Chinese Figure Lanterns.

Chinese figure lanterns are hardly made. The light in the lantern is a long and substantial candle, and the doors of the framework are filled with ground glass, oil paper, oil silk or other translucent material. Inside of the lantern and suspended over the flame as high up as possible is a little windmill at the end of whose arm are suspended many grotesque or pretty objects running till the way round the light.

These figures are cut from cardboard or are made of bamboo, silk, cotton and other materials. They represent horses, warriors, peasant women carrying loads upon their heads, fishes, dragons, serpents, griffins, knights on horseback, famous kings upon equally famous chargers, birds, butterflies and insects. Many are cut out of colored translucent material, so that the light goes through them and is tinged in the passage.

The moment the candle, or the gas, where that is employed, is lighted, the hot air ascending causes the windmill to revolve. This makes the figures travel in a circle around the flame, casting a shadow, dark, pale or colored, upon the translucent panes. By alternating the characters it may be beasts pursuing men, soldiers chasing an enemy or birds and animals in flight.

The effect is very pretty, and, as the fine thread or wire which suspends the figure casts almost no shadow, the appearance is very puzzling to an onlooker. The little figures are cut from metal stencils by women and children, who display considerable skill and taste in constructing them for this curious style of ornamentation.—New York Mail and Express.

Iron Working In Central Africa.

The working of iron is certainly the most advanced art in this region of Africa. The ore is mined, smelted and fashioned by the natives with great skill. Outside many of the villages stands the village smithy, merely a roof of shade boughs and grass supported by stakes. Here congregate the village gossips, who justify their presence by an occasional turn at the bellows. The tools are primitive, a rock for an anvil, a weighty stone for the sledge and pieces of iron bound to wooden handles for the finer shaping and ornamental work. The bellows consist of two goatskins, each furnished with an open mouth like a purse, and connected up by a piece of bamboo pipe to a narrow clay union nozzle about 9 inches long.

The blower sits on the ground, seizes the mouth of each skin in either hand, and raises and lowers them alternately, first with the mouth open and with a quick upward stroke to take in the air, then with the mouth closed and a tremulous downward pressure to force the blast. By this rude process a hot charcoal fire is maintained, and the work turned out is excellent for the primitive implements used—knives of great utility, and which take a good rough cutting edge; arrowheads and spears, many of them curiously barbed and twisted, and some showing a knowledge of the value of the "blood groove;" axes for battle and for general purposes, ornamented with linear patterns and beaded edges, and with the blades set at an acute angle to the shaft so that every ounce of power is transmitted in the direction of the blow.—Geographical Journal.

Poets In the House of Commons.

Several members of the house of commons have published volumes of poems—namely: William Abraham, member for Glamorganshire (Rhondda division), who is a Welsh bard, under the title of "Mabon;" William Allen, the member for Gateshead, who is an engineer and poet, and whose works include "A Book of Songs In English and Scottish;" William Johnston of Ballykilbeg, member of the southern division of Belfast, who is poet laureate of the institution of Orangemen in Ireland; Professor Jebb of Cambridge university, who has published translations into Greek and Latin verse, and T. D. Sullivan, member of the western division of Donegal, who has published a selection of songs. Sir George Otto Trevelyan published in 1869 a volume of poems entitled "The Ladies In Parliament," and other pieces, and has also written many verses, dramatic and satirical, of which another of the best known is "The Dawk Bungalow."

Henry Smith Wright has published the first four books of the "Iliad" of Homer in English hexameter verse. The prime minister (Mr. W. E. Gladstone), though he has not published a volume of poems, has written verses both in English and Latin, while among his papers is said to be a Greek tragedy, which may one day be sent out in book form. Mr. J. W. Crombie, member for Kincardineshire, is the author of "Some Poets of the People In Foreign Lands." Two members of the house of lords have recently published volumes of poems—namely, Lord Houghton, "Stray Verses," and the bishop of Lincoln, "A Ladder of Heaven."—London Tit-Bits.

What He Forgot.

Little Johnny—Can I have some more pie?

Mamma—Do not say "can;" say, "May I have?"

Little Johnny—I forgot.

Mamma—Forgot what?

Little Johnny—That I have to be particular about grammar when I ask for pie.—Good News.

The Ballet and the Opera.

As early as 1750 the ballet had been separated from the opera and given an independent dramatic form. Later on in the century the ballet assumed the form of a great rhythmical pantomime, and for many decades was kept in the theater of Milan in most exalted style.—Music and Drama.

"Oh, mamma, see the poor horses! They go all the time, and they don't get anywhere," said a small boy compassionately, pointing to the horses at work in the threshing machine.

Leo XIII is the only pope that ever sauntered down Loudon's famous Piccadilly. The pope performed the feat when, as Mgr. Pecci, he visited London in 1846.

A census of the great trees of California, the "giant redwoods," reveals the fact that there is even 2,575 of them left, the average diameter of the lot being 23 feet.

It was at a beach picnic that little Dolly asked thoughtfully, "Mamma, they put salt into the sea; why don't they put salt into the sea; why don't they put salt into the sea?"