

I did so and when I reached there all of the girls wanted to read it, so I let them. By and by I saw the postman coming, so I looked for my composition, but I could not find it. Then we all began to hunt for it, but we could not find it. The postman came in pretty soon, but we had not found the composition, so I could not send it. The girls all declared that they put it on the table, but I never saw anything of it. This spring when the postmistress cleaned house she found it behind the postoffice desk. I was always sorry that I lost that composition, because it might have been printed and it might have won a prize. Who can tell?

Sixth Grade,  
Pleasant Valley School.  
—Josie Chapman,  
Big Stone, Minn.

**An Effective Cure.**

My belongings have always had an unfortunate faculty of getting lost. This gives me a great deal of trouble, as my mother is a firm believer in that old maxim, "A place for everything and everything in its place," and I am obliged to hunt for an article until I find it or until the case proves hopeless. One Christmas I was made very happy by receiving a ring set with a lovely fresh water pearl. I made up my mind to be very careful of it and I was till a year later, when I got into the habit of leaving my ring on the stand almost every time I washed my hands. One time my big brother found it and knowing I had lost rings before by leaving them this way resolved to punish me by keeping the ring. The next day he asked for the ring to compare it with another pearl and I ran to get it, but to my consternation it was gone. I had not missed it before, but now I hunted high and low and was very unhappy. Mama was in the secret, but she agreed with my brother in saying that it would teach me a lesson if I had to hunt for it. Two weeks later mama asked if I had found my ring, and I had to confess that the ring could not be found; she took pity on my misery and to my great joy handed over the missing treasure. You may believe I have been very careful of it ever since and I never take off my ring without thinking of my tiresome hunt.

—Kathrene Gedney,  
Prairie du Chien.

Eighth Grade.

**Through a Crack in the Floor.**

One day last summer I determined to make two aprons for myself. After I had purchased the material for them and a spool of thread, I settled myself comfortably on the piazza and started to work. Five minutes after my needle broke and my scissors were not to be found. I hunted all over and around the piazza, but nowhere were my scissors to be seen. At last I gave up hunting for them and as I could not proceed with my sewing on account of the loss of the scissors I folded it up and vowed that I would not sew any more until the scissors were found. A few days later my sister lost her ball and it rolled under the piazza. I crawled under it and got the ball; but as I was returning, my hand lighted on something very cold and wet. At first I thought it was a frog or a snake, but looking closer and grasping it I found it was my scissors, all rusty and spoiled. I wondered how in the world they had come in that place. A little later, however, I discovered a crack in the piazza floor which I had overlooked in my search of the scissors. I hastened in and brought the scissors to see if they really could have gotten through the crack. They went through the crack like a flash of lightning. I resumed my sewing and finished my aprons, but now I have the scissors tied with a blue ribbon to my work basket so that they will have no more chances to play hide and seek.

Eleventh Grade.

**Baked in a Mud Cake.**

One day last summer while I was making mud cakes I lost my ring in the mud and water. The ring was a little too big for my finger and that is why it slipped off. It was a very handsome one with two opals in it. I received the ring from my uncle for a Christmas present and I thought a great deal of it. After I had put the cakes in the sun and they got hard I broke them all into small pieces and I found my ring again in the biggest of the mud cakes. I was very glad that I found the ring again.

Sixth Grade,  
Lincoln School.

**Hanging on a Nail.**

My mysterious loss was a ring which I knew I had not lost off my finger. I searched through everything, but I was certain I put it into my jewelry box as I always had. I found it at last and in the most curious place. We were cleaning house at the time and having some of the rooms papered. After taking down the pictures I went to pull out a nail away up high and behold I found the long lost ring on the nail. I have always been very curious to know whether I put it there, and if not, who did.

Seventh Grade.

**Missing for Two Days.**

When I was a small girl, ten years old, I lost my doll. I had been playing with her out of doors in the afternoon and forgot to take her in. She stayed out all night and the next morning she and her trunk full of clothes were gone. I asked the family if they knew where she was and they said no. I looked all that day and did not find her and the next morning I found her right where I had left her two days before, and I do not know to this day whatever became of her that night.

