



Flowers are the poetry of the earth; babies the sunsets of humanity. Banish the smiles, the dimples and the laughter of childhood and the world would become a barren wilderness, inhabited by savages. Woman's ultimate mission, duty and joy on earth are comprised in the one word, "Motherhood." Multitudes of women fail of this mission because of weakness and disease of the distinctly feminine organism. They do not understand that disorders of this nature unfit them for wifehood and motherhood, and as a consequence are careless and neglectful of their health in a womanly way. Others who realize the truth, shrink from the "examinations" and "local treatments" insisted upon by the average physician. Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription does away with the necessity for these obnoxious examinations and local treatments. It acts directly and only on the delicate and important organs that are the vestibule of human life and makes them strong, healthy, vigorous, virile and elastic. It fits for wifehood and motherhood. It banishes the annoyances of the uncomfortable period preceding maternity and makes baby's arrival in the world easy and nearly painless. All the dangers of maternity vanish under its beneficent influence. Its use during the period of anticipation is a guarantee of the little stranger's health and an ample supply of natural nourishment. Thousands of women have testified to its marvelous merits. All medicine stores sell it. Accept no substitute that may be represented as "just as good."

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### A FADLI BABY.

One That Was Four Months Old and Had Never Been Washed—A Traveler's Experience.

We went to a village called Abr Shebba, more under the mountains. We were shown about very civilly and taken to the door of a larger dar and asked if we wished to go in, says the Geographical Journal. We did not know if we were wanted, so made an indefinite answer. There was a difference of opinion, and at last they said the bibi should go in; so I crossed the court and entered the house and had hardly done so, when my hand was seized and I was dragged by a man through black darkness round and round. I stepped high and as quickly as I could rushed after him. At the third round I saw a little light shining on the roughest possible earthen steps and was pulled into a little room, where I was greeted with cries of amazement by some women, and then continued my way unaided to the top of the tower. The parapets were ornamented with gazelle horns.

After some time I wanted to go down, but I was on my way taken to a large room where manners demanded I should settle down for coffee. Everyone was very kind and for greater friendliness a naked baby, four months old, was placed in my hands. When I wished to return it was made to sit on my knee. It soon kindly cried and was, to my joy, removed. It had never in its life been completely washed, though several large spots and trimmings had been painted on its head.

**Suicides Increasing Yearly.**  
The number of suicides throughout the world is 180,000 yearly and is on the increase. The greatest number happen in June, the fewest in September, and nearly one-half between 6 a. m. and noon.

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### DESTRUCTIVE PESTS.

Two Insects That Have Troubled American Farmers.

A Systematic Study Has Been Made of the Chinch Bug and the Hessian Fly—Bulletins by the Government.

The two greatest insect pests known to the American farmer have been receiving the careful attention of the division of entomology of the United States department of agriculture for a long time. These are the chinch bug and the Hessian fly. The department has prepared and is about to publish two bulletins treating respectively of the two insects and suggesting possible remedies for checking them.

The bulletin on the chinch bug is entitled "The Chinch Bug; its probable origin and diffusion, its habits and remedial and preventive measures, with mention of the habits of an allied European species." The bulletin was prepared under the direction of the entomologist of the department, F. M. Webster, entomologist of the Ohio agricultural experiment station. The agricultural department has received many requests for information about the chinch bug, and the bulletin is intended to meet this demand. It gives many new facts concerning the life, history and distribution of the species, and the whole subject of the practical handling of its diseases, in order to assist in its destruction, is treated at length. It says that few insects have caused such pecuniary losses, and that no other insect native to the western hemisphere has spread its devastating hordes over a wider area of country with more fatal effect to the staple grains of North America. It is widely distributed over the world and hibernates in the adult stage. It is of gregarious habits and migrates in spring, summer and autumn. When and where it lays its eggs, the period of incubation, the different stages of development, the development and habits of its young, annual generations and food plants, are covered by the bulletin. In addition, it treats of the influence of precipitation and temperature on the insect; its natural enemies; remedial and preventive measures, and describes the true and false chinch bugs.

The bulletin says that it would appear that this pest first made its presence known in this country in North Carolina in 1783, and mentions several serious outbreaks of the bug in the west. The estimated losses from its ravages from 1850 to 1887 reach \$267,000,000. It also says that it is believed that the losses up to 1898 amounted to fully \$330,000,000. The bulletin contains 19 illustrations, including maps, showing areas infested by the chinch bug, and the probable course of its diffusion over North America.

The other bulletin is entitled simply, "The Hessian Fly in the United States." It was prepared under the direction of the department's entomologist by Herbert Osborn, professor of zoology and entomology at the Agricultural college of Ames, Ia., and contains many facts concerning the life, history, food habits and parasitic enemies of this farm pest. The bulletin says that the Hessian fly probably ranks next to the chinch bug as the farm pest in the United States, and that its ravages in other countries have long been known. It received its name in the belief that it had been introduced into this country by the Hessian soldiers during the war of the revolution.

