THE COCOANUT TREE.

It Furnishes Food, Shelter and Employment to Thousands.

Some Interesting Facts Concerning the Rearing of the Plant on Plantations—Its Principal Products.

This palm does not grow spontaneously on Key West or on any of the other Florida islands, as the violent north winds which often prevail in winter reduce the temperature of southern Florida too low for this heat-loving tree, although when planted and cared for while young it grows to a moderate size on the keys, and sometimes bears fruit; otherwise the nuts which are cast up on those shores by the gulf stream would have produced plants that would gradually have covered them, for it is in this way that the cocoanut has been able gradually to spread over all the sandy coral shores of the tropics of the two worlds. The place of its first home is uncertain. It was believed by the younger Candolle to have first appeared on some of the islands of the Indian archipelago, whence it was carried either by ocean currents or by man to the southern coast of Asia, east tropical Africa, and to the islands and shores of Pacific tropical America. Undoubtedly it was brought by man to the West Indies and Brazil after the discovery of America by Europeans, although it has now so spread, through the action of ocean currents or by the agency of man, that it has every appearance of being indigenous on the shores of east tropical America.

The cocoanut palm, says Garden and Forest, is a magnificent plant, well named "a prince of the vegetable kingdom," with tall, slender columnar stem eighty or a hundred feet high, and rich pale yellow-green leaves which are thirty or forty feet long, and flutter and rustle with every breath of wind.

The cocoanut grows only near the shore, where its roots, penetrating the sandy soil, may drink freely from clear underground springs. Of all trees it is the most useful to man, furnishing food, shelter and employment to hundreds of thousands of the human race. In tropical countries, especially in southern India and Malaya, the cocoanut supplies to whole communities the chief necessities of life. Every part is useful; the roots are considered a remedy against fevers; from the trunk houses, boats and furniture are made; the leaves furnish the thatch for houses and the material from which baskets, hats, mats and innumerable other articles are made; the network of fibers at their base is used for sieves and is woven into cloth; from the young flower stalks a palm wine, called toddy, is obtained, from which arrack, a fiery alcoholic drink, is distilled. The value of the fruit is well known. From the husk, which is called coir, commercially, cordage, bedding, mats, brushes and other articles are manufactured. In the tropics, lamps, drinking vessels and spoons are made from the hard shells. The albumen of the seed contains large quantities of oil, used in the east for cooking and in illuminating; in Europe and the United States it is often made into soap and candles, yielding, after the oil is extracted, a refuse valuable as food for cattle, or as a fertilizer. In some parts of the tropics the kernel of the seed forms the chief food of the inhabitants. The cool, milky fluid which fills the cavity of the fruit when the nut is young affords an agreeable beverage, and the albumen of the young nut, which is soft and jelly like, is nutritious and of a delicate flavor.

As might be expected in the case of a plant of such value, it is often carefully and extensively cultivated in many countries, and numerous varieties, differing in the size, shape and quality of the fruit, are now known. The cocoanut is propagated by seeds; the nuts are sown in nursery beds, and at the end of six or eight months the seedlings are large enough to plant. The plants are usually set twenty-five feet apart each way in carefully prepared beds filled with rich surface soil. Once established, a plantation of cocoanuts requires little care beyond watering, which is necessary in its early years to insure a rapid and vigorous growth. In good soil the trees usually begin to flower at the end of five or six years, and may be expected to be in full bearing in from eight to twelve years. Thirty nuts from a tree is considered a fair average yield, although individual trees have been known to produce an average of three hundred nuts during a period of ten years. An application of manure increases the yield of the trees, although probably the value of the additional crop obtained in this way is hardly large enough to justify much expenditure.

Glass Blowers.

Many attempts have been made to supplant the glass blowers by machinery, but up to this time none has attained commercial importance. Either the cost of production has been found to be higher than by the time-honored method or the ware produced was not of a quality up to the demands of the market. This is more especially the case in the kinds of bottles used to contain effervescent drinks, which must be capable of withstanding a pressure of several atmospheres without failure. This, in fact, is the critical point in the automatic manufacture of bottles, since the difficulty has always been to obtain a distribution of the glass forming the walls of the bottle as uniform as in the handiwork. The attempt has been made to press the body and bottom separately and to unite the two by fusing them together, but the bottles made in this manner were very heavy and of poor appearance. The bottle machine invented by Ashley, in England, aroused much interest and was much talked of, several companies being formed to engage in bottle manufacture by this method, but none, if they still survive, has succeeded in putting any great amount of ware on the markets of the world.