Seventh Grade.

**Agent and Means Unknown.**

I used to have a ring which I always wore and never thought of taking off. One day, just before Christmas, I noticed that I did not have it on. I hunted everywhere, but could not find it. I decided that it must have gone away of its own accord, because I did not think any one had taken it and I was certain I could not lose it off from my finger, as it was very tight. I received a new one for Christmas, but I kept hunting for the old one and did not find it until two years after. As I was trying on one of my old dresses I found my ring on a piece of ribbon pinned to my dress. It seemed very queer to me and I never have found out how it got there.

Eighth Grade.

**A FISH DIET IS COMMON.**

In the islands of the Pacific ocean a fish diet is as common as beef and pork in this country. There are ordinarily from thirty to forty varieties of fish in the Honolulu market. A large percentage of the natives make their living by fishing.

**THE RIVER TSANG-PO**

**A Wonderful Stream Traversing Central Asia's Domain.**

National Geographic Magazine.

THE Tsang-Po is in several respects the most remarkable river in the world. It is the highest of all navigable streams, flowing for nearly a thousand miles at an elevation of from 11,000 to 14,000 feet. During the greater part of its course its current is sluggish, but for a hundred miles or more the mighty river, in its descent to the coast plain, runs with the speed of a mountain torrent. Though one of the largest of Central Asian streams, it has never been followed from its source to its mouth, and until recently it was doubtful of which two well known rivers it was the head waters. The attempts to solve its mysteries have been attended with an almost unparalleled heroism, endurance, steadfastness and self-sacrifice. For the principal explorers of the Tsang-Po have been animated, not as those who sought the fountain spring of the Nile, by the hope of the world's applause at their success—that was denied them—but for a simple daily wage and the consciousness of loyalty to duty.

The physical history of the Tsang-Po is briefly this: It rises in the extreme southwestern corner of Tibet, close to the sources of the Ganges, the Indus, and its great affluent, the Sutlej, at a height of nearly 15,000 feet. Receiving the drainage of the slope of the Himalayas and of a little known Tibetan range, running parallel with these mountains, it soon becomes a stream wide and deep enough to be navigable. There is a considerable boat traffic upon it, at an elevation but little below the summit of Mont Blanc. It flows due east for some 800 miles, receiving numerous large tributaries from both south and north, and when near Lhasa it is, at low water, nearly a third of a mile wide and twenty feet deep; in flood, two miles wide and of unknown depth. In longitude 94 degrees east it makes a sharp bend to the south and passes through the Himalayas in a course known only to the savages who dwell upon its precipitous banks.

When last seen by an explorer it is at a height of from 8,000 to 11,000 feet, but when it emerges in Assam it is only 400 feet above sea level. From this point it pursues its sluggish way for another 800 miles as the Brahmaputra to the Ganges and the Bay of Bengal. There has been a long controversy, into the details of which it is not necessary to enter, as to whether the Irawadi or the Brahmaputra is the continuation of the Tsang-Po. Though there has been as yet no direct evidence—the last expedient of throwing in marked logs in Tibet having failed—the general consensus of scientific opinion is in favor of the Brahmaputra, and the latest English gazetteer describes it under this name. It is hardly to be expected that pure science will be much benefited by the lifting of the veil which hangs over this part of the river's course. But there can be little doubt that it hides scenes of magnificent beauty and grandeur which will thrill the expectant world and give it new and nobler conceptions of the sublimity of nature.

**STUDYING THE WHITE ANT**

**Interesting Little Insects that Do Not Belong to Ant Family.**

Washington Times.

PROFESSOR H. McE. KNOWER, of the Johns Hopkins Medical School, has been devoting much of his leisure time of late to the study of what are popularly known as the white ants, the little insects whose ravages in wood have been so extensive in this city of late.