An account of its original habitat, its very wide distribution throughout the wheat-growing districts of Europe and America, and its means of distribution are given in the bulletin, with descriptions of the male and female insects, the eggs, the larval form and development, food plants, natural enemies and remedies. The bulletin also contains a list of all the important papers on the Hessian fly that have appeared in America, and such of the foreign works as are of value to the American student. It is illustrated with a frontispiece, two plates and eight text figures. —N. Y. Sun.

**Hourly Visiting by Trained Nurses.**  
A comparatively recent departure in trained nursing is what is called hourly visiting. Until within a year or two it was not possible to secure the services of a trained nurse except by the day or week. Nevertheless, there were very many times when a trained nurse was needed for special duties, such as attendance at operations, attending to dressings, bandaging, bathing and various other duties. To meet these needs the trained nurses in Chicago and other cities arranged several years ago to go for so much an hour. The plan worked well there, and was finally adopted by trained nurses in this city. For cases requiring about six hours the fee is four dollars, for an attendance of one hour one dollar, for each successive hour or fraction thereof 50 cents. The nurse can do a great deal in an hour, and the patients who are unable to have her services constantly have found the new arrangement a great convenience. —N. Y. Sun.

**An Island of Mushrooms.**  
Washington possesses just now a little wonder of the world in the form of a most phenomenal growth of several edible species of mushrooms. This wonder can be found on the island in the Potomac on the south side of the bathing beach, and west of the long bridge. The rich soil made in recent years by the dredgings of the river has produced a luxuriance of growth of fungi that can probably not be seen anywhere else, and if they continue to increase in the ratio they have done these last few months we may venture to state that the entire island will soon be one solid mass of edible mushrooms. —Washington Star.

### GREATEST THERMOMETER.

It is Seventy Feet Long and to Be Sunk in Shaft of Equal Length.

With as little sign of excitement as if it were only a ten-cent toy, there is being placed in the ground by Col. Knight, of Harestock, Winchester, England, a giant thermometer, that is to be used to measure the earth's temperature. The thermometer is 70 feet long, and the work of merely placing it in position has occupied a corps of workmen for a long time.

First a shaft was sunk 70 feet into the ground and then a scaffolding was erected over the shaft to render the landing of the great thermometer easy. The scaffolding was higher than the thermometer, which had to be hoisted to the perpendicular by means of steam cranes and then dropped gently into the 70-foot shaft.

When it is in place this unique thermometer will register the temperature of mother earth 70 feet below the surface, recording exactly all her moods, and giving scientists an opportunity to become more closely acquainted with the underground mysteries of the globe on which we live.

The giant thermometer is made in accordance with the principles that govern the small instruments in everyday use. In constructing it many difficulties had to be overcome, on account of its great size.

In Col. Knight's thermometer it was not possible to use any but an arbitrary scale. It is not supposed that there will be any comparable readings necessary with this giant instrument. Careful observations will be made, however, and the result recorded on the instrument so that the big thermometer can be read, if possible, in accordance with the scale of smaller instruments.

In making scales for the latter, the bulb is frozen and the freezing point recorded on the scale. It is then boiled and the boiling point marked on the tube. The remaining points are filled in by dividing up the scale into sections. This simple plan was the basis of the scale adopted for the 70-foot thermometer, although this scale may be subject to variations when the great instrument is in working order.

The largest thermometer ever made previous to the one constructed by Col. Knight was constructed by Forbes, who built one measuring nearly 40 feet in length. This was considered a great accomplishment, and the Forbes thermometer became one of the curiosities of science.

With the new thermometer the temperature of the earth can be taken at twice the depth it has been possible to take it heretofore, and the records obtained are expected to prove of unusual value to science. —N. Y. Herald.

### RIFLE FOR LIONS.

That Is the Small Kind Hunter Packard Kills the Beasts in Arizona With.

Florence Packard, who lives in Greenback valley, Gila county, Ariz., has a remarkable record as a hunter of mountain lions. He has killed scores of them, and last year alone his record was 33 scalps. The mountain lions of Arizona are most destructive to herds of horses and cattle. The risk of life and difficulties attending their destruction has caused the lions to be more numerous than one would suppose, and if it were not for the bounty paid by the country, the stockmen would be short on their cattle and horses. Much of the country surrounding Packard's ranch is made up of irregular ranges of broken mountains.

In the last 12 months Mr. Packard has brought to Globe, besides 33 lions, a few bears, wildcats, coons and foxes. The dogs for this work are a cross between the fox and bloodhound. Usually four dogs are in the pack. The two younger are yoked together, another is trained as scout, whose work is to go ahead and around for the scent of lion or bear, and when the scent is found the oldest dog is put on the track, and, to his credit, it is said, never fails to find the animal. Packard says he has frequently followed this dog over 15 miles before the lion was found. Up to this date 71 lion scalps are to the credit of this dog. The dog is not a fast trailer, but very careful, and, considering the roughness of the country, the dog is remarkable.

The bears are the shyest of all game, having poor eyes and good ears, the least noise drives them off a good way. It may surprise some hunters to know that a 22 rifle is used by Packard for killing these animals. If a heavier gun is used the force of the shot would knock the animal out of the trees or off rocks before dead, and likely cause the death of some of the dogs. The lion is easily killed by a small ball when well aimed. —Globe (Ariz.) Times.

