

SECOND-HAND LOVE.

A Perilous Code That Rules the Relations of Many Young Men and Women. May Russell, after two or three winters of bellehood in her native town, went to visit her cousins in Blankville. She was not twenty-one years old, and was a pretty, sweet-tempered vivacious girl.

Doctor Holmes was an honorable man of great depth and tenderness of feeling, who had been a faithful son and loyal friend, and who would give his whole heart to his wife.

"He is too good for May," said her cousin, Mrs. Russell, to her husband. "The girl began her flirtations at school, when she was ten years old. The doctor has never before wished to marry any woman. She is skilled in the conduct of sham love affairs."

"The feeling is real with her now," replied Mr. Russell.

Doctor Holmes was a grave, quiet man. The step he was going to take was for life; he would not allow himself to be rash. Yet surely he could make no mistake in taking this apparently innocent, artless, sweet-natured girl into his heart and home forever?

"What have you there?" asked Doctor Holmes. "I call them my scalps—tokens of my victories," she said. "They are locks of the hair of men who—shall I confess it—have professed to be my admirers."

Doctor Holmes was silent. Her friend soon afterward left the room. Then he said, "Are you serious? Do you mean that these men have been so much interested in you and have professed such regard for you as to give you locks of their hair, possibly at your request?"

"Yes, indeed," she said laughing. "In my part of the country a girl would feel neglected if she had not received some such tokens of personal regards, perhaps of love, from gentlemen who had afforded her special attention. She never means really to marry them."

"But she allows each man to look upon her as possibly his future wife, probably to kiss her?"

"Yes, there does not to me seem to be any harm in it."

"I think I can not agree with you," he said, gravely. He left her and never returned.

May Russell's code rules the social relations of many young men and women. They hold familiar intercourse or form engagements which they know are not founded upon love or esteem, and which they never intend to fulfill. No young girl can pass through one of these "experiences" as they are called, without degradation and taint. She goes to her husband a battered, second-hand thing, which no art can restore to its first innocent purity.

We speak plainly, because the evil exists, and the danger is great.—Youth's Companion.

FECUNDITY OF FISH.

What Would Happen If All the Eggs of the Cod Matured?

Fish that take much care of their offspring naturally don't need to produce eggs in the same reckless abundance as those dissipated kinds that leave their spawn exposed on the bare sandy bottom at the mercy of every roamer who chooses to take a bite at it. They can afford to lay a smaller number, and to make each individual egg much larger and richer in proportion than their rivals. This plan, of course, enables the young to begin life far better provided with muscles and fins than the tiny little fry which come out of the eggs of the improvident species.

For example, the codfish lays 9,000,000 ead eggs; but anybody who has ever eaten fried cod's roe must needs have noticed that each individual ovum was so very small as to be almost indistinguishable to the naked eye. Thousands of these infinitesimal specks are devoured before they hatch out by pre-lapsing fish; thousands more of the young fry are swallowed alive during their helpless infancy by the enemies of their species. Imagine the very fractional amount of parental affection which each of the 9,000,000 must needs put up with.

On the other hand there is a patently-minded group of cat-fish known as the genus *Arius*, of Ceylon, Australia and other tropical parts, the males of which carry about the ova loose in their mouths, or rather in an enlargement of the pharynx, somewhat resembling the peacock's pouch; and the spouses of these very devoted sires lay accordingly only very few ova, all told, but each almost as big as a hedge-sparrow's egg—a wonderful contrast to the tiny mitos of the codfish. To put it briefly, the greater the amount of protection afforded the eggs, the smaller the number and the larger the size. And conversely, the larger the size of the egg to start with, the better fitted to begin the battle of life is the young fish when first turned out on a cold world upon his own resources.

This is a general law, indeed, that runs through all nature, from London slugs to the deep sea. Wasteful species produce many young, and take but little care of them when once produced. Economical species produce very few young, but start each individual well-equipped for its place in life, and look after them closely till they can take care of themselves in the struggle for existence. And on the average, however many or however few the offspring to start with, just enough to attain maturity in the long run replace their parents in the next generation. Were it otherwise, the sea would soon become one solid mass of herring, cod and mackerel.—Cornhill Magazine.

SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY.

Experiments by an Italian physician indicate that tuberculosis of fowls is different from that of man, and is not transmitted to the latter.

There are about 60,000,000 parts in a single feather of an eagle. It is stated—3,000 rami, 5,500, 900 radii and 51,000,000 chilla and hooklets.

It is stated on good authority that the factories of England, France, Germany and Holland produce about 77,000,000 pins daily. But where do they all go to?