How History Might Have Been Changed.

An interesting "incident" of the career of the great Napoleon has been brought to light by Prof. Rambaud, who has just been rewarded for his "History of Russia" with the cross of the Legion of Honor. Bonaparte, as is well known, was at one time disgusted with the slowness of his promotion and entertained serious thoughts of directing his talents into other channels. Now M. Rambaud tells us that Napoleon applied for service in the Russian army, but that the petition which he had addressed to Zaborowski was rejected, as Catherine II. would not admit foreign officers on the same standing as that which they occupied in their own country. Napoleon would have had to accept an inferior rank, and this he refused to do. If Prof. Rambaud be correctly informed, and if Bonaparte had taken service in Russia, the whole course of the history of the century would have been changed and a whole vista of curious possibilities would have been opened.

THE CHAMELEON SPIDER.

An African Insect That Changes Its Color at Will.

Almost all travelers in tropical regions have wonderful stories to tell of the strange mimicry of leaves and flowers by insects. Sometimes the purpose of imitation appears to be concealment, and sometimes the laying of a snare to catch other insects. A curious instance of this is related by Mr. H. H. J. Bell. While traveling on the Gold Coast of Africa last year, he noticed in the bushes a singular-looking white flower with a blue center.

Stopping to examine it he found to his astonishment that it was not a flower at all, but a spider's web, and that the supposed light blue heart of the flower was the spider itself lying in wait for its prey. The legs of the cunning spider, yellow mottled with brown, were extended in such a way as to resemble the divisions between the petals of the flower.

The web itself, very delicately woven into a rosette pattern, was white, and the threads that suspended it from the bushes were so fine as to be almost invisible. The whole thing had the appearance of being suspended in the air upon a stem concealed beneath.

When Mr. Bell knocked the spider from its perch into a white gauze net, his surprise was increased upon seeing his captive instantly turn from blue to white. Its former mimicry had been practised as a snare; now it was playing a similar game for the purpose of concealment.

But the end of the performance was not yet reached. When Mr. Bell shook his captive its body again changed color, becoming this time a dull greenish-brown. Later he captured another specimen of the same species of spider, whose flower web resembled an orchid. This spider exhibited the same remarkable power of changing its color

NO CROWDING IN TEXAS.

Some Staggering Figures Regarding the Area of the Lone Star State.

A recently printed statement that the western states of America are becoming crowded is disproved by figures that, through various manipulations, tell a most wonderful story of the length and breadth of the magnificent empire lying west of the Mississippi river. Of the vast area of the larger western states, people who have not visited them and traveled over them have no comprehensive idea. Texas, the largest of the United States, has an area of 262,290 square miles. To the casual reader, says Kate Field's Washington, these figures mean but very little; they show, however, that the Lone Star state is more than fifty-four times as large as the state of Connecticut. If it were possible to run a railway train from Connecticut to Texas and back in a day, and if the train could take the entire population of the Nutmeg state, as given by the last census, at every trip, and, upon its return, there should be as many persons in the state as there were before the train left with its cargo, and if each one of these people were placed upon an acre of ground upon his arrival in Texas, the train would be obliged to make 224 trips, or to depopulate Connecticut 224 times, before accomplishing its mission, and then there would remain in Texas 703,808 empty acres It may be of passing interest to know that such a train, made up of coaches twenty feet long, capable of accommodating fifty passengers each, would extend over a distance of more than fifty-six miles.

If the entire state of Texas were planted with corn and the hills were two feet apart and the rows were three feet apart, and if every man, woman and child in the state of Connecticut were set to work in the field to hoe the corn, and each person was able to and did hoe two hills in five minutes, it would take this army of laborers seven years. 280 days and seven hours to hoe every hill of corn in the state, laboring continuously day and night 365 days each year.

To those persons who have never stopped to consider how great a country they are living in these figures may be of interest. The man who fears that he would not elbow his way around in the crowded west without chafing the nap of his coat sleeves may gather some solace from the statement that the entire living population of the globe, 1,400,000,000 souls, divided into families of five persons each, could be located in Texas, each family with a house on a half acre lot, and there would still remain 50,000,000 vacant family lots.

THE POWER OF WATER.

