wooden pin in the middle of a table by a long line, which gave it plenty of play. The rat tried to escape, but was forced to fight, and the man, whose hands were tied behind his back, attacked it with his teeth. According to local chroniclers, the engagement was a savage one, and the rat inflicted severe bites upon his human antagonist. But the vermin was ultimately killed fairly and squarely.

Swallowed a Piece of Gum.

Miss Mary Brown, of Princess Anne, Md., died from the effects of an operation for apendicitis. She had been ill for several weeks, and a Baltimore specialist, who had been summoned, said that some foreign substance had lodged in the vermiform appendix, and that an operation was necessary. It was found that a small piece of chewing gum, which the young woman had swallowed, had found its way into the appendix and caused her death.

Prices a Century Ago.

One hundred years ago beef sold in New York city at 3½d. to 5½d. a pound; mutton, 3½d.; veal, 3½ to 5½d.; live pigs, 2½d.; butter, 1s. 1½d.; new milk, 3½d. to 4½d. a quart; chickens, 10d. to 1s.; hay, £3 5s. to £3 10s. 3d. a ton; wheat, 5s. 7½d. a bushel; barley, 3s. 1½d.; corn, 3s. 9½d.; rye, 3s. 1½d.; oats, 1s. 9½d. The average yield of wheat per acre in the state then was 17 bushels of corn, 35 bushels and of barley or rye 15 bushels.

A NOBLEMAN IN FACT AND NAME.

Germany's Great Baron and His Wonderful Discovery.

We are apt to forget the significance of the word "nobleman," although a moment's consideration brings it clearly before our minds.

If ever a man lived who was justified in bearing the title he was Baron Justus von Liebig. The entire life of this good and brilliant man was devoted to thoughtful study toward the amelioration of suffering and the advancement of science.

Like most men of genius, he rode a hobby, and this hobby was the great question of food and digestion.

Not the least among his inventions was a process by which starcy foods may be artificially digested outside of the body, and energy thus spared for expenditure in other directions.

This may not interest the men and women of robust digestion, who go from an elaborate dinner free from any fear or even consciousness that their stomachs are doing a great work.

It will, however, strongly appeal to the miserable, pale, thin dy-peptics who look upon eating as a disagreeable necessity, and realize that every mouthful of food is to contribute one more or pain to their sufferings. They will recognize that to the use of such an artificially digested food, their tired stomachs can be rested and recuperated.

Like many other advances in science, Baron Liebig's invention has never been practically applied until recently. Now, however, in Paskola, the new medicinal food, we have the embodiment of his idea. No wonder, then, that this product has been so successful in the treatment of indigestion, and attracted such widespread attention.

Paskola is simply an artificially digested food, combined with organic principles, which aid the digestion of other foods in the stomach.

It is palatable; it needs no preparation beyond a simple dilution in water, but it affords almost immediate relief.

What it does is best told by those who are using it. We quote from a few of the letters which have reached us recently.

Mr. John Fleck of Wilmore, Pa., states as follows, under date of September 11: "For five or six years I have been troubled with indigestion, which culminated about six weeks ago, when I broke down completely. Having noticed your advertisements, I resolved to give Paskola a trial, and accordingly bought a small size bottle. I felt a decided improvement from the very day I began to use it, and can now eat almost anything without pain or distress, and firmly believe that had it not been for Paskola I would be numbered with the great majority that rest beneath the sod. I unhesitatingly recommend it to all who are troubled with indigestion or dyspepsia."

Mrs. Arthur M. McClure, of Rutland, Vt., wrote under date of July 24, in part as follows: "For eight months I had been a complete invalid. My physician said it was as bad a case of nervous exhaustion as he had ever seen. I gained very little under a course of tonics and rest. I had no appetite; digestion badly impaired; could get very little sleep without the aid of narcotics; my heart palpitated to suffocation upon the slightest exertion or excitement, and my nervous condition was something frightful. I was unable to do anything. I have taken four bottles of Paskola and am pleased to say that my appetite and strength increased from the very first week of its use. The extreme nervousness gradually grew less. In fact, I feel better in every way, and have gained flesh until my weight is now normal."