Their anatomy and mode of living have been especially interesting, and Professor Knower has secured specimens of these insects in their various stages of development. In speaking of the matter he said: "These insects are commonly called white ants, but they really do not belong to the ant family, although they have some traits possessed by the ants. They are termites, their name coming from the Latin, meaning to bore. It is not an uncommon thing to find these insects, which work their way into wood of all varieties, and they are found in many old houses, in wooden fences and wooden bridges. They are especially dangerous in wooden railroad bridges, and wherever such bridges have not been replaced by iron or steel ones they should be regularly inspected, so that the presence of these insects can be ascertained as soon as they have gained an entrance into any of the wood. They bore their way into the wood and generally go in the line of least resistance, this being with the grain. They do not attack live trees nor wood that has begun to rot. They enter trees which have but recently died and also well preserved wood.

Their object is food, and they live on the fine wood they secure in their boring. In fields they are often found in fence posts and rails. They live in the ground, where they build their nests, and they come up from the ground for food. When they enter a piece of wood they not infrequently take their young along, and sometimes they build their nests there. Exposed timbers in houses seem to be favorite places with them. They hollow out the interior of the piece of timber without leaving any sign of their presence on the exterior. They sometimes even attack pieces of furniture in a room, and the legs of tables have been known to be entered by these aggressive termites. In warmer countries they are more destructive. In Egypt wood cannot be placed in the ground at all! They come up from the ground in the night. They are not frequently found in very clean places, and their work can be checked by the use of kerosene oil or turpentine poured into and over the wood which they attack. They are one of the few species of insects which live a community life. It is interesting to know that they are not ants at all, nor are they related to the ant family, nor to bees or wasps, which have thin waists and which also live a community life. They belong to what are known as the simpler insects, as distinguished from the others, and yet they have a complicated social organization. Certain members of the community are set aside for work, such as the taking care of the eggs, the protection of the young and the

securing of food; others are called soldiers, whose duty it is to fight other insects. The workers and the soldiers are distinguished by the size of their heads and jaws. The soldiers have large, square heads and long jaws, while the heads of the workers are of moderate size and their jaws are smaller. The color of the heads of the soldiers is generally black. Both of these species are white and yellow and can be distinguished at once from real ants. Then certain young termites develop further and mature into males and females, or kings and queens, as they are commonly called. Just at this season of the year, as the ground warms up, they fly out and after mating they lose their wings and establish new nests. The termites in this section of the country build their nests beneath the ground. Dr. Hubbard, a Washington entomologist, has secured a queen of this species. Our knowledge of their habits, the life of their community and their nests rests principally on the observation of persons who have studied them in the tropics, where they have been known to build nests of clay as high as twelve feet. These nests are sometimes built in trees and are also very large. Naturally the termites in the tropics are much larger than our species, and they do much more damage. Lizards and birds prey upon them and aid much in restricting their devastations."

**DUSTING**

**Birds Have an Object in View When Taking Their Baths**

James Speed in Louisville Evening Post.

QUITE a number of people were standing on the corner waiting for a car. Five or six sparrows flew down into the middle of the dusty street and commenced fluttering about, throwing the dust all over their tiny bodies. After they had succeeded in simply covering themselves with the fine dust they flew away, seemingly perfectly happy. The crowd had watched this very common occurrence, but one of them at last said:

"What fun do you suppose those birds get out of a bath of hot dust? Of course I can understand their taking a bath in a puddle of cool water, but I can't understand the dust bath."

As I listened to this man, I thought how very little the average intelligent being understands what is meant by such an everyday performance as a sparrow dusting itself in the street. Horses and mules do not dust themselves just as birds do, but they are very fond of wallowing in dusty places, and always avail themselves of an opportunity for getting dusty from head to foot. One thing must be constantly kept in mind by the student of nature, and that is, whenever you notice anything being persisted in, it is reasonably certain to mean something in nature's economy. Now to fully understand why our animals fill their hair and feathers with fine dust, we must learn something of our insects' mode of breathing. All insects, spiders, etc., breathe through a series of small holes along each side of their abdomen. Of course if these tiny little breathing holes become stopped, the insect will be choked to death, just as if our nose and mouth were plugged.