Constantly Working in One Form or Another to Destroy the Land.

A southern engineer contributes an article on "Geology and the Mississippi Problem" to the Engineering Magazine. In it he says:

"We find in water the only tireless agent that works in the modification of continents; and instead of being the great renovator of the land it is popularly conceived, it is the great destroyer. The destruction of ancient Rome has been attributed to time. But it was due simply to the moisture of the atmosphere working through chemical agencies. It was water, invisible but penetrating the very stones of the wonderful city, that caused her to crumble into ruins, and gave to modern Rome a grade greatly elevated above her ancient grade. But it works not alone in the cities and towns. There is not a hill on earth that has not been shorn of something of its altitude by this subtile force, and there is not a mountain on earth, if not fitfully renewed by volcanic action, that has not been compelled to lower its peak before this universal leveler of the exalted. It may be a dreadful thought, indeed, but we do not know absolutely that we are not dependent on the earthquake and the volcano for keeping our continental habitat above the level of the ocean; for water not only destroys, but it has the persistency and force to carry off to its burial place in the sea all that it has caused to perish. It may take a long time at its task, but, working either in its gaseous, its liquid, or its solid form, it seems to be the most persistent thing on earth, never perishing, and, however divided and invisible at times, always ready to unite its forces for a supreme effort at the degradation of a continent."

WEALTH OF A PRINCE.

Crown Prince of Roumania to Receive $120,000 a Year as His Allowance.

The crown prince of Roumania is to have an allowance from his country of £12,000 a year, and his uncle, King Charles, is to give him £12,000 a year, according to London Truth. In the event of the crown prince's death, Princess Marie would have a jointure of £12,000 a year, half coming from Roumania and the remainder from King Charles. The prince of Hohenzollern is to make a settlement on his son, and the duke and duchess of Edinburgh are to give their daughter an allowance, but she will not receive any dot until after the death of her parents.

It is no secret that there has been a prolonged, and not altogether amicable, negotiation respecting the settlements which are to be signed at Sigmaringen on the day before the wedding. It is understood that the prince of Hohenzollern proposes to allow £4,000 a year to Prince Ferdinand with an ultimate sum of £100,000. Princess Marie is to get £2,000 a year from her parents during their lives with a sum of £50,000 after they have deceased. This arrangement will permit of a settlement of £150,000 upon the younger children of the marriage.

An Ancient Footprint.

Near Lincolnton, Ga., on a stream known as "Fishing creek," in a shelving, projecting rock, just above the water, there is the perfectly defined imprint of a man's bare foot. All the toes are perfect, and in every respect the mark is as plain as if made in plastic clay or putty. The stone is as hard as adamant, and has been ever since the first white inhabitant landed in Lincoln county, now over one hundred and eighty years ago. By whom and when the track was made is an interesting query.

A Kentucky Yarn.

A resident of Scott county, Kentucky, felt a severe pain in his left shoulder and arm several years ago, and for some months he suffered intense pain. Then the affected parts began to change color, and became dark brown as the pain decreased. At last, it is said, the shoulder and arm were covered with a thick growth of soft, brown hair an inch in length. The pain ceased entirely, it is further stated, and now the man, it is claimed, is twice as strong in his left arm as he is in his right.

THE CHINESE CAPITAL.

Interesting Information About the City of Peking.

Comprises Four Cities with a Population of a Million and a Half—Its Poorly-Built Structures—The Great Walls.

Peking, the capital of the Chinese empire and of the province of Chihli on the Tunghui river, has a population estimated at one million five hundred thousand, says the New York Recorder. It stands on an extensive sandy plain, and consists of Kin-Ching, the prohibited city, containing only the palaces of the emperor and the dwellings of his immediate retainers; Hwang Ching, the imperial city, with a large number of court officials; Nui-Ching, the Tartar city, comprising twelve square miles, and Wai-Ching, the Chinese city, with fifteen square miles of area. The Tartar city is surrounded by a wall sixty feet high and fifty feet thick, the Chinese city by one thirty feet high and twenty-five feet thick. They are built of stone and brick and filled with earth. The suburbs include an area of twenty-five miles.

The prohibited city, two miles in circumference, is entered by four gates, each surmounted by a tower. The buildings are superior to any others in the empire. The meridian gate leads to the imperial buildings, and is reserved for the emperor solely. Five marble bridges spanning a little stream lead to a marble paved court and the gate of extensive peace, at which the emperor receives the homage of the courtiers on great state days. Ascending the stairway, the tranquil palace of heaven is reached, into which none can enter without special royal permission. The number of people within the prohibited city is small, most being Mantchoos.