Seven varieties of fishes examined by naturalists of the Challenger expedition are found totally blind in the deep sea, but have eyes when inhabiting shallow water.

The State geologist of New Jersey says the coast of that State is sinking at the rate of at least two feet in a century. Other observers hold that the rate is much more rapid.

More women in proportion to population are employed in industrial occupations in England than in any other European country. Twelve per cent. of the industrial classes are females.

A large vein of pure white sand, suitable for making glass, has been found near Pittsburgh, Pa. The discovery will save the glass manufacturers of that city thousands of dollars annually, as they have hitherto been obliged to send across the Allegheny Mountains for their sand.

An engineer of Manchester, England, is introducing a novelty in paper, viz., paper file-halts and tool-handles, which are said to be practically indestructible and much cheaper than wood or malleable iron shafts. Placed under a steam-hammer, although they can be flattened, they can not be split or cracked.

A sample of oranges plucked from trees grown on the place of Thomas E. Halle, at Kanapaha, Fla., are of the early variety, just commenced to ripen, and will weigh about one pound each. Mr. Halle's grove covers several acres, and the trees are so loaded with fruit that it has become necessary to prop them up. The crop is simply wonderful.

"Sometimes," writes a correspondent of a trade paper, "I have had to make holes in steel that was too hard to cut or file easily. Then I make a mixture that will cut a hole. I mix one ounce of sulphate of copper, quarter of an ounce of alum, half a teaspoonful of powdered salt, a gill of vinegar and twenty drops of nitric acid. This will make a hole."

Victor Meyer, an eminent German chemist, believes "we may reasonably hope that chemistry will yet teach us to make the fiber of wood a source of human food." This fiber, as well as that of grass and straw, is chemically closely allied to starch, but is not altered like starch, in boiling water, yet both the wood fiber and the starch can be transformed into glucose. In short, we may some day be breakfasting on sawdust porridge.

For some time past efforts have been made to consolidate, and virtually place under one management, the American glass factories manufacturing tableware. It is announced that arrangements are in progress by which at least thirty-one of the factories engaged in this line will be united. The accredited agents of the movement, while they give but little information, state that the capital does not come from distinctively foreign sources.—American Manufacturer.

Aluminum and alloys are now produced in considerable quantities by three distinct methods from certain clays, corundum, etc. In one case the metallic sodium retorting process is employed, in another the electrical smelting furnace process, and in a third the direct smelting substitution process is resorted to. The last-named method, which has proved very successful, consists in producing a chemical alloy within a water-jacketed furnace and a metal fume condenser—without any metallic sodium or electricity—the product being equalled by only one other, which may be classed as the solidified solution of one metal into another.

A Belgian chemist is said to have devised a method of rendering fabrics proof against the ravages of decay for an indefinite period. Noting the fact that resin played an important part in the wonderful preservation of Egyptian mummies, he made numerous experiments with substances extracted from birch bark, to which the peculiar aroma of Russian leather is due. He found that the green tar which is left over after the oil used in tanning has been extracted from the white bark of the birch tree yields neither acid nor alkali, and that in solution with alcohol it forms a liquid of remarkable fluidity, which has the power of resisting when dry the action of even alcohol. It is claimed that this preservation possesses the property of uniting with the most delicate and brilliant colors and rendering them apparently imperishable.

Heiresses in Mexico. It is considered a disgrace for a Mexican lady to earn her own living. The men do the cooking and male servants do the housework. If a young lady should learn stenography and typewriting or should try in any manner to earn her own living she would be ostracized socially. There are many heiresses there, and there are many Mexican adventurers who make their living marrying them. They are handsome, indolent spendthrifts, and the ladies fall in love with them. A Mexican woman's beauty fades early, and when a wealthy heiress marries one of these men she never lives long. I don't know why. When she dies her husband invariably marries another wealthy girl. I call to mind one man in the City of Mexico who married three heiresses in quick succession. He became one of the richest men in that part of the country, but what a spendthrift he was! Once he visited the United States, and at every city he stopped, instead of writing home, he would telegraph long messages. Hundreds of words. At one place his telegraph bill was \$300. This is but a sample of his extravagance. He would lose fortunes at the gambling table. He was finally killed in a quarrel.—Cor. N. Y. Telegram.

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The Norfolk and Western railroad, running from Norfolk to the West and Northwest, will have on sale at stations on line and agencies in New England special excursion round-trip tickets to Wytheville, good until October 31. For further particulars, apply to W. L. YOST, president of the Wytheville Development Company, Wytheville, Va. sep21-3m

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