Now, our birds and other animals simply dust in order to rid themselves of the vermin which infests them. The dust is thrown in among the hair and feathers, and if it is fine enough it is breathed into the air passages of the vermin and they are choked to death.

**NO TABLES OR CHAIRS**

**Though Western Habits Are Being Adopted in Oriental Households.**

Philadelphia North American.

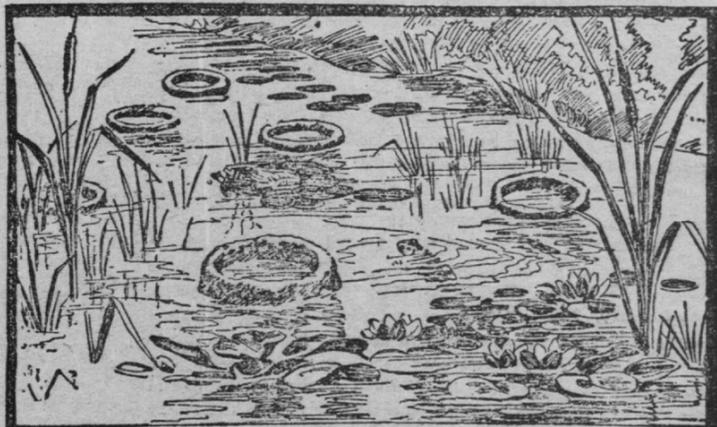
IN SOME Turkish households western habits have become adopted in recent years to some extent, but the more conservative families follow the customs of their ancestors. In a conservative household in the sultan's dominion, whether rich or poor, tables and chairs find no place. As a substitute, in the middle of the room there is a large wooden frame a foot and a half high, where the family, that is, the masculine representatives, assemble to dine. Cushions are placed for them on this frame, and they sit tailor fashion in a circle around a large tray. According to the financial condition of the family the tray is of wood, plate or silver, and on it is placed a capacious bowl; around it saucers containing sliced cheese, anchovies, caviar and sweetmeats are arranged, with goblets of sherbet, pieces of hot, unleavened bread and boxwood spoons interspersed.

Each one of the company is supplied with a napkin, which is spread upon his knee, but knives, forks or plates do not appear, the food being dipped in the central dish with the aid of a spoon and the fingers. To roll a morsel of food between his fingers and put it into the mouth of a guest is considered as an exhibition of good manners on the part of a Turkish host.

**A BOAST FULFILLED.**

"JUST watch me," said the grasshopper  
Preparing for a flight;  
"I feel so vigorous to-day,  
I'll jump clear out of sight!"  
I watched him as he rose in air,  
He kept his word, no doubt,  
For down he came into a stream  
Where lived a hungry trout.

—Tudor Jenks in St. Nicholas.



**AN EXTRAORDINARY FROG.**

In Brazil has now been found the most curious frog in the entire world. It is known as "hyla faber," and the difference between it and other batrachians lies in the fact that the females of this species regularly build nests in which they lay their eggs, their object being to preserve their little ones from the enemies that constantly threaten them. When the time for incubation approaches, the female goes down a marsh and proceeds to build a circular wall of earth, which, when complete, is about one foot in diameter. She starts to build at the bottom of the marsh and she continues the work until it is at least ten centimeters above the water. Two nights suffice to complete the nest, and then the female enters it and lays her eggs. Her worthy spouse, it is said, does not give her the slightest assistance in constructing the nest, but, after the progeny are born he shows his solicitude for them by remaining in the vicinity, presumably with the object of doing sentinel duty and giving warning of the approach of enemies. Naturalists who have recently examined some of these nests in Brazil say that human ingenuity could not invent a better contrivance for protecting the young frogs from their foes.