The imperial city, surrounding the prohibited city, has a wall twenty feet high, pierced by four gates, through which no one can enter save by special permission. It contains the tablets of the deceased emperors and empresses and the altars of the gods. There are also the Russian college, military stores, and King-shan, the artificial mountain, with each of its five summits crowned by a pavilion.

The Tartar city surrounds the imperial city and contains the principal government offices and the hall of science erected in 1680. Near by are the Russian Church of the Assumption and the temple where his majesty and princess worship their ancestors on the first day of every month. The city is in control of the general of the nine gates, near whose headquarters is the high tower in which are the immense drum and bell that proclaim the hour of midnight. Not far away is the white pagoda with its obelisk erected by Kublai Khan in the thirteenth century, about which upon one hundred and eight pillars lamps burn continuously in Buddha's honor.

The Chinese city is the most populous, but its structures are poorly built. The houses are of brick, one story high, with roofs of tiles. It contains the altars to Heaven, to winter, to agriculture, and the pool dedicated to the spirits of the waters, where his majesty performs special supplications whenever the country suffers from drought.

REIGN OF KING COTTON.

Why It Became Supreme in the South Immediately After the War.

Promising as was the industrial advance of the south prior to the war it was in its agriculture that the chief interests of the people were centered, says the Engineering Magazine. Here was displayed an energy as great as that which opened up to civilization the vast prairies of the west; here was a well-rounded growth which neither the south nor any other part of the country has been able to duplicate since the war. Cotton was indeed king, but it was not such an absolute monarch as it has been since 1865 nor as grain has been in the west. Instead of being the main crop of the south it was largely a surplus crop. The south did not then have its "smokehouse and corn crib in the west"—this was one of the disasters of the war—but it produced its own corn, wheat and bacon. The war changed these conditions. It left such universal poverty that men were compelled to grow cotton alone, because the crop would be mortgaged before it was planted for enough at least to secure a bare living for the planter while he waited for it to mature. On no other crop could advances be secured in this way. When the crop had been gathered and turned over to the merchant who had been "carrying" him, and out of its proceeds the debt for goods bought on credit—including interest and commissions—had been paid, the farmer had nothing left. As the next season came around he was again compelled to mortgage his crop in advance to the man to whom he was already in debt. It was "a condition and not a theory" that confronted the farmers of the south and necessarily it has taken years for them to gradually work out of it. Moreover, the negroes, "intoxicated with freedom," had many hard lessons to learn. While they had nothing in the world on which to start, they were financially about as well off as their late master, for, at least, they had no debts to incumber them for years to come. Cotton was the easiest crop for them to cultivate, and so they all began to grow cotton, buying western corn and bacon on credit from the merchant who had a mortgage on the cotton before the ground was plowed for its planting. Working on shares—that is, paying a part of the crop for the rent of the land they cultivated—and moving about frequently, they had no inducement to try to improve the soil. So, while the aggregate acreage annually increased, the total production of the south's crops fell far short of the yield per capita between 1850 and 1860.

SONGSTERS TO EAT.

Anxious to Sell, a Vender Offers Canaries for Pie.

"In selling goods," said a successful canvasser, "you must not be content with selling to the people who want them. You must persuade the rest to want them also." Many a salesman feels that the secret of success lies in describing his goods so that they shall seem "all things to all men," and woe be to the innocent and jocose buyer who brings down upon himself the flood of such a man's pertinacity. Says a traveler in Malta:

Going to the quay, we made our passage, by energetic pushing, through the lines of venders of cigars, tobacco, lace, oranges and sponges. One man, with canaries in cages, stopped us at the water's edge with:

"Want a canary, sir?"

"Are they for eating?" I asked him, to get rid of his importunity and in a spirit of jocosity.

"No, no! They are for singing."

"Ah, if that's what they're for we don't want them."

A brilliant thought struck the man, and he bolted after us, shouting: "Yes, yes! They are for eating. Very good pie! Buy the lot!"

Leaving his cages in charge of an assistant, he made off to tell the canary venders that here was a man who ate canaries and might buy all there were in Malta, and a fine time we had with cages until we steamed away.