In conclusion we might say that the flesh-producing qualities of Paskola are not surprising when we consider that starch is nature's source of fat, and the base of our preparation, as previously stated, is artificially digested starch. A tired stomach, like a tired horse, needs rest. Paskola will rest your stomach. If you will send your name to the Pre-Digested Food Company, No. 30 Rose Street, New York, they will be glad to send you an interesting pamphlet on this all important subject of food and digestion.

The Benefits of Mesquite Tree.

The ranchmen of southwest Texas report that the crop of mesquite beans is larger this year than for many years past. In pastures where there is considerable growth of this tree horses and cattle are as fat as if fed on corn, the ground underneath the trees being covered with this dry-weather product. The value of the mesquite bean to the ranchmen of this section of Texas is inestimable. The tree furnishes one of the most durable woods for fence posts, and the posts of the thousands of miles of wire fences that surround and divide the large ranch properties are of this material. In times of phenomenally dry weather the beans which this tree produces go far toward sustaining animal life. It is a remarkable and generous provision of nature that the mesquite bean thrives best in dry weather, at a time when it is most badly needed by the ranchmen. In wet weather the beans of the tree rot before maturity, and, just as rain is needed for the maturity of other crops, the mesquite requires the absence of it, at least during the time it is bearing. In unusually dry seasons it produces two crops. In times of long drought the ranchmen look upon the mesquite tree as the only salvation for their stock, and it saves thousands of dollars' losses to live stock in this part of Texas per annum.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Taking a Momentous Step.

"What'll you charge me for a marriage license?" asked the loose-jointed young man in brown jeans.

"Two dollars," replied the county clerk.

"Is that the reg'ler price?"

"It is."

"Can't git it no cheaper in any of the other offices?"

"No."

"Don't keep no second-hand licenses that was brought back 'cause the feller got slipped up on and hadn't no use for 'em?"

"Of course not."

"Well," said the young man, pushing his hat back on his head, "you kin save one for me. I'll be round agin next Saturday with the two dollars. I'm goin' back now to hunt up a gal."—Chicago Tribune.

THE MIRAGE SONG.

In It a Young Lady Is Seen Dancing on Her Head.

The cafe chantant of Paris is always prepared to take advantage of any novelty, whether it be in nature or art, that will surprise or mystify its patrons. Just at this season the mirage is one of the ordinary freaks of nature, and it is difficult for anyone who has not visited the far eastern countries to realize the absolute fidelity to nature those singular apparitions keep.

THERE LAY SMITH, FLAT ON HIS BACK.

tongue, and then sounded that awful buzz of a rattle. At this the copperhead coiled itself for a spring. It was evident the reptiles were about to indulge in a fight for the possession of the comfortable nest on poor Smith's chest. The snakes glared at each other for nearly a minute. Each kept waving his head to and fro. Their eyes looked like coals of fire. Suddenly each became motionless, but it was only for an instant, and then, quicker than the eye could follow, they sprang at each other. The next moment they were writhing about in a tangle. The moment the fight began Smith leaped to his feet and rushed out of the tent. For a time we forgot about the snakes. Smith was so scared he could scarcely stand. We gave him a drink of brandy, and when he revived somewhat we went back to see the fight. The reptiles were still at it, tied up in a big knot. Coiled about each other as they were I don't believe they could have been placed in a half-bushel measure. There is no telling how long the fight would have lasted had we not stopped it. But it was growing dark, and we didn't care to have two live monsters battling in camp after sundown, so we drew our revolvers and fired several shots through the snakes. It had no apparent effect. At length, when we came to examine, we found both snakes dead, but so tightly were they embraced in each other's coils that we could scarcely untangle them.

"The two snakes were weighed on our fish scales before we separated them and together they weighed twenty-four and one-sixth pounds. We went home next day. Our snakes spread all over that region of country. After that Johnson's island lost its popularity as a summer resort. No one ever goes there now except a few old fishermen. Those who used to spend their summer vacations there usually come up to Chicago."

Repentant Suicide Drowns.

A New York man jumped from a ferry boat on the Hudson with the intention of committing suicide, but the instinct of life within him was so strong that as soon as he struck the surface he began to swim for the nearest boat. But before help reached the man a wave swept over his head and he was drowned.