**These Children.**  
And there was a certain man who, being a merchant with trade to look after, was a member of the church, in fact an elder therein. One day he invited his pastor home to dinner, and while they sat in the parlor waiting for the call to table he began to tell of a brother elder's misconduct and grievous sin. "I only tell you this because you are the pastor and I think you ought to know it. I never mention it to anyone else." And he repeated this several times during his recital. As it was about completed in came his little daughter. Catching the subject of the conversation, she broke in with this exclamation: "My goodness, pa! You're surely not telling that old story again!" —N. Y. World.

**To Make Berlin a Seaport Town.**  
It is announced that the German government expects to be able to introduce a bill in the next session of the Prussian diet for the construction of a canal suitable for large steamships between Berlin and Stettin, practically making Berlin a seaport town. —Chicago Chronicle.

### ANDREE MAY RETURN

Theory of a Vienna Explorer on the Subject.

The Discoverer of Franz Josef Land Thinks the Lost Aeronaut May Return Through That Country.

Herr Julius von Payer, of Vienna, an experienced explorer who was one of the leaders in the discovery of Franz Josef Land, thinks Andree may yet return via that country, although he is not very sanguine. His theory is that Andree, after leaving Spitzbergen, may have fallen into a strong air current which carried the balloon for several days toward the northeast, and then drove it in a southeasterly direction. That, he believes, would bring them to the east coast of Franz Josef Land. From that place the little party would have to make its way over dangerous ice not always continuous, and with open sea in places, to the coast of Siberia. But even when they arrived there—if, indeed, they have been so fortunate—their work would not be nearly over. It is still a long and difficult journey to reach the more inhabited parts; so that Herr von Payer thinks there is not the least chance of the adventurers, supposing them to be alive, being heard of before next autumn. Obviously, the route which he suggests as possible involves many grave contingencies.

The evidence, however, in favor of the supposed path of the balloon is of the slightest character. It may not have taken that return course toward the southeast, and, in any case, the Franz Josef group of islands is not so large that an unmanageable apparatus like a balloon might not easily miss them all. If it did, and particularly if it were involved in those variable drifts of which Nansen had experience, it might float about until from exhaustion of its gas it settled down upon the sea. In this case, we think, the explorer's chance of reaching land, though they had endeavored to provide for this contingency, would not be worth very much. Even if they have alighted on firm ground, and have saved their weapons and a fair supply of ammunition—and without these they would have little hope of imitating Nansen and surviving a winter in Franz Josef Land—there would still remain the journey to Siberia. Possibly, however, they would try for Spitzbergen, as Nansen would have done if he had not fallen in with the Jackson-Harmsworth party. But a second winter, with the imperfect appliances of Andree's expedition, would be a most formidable trial, unless they could manage to reach the home from which they started in July, 1897, or some other well-provisioned shelter elsewhere. That they should succeed in this or fall in with some tribe of Siberian natives before the present winter has fully set in seems the one remaining hope. At present, no doubt, it would still be premature to call them lost. But we are inclined to share Herr von Payer's opinion that until some one has succeeded in constructing a balloon which can be steered like a ship the plan adopted by Andree is about the most desperate—we had almost said suicidal—method of undertaking polar exploration yet devised. —Cincinnati Enquirer.

### A SONG CONTEST.

How the Poets of Provence Amused Their King and Themselves in the Olden Times.

By and by King Rene came into the hall and took his seat on the throne. He wore a rich robe of purple velvet, embroidered all over in the brig, set silks and gold; and after him came a great troupe of troubadours and minnesingers, some carrying their own harps, and some followed by little pages who bore their masters' belongings.

As the good king Rene looked at his gay company and the brilliantly hung hall and the long tables, his eyes sparkled with delight, and his heart swelled with pleasure when he thought of the coming contest; for he was never so happy as when thus surrounded by his dear troubadours, whom he loved to make in every way as happy as possible.

Then, when all was ready, a gayly dressed herald came into the hall, and kneeling before the king, and bowing to the assembled company, announced the coming of the two counts, William and Reynaud. All the other troubadours and minnesingers stood up, and King Rene smiled graciously as the two nobles entered, followed by their pages, Pierrot and Henri, each of whom carried a viol bedecked with long silken ribbons.

When the counts had saluted the king and taken their places before him, he commanded a senechal to bear in the prize, and so the beautiful collar of jewels was brought in upon a silver tray and placed on a carved bench beside the king. Then a herald stepped out, and, lifting the collar upon the point of a flower-wreathed lance, displayed it to all the company and announced the terms of the contest of song about to take place.

All of which was certainly a great deal better and prettier than the customs of most of the royal courts of that time. In all the lands, except where King Rene lived, when the people wanted entertainment they used to gather together to see contests called tournaments, where noble lords tried to overthrow each other with real lances on which there were no garlands. But King Rene could not endure such barbarous displays, and so in his palace no one fought another except with pretty verses, and the best poet was the champion. —Eveleen Stein, in St. Nicholas.

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