Acute Hearing of Horses.

It is well known that horses can hear deep sounds which men cannot. For days previous to the earthquake in the Riviera the horses there showed every symptom of abject fear, which continued without any change of character till the fury of the convulsion broke forth. But not till a few seconds before the earth began to quake did human beings hear any sounds, while it is extremely probable that the horses heard the subterranean noises for two or three days previously.

A "RUN-DOWN," "tired out" woman who complains of backache, headache, loss of appetite, extreme lassitude and that "don't care" feeling is pretty sure to be suffering from "Female Weakness," some irregularity or derangement of the special functions of womanhood. Very often womb troubles set the nerves wild with affright and as a result the woman suffers from sleeplessness, nervousness, nervous prostration, faintness and dizziness, irritability and indigestion. In all cases of irregularity or suspended monthly function and in all those nervous diseases depending upon local causes, Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription will restore you to perfect health. Instead of the exhaustion and feeling of weight and dragging down in the abdomen, you feel fresh and strong. For young girls who suffer from irregularities, for the hard-working woman who suffers from catarrhal inflammation of the lining membranes causing a constant drain upon the system, there is no prescription used by any physician which can equal in results Dr. Pierce's. For over thirty years Dr. R. V. Pierce, chief consulting physician to the Invalids' Hotel and Surgical Institute of Buffalo, N. Y., has used his "Favorite Prescription" in the diseases of women which had long been his specialty and in fully ninety-eight per cent. of all cases, it has permanently *cured*.

MRS. CONKLIN.

MRS. JOHN M. CONKLIN, of *Patterson, Putnam Co., N. Y.*, writes: "I am enjoying *perfect* health, and have been since I took the last bottle of Doctor Pierce's Favorite Prescription. I took five bottles of it. Never expected to be any better when I commenced taking it, but thank God, I can say that I am glad it reached my home. I had falling of the womb, and flowing caused by miscarriage, and was very weak when I commenced taking your medicines. I was cured by taking five bottles in all—two of the 'Favorite Prescription' and three of the 'Golden Medical Discovery.'"

MONGOLS OF KO-KO NOR.

Brigandage Is the General Profession of Ambitious Young Men.

Our road first lay through the district inhabited by the agricultural tribes on the frontier. Then we entered the country occupied by the Mongols of the Ko-ko Nor, says a writer in the National Review. The pasture there was the richest I have ever seen in any part of Thibet; but an idyllic pastoral life is by no means practiced by the inhabitants. Brigandage is the general profession. The young men spend their time either in making raids on travelers and on encampments of their tribes, by which means they mostly acquire their cherished horses, or in practicing the art of warfare. I witnessed a military tournament, at which some riders at full gallop fired one after another at a small given mark.

These Mongols are tall and fierce looking, though they proved amiable when friendly. The men shave their heads. Both men and women dress in a gown of sheepskin, girded round the waist, high boots of felt and skin, bound below the knee with a leathern strap or cotton garter, and long white felt coats, which they wear over the sheepskin when it rains. Their summer hat is of white felt, in shape something like the top hat worn by the old Welch market women. The cap they wear in winter is of white astrakhan, shaped like a sugar loaf, with a red and green cotton brim.

The women dress their hair in little plaits, more than a hundred, caught together at the ends with a wide band of colored cloth, which is embroidered with gay silks and gold thread, and studded with coral and torquoise, silver coins and brass buttons, which they get from Lhassa. The tents are round; the inner sides of trellis-work, the top of wooden ribs, giving an umbrella shape, and the whole covered with white felt, with an aperture for a small door of wood, and a hole in the roof to let out the smoke.

TREACHEROUS SNOW.

Dangers to Which the Chamois Hunter Subjects Himself.

One of the perils which the chamois hunter must face is that which lurks in the snow. Mr. Buxton, in his Short Stalks, tells the story of Herr S—'s adventure, which graphically illustrates this danger. He was following with one companion, in the depth of winter, the trail of a wounded chamois. The track led them across a steep couloir filled with deep, loose snow, into which they plunged up to their middles.

When half way across this the mass parted just above them, and moved downwards with ever-accelerating speed, sometimes covering them deep with a surging mass, and then again tossing them into the air.

At last S— felt himself suddenly and violently arrested by some protruding substance, which afterwards proved to be a broken stump of a tree. After a time he recovered consciousness, and succeeded in shaking himself free.

The first thought was for his friend, of whom nothing was to be seen. But as he gazed over the waste of snow he saw at a distance a twig, which had been pressed downwards, recover itself and spring up.

Thinking it might be the sign of some life he made his way to the spot, and close by it found a boot protruding from the surface. Scraping the snow away as best he could with his naked hands he at length uncovered the body so far as the face.

The man was apparently dead, and his face was almost black; but presently he came to, and was little the worse, while S— himself, in turn, fainted from the injuries he had received, and was laid up for six weeks before he recovered.

BROODING SNAKES.

How the Python Mother Hatches Out Her Young.

The python lays eggs and hatches them by developing a high degree of heat, as has been proved in the case of the Indian and African species.

The first careful investigations of this subject were made in 1841 by the renowned naturalist, Achille Valenciennes, in the Jardin des Plantes, Paris. A python there laid fifty eggs within three hours, which at first were oval, but pointed toward the poles; the shells were soft and of a gray color; they soon changed to a perfect egg-shape and became white, and the shells hardened somewhat, although they remained pliable, like leather, and were lusterless and rather rough. Their length varied from two and a half to four and a half inches.

After laying the eggs the snake gathered them together in a heap under the cover she had in her box, wound the rear part of her body around the base of this heap, and then formed a cone-shaped spiral of the rest of her body around the whole, her head closing the top. Not a single egg was visible.

After fifty-six days the first young ones crawled out. They were about two inches long The temperature in the center of the heap of eggs was 105 degrees Fahrenheit, while that of the box was only 72.5 degrees Fahrenheit.

Two other pythons tried to hatch their eggs in the London Zoological garden—one in 1862 and the other in 1881. In these cases the difference between the temperature inside of the heap of eggs and the outside air was much less; but the eggs were spoiled and no young were hatched.

J. G. Halstrom, employed at McGowan's cannery, dropped dead suddenly Monday. Mr. Halstrom had been out receiving fish for the cannery, and on his return had landed when he suddenly fell and expired in a short time without becoming conscious.

Louis Blaine, of Stevens county, a pioneer in early days died in the poor house at Colville, Tuesday, aged 83.

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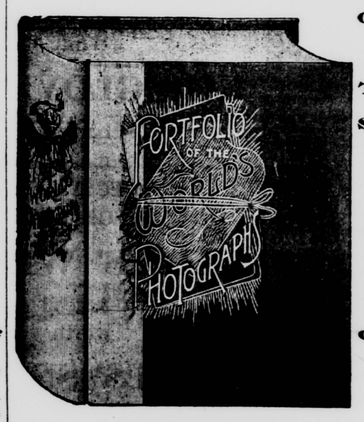

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A STRANGE CASE.

How an Enemy was Foiled.

The following graphic statement will be read with intense interest: "I cannot describe the numb, creepy sensation that existed in my arms, hands and legs. I had to rub and beat those parts until they were sore, to overcome in a measure the dead feeling that had taken possession of them. In addition, I had a strange weakness in my back and around my waist, together with an indescribable 'gone' feeling in my stomach. Physicians said it was creeping paralysis, from which, according to their universal conclusion, there is no relief. Once it fastens upon a person, they say, it continues its insidious progress until it reaches a vital point and the sufferer dies. Such was my prospect. I had been doctoring a year and a half steadily, but with no particular benefit, when I saw an advertisement of Dr Miles' Restorative Nervine, procured a bottle and began using it. Marvelous as it may seem, but a few days had passed before every bit of that creepy feeling had left me, and there has not been even the slightest indication of its return. I now feel as well as I ever did, and have gained ten pounds in weight, though I had run down from 170 to 127. Four others have used Dr. Miles' Restorative Nervine on my recomendation, and it has been as satisfactory in their cases as in mine."—James Kane, La Rue, O.

Dr. Miles' Restorative Nervine is sold by all druggists on a positive guarantee, or sent direct by the Dr. Miles Medical Co., Elkhart, Ind., on receipt of price, $1 per bottle, six bottles for $5, express prepaid. It is free from opiates or dangerous drugs.

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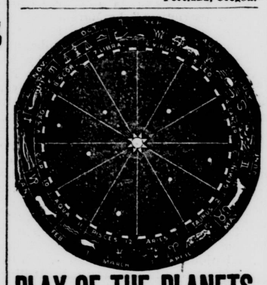

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