



A PRECARIOUS STRUCTURE.

Dependent for Its Stability on the Observation of Certain Scientific Principles.

Take six keys in descending gradations of size. For facility of reference we will call them (commencing with the largest) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6, respectively. Place Nos. 1 and 2 with their bits resting on the table and pass the bow of No. 2 through that of No. 1, as shown in the figure. The two keys will make a tolerably obtuse angle, and by pressing downward with the hand on their bows it may be ascertained that they are solidly interlocked, and that neither of them is likely to slip on the table.



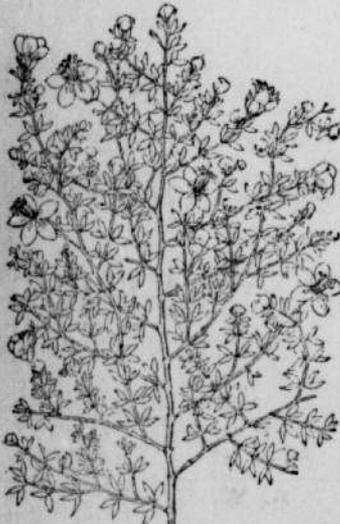
THE BOTTLE AND THE KEYS.

These two keys serve as a foundation for the rest. You now pass the bit of No. 3 through the bow of No. 2, and then, in succession, the bits of Nos. 4, 5 and 6 through the bows of Nos. 3, 4 and 5, meanwhile making sure, by looking down on them from above, that they are all in the same vertical plane. If the successive interlockings of the bits within the bows have been properly made, which you will ascertain by a gentle pressure on the key (No. 6) which crowns the edifice, nothing will be easier, especially to those who have studied lessons in the art of balancing, than to make the bows of Nos. 5 and 6 (the position of this last being all but horizontal) support a variety of articles of domestic use. To enhance the effect, the more fragile the article the better, say a plate, a soup tureen, a decanter or a bottle. If a bottle be used it should only be half full, so as to keep its center of gravity low down. This increases the stability (or perhaps we should say decreases the instability) of your rather precarious structure.

A Typical Desert Plant.

The creosote bush (*Larrea Mexicana*) is one of the most typical plants of the desert, for it is found throughout the desert, and, unlike the mesquit, nowhere else, not even in the oases.

L. H. Dewey, in a report to the secretary of agriculture on characteristic vegetation of the desert region from western Texas to



THE CREOSOTE BUSH.

central Arizona, furnishes the illustration here reproduced, along with this description: It is a sticky, resinous bush, with small, round evergreen leaves, yellow flowers, woolly fruit, and a very strong disagreeable odor, which is suggested by its name. It is said to have valuable medicinal properties, and is used to some extent in the mining camps as a "cure all" for both man and beast.

The Camphor Tree.

The numerous new uses to which camphor is put in recent years give ground for hope that its cultivation in the United States may lead to a new and profitable industry. It has been proved that the camphor tree will flourish in the United States, but whether it can be made profitable or not is as yet unknown. It grows vigorously in Florida. The tree will also flourish in California. The camphor tree is most beautiful and the leaves have a distinctly camphor odor.

The Making and Care of Razors.

English and foreign makers of razors employ different methods. The foreigner makes his blade very hard and does not draw the temper so much as is done in America. A Swedish razor is very hard indeed, and liable to break, but has a wonderful edge, and if it does not meet with accident will do good service for years. Rodgers also makes a very hard edge as does also Crooke, other makers not going to the extreme. Some makers abroad and very generally in America make a blade so thin and with so fine an edge that the latter will rise and fall very perceptibly as it is drawn along the thumb nail.

The tempering of a razor is a matter of great care. Should a drop of grease get into the cooling water the batch would be made brittle and spoiled. To draw the temper some makers tie a dozen blades together, dip the bundle in oil, and put it before a blaze long enough to burn the oil off.

Some razors are honed by laying the blade flat, while others have edges which do not allow this. The edges of razors are half, three-quarters and full concave, the latter requiring smaller stones in grinding. Razors should be carefully wiped after using, and the English recommend a lint made in their country as the best material for that purpose. This lint is so soft that it will not harm the thinnest blade; its drying qualities are such that it will instantly absorb every particle of moisture.—Hardware.

Some "Won't Do's."

It won't do to look for results out of fine churches, big choirs, large rooms, great programmes and the like. All these may help and do greatly, but real results come from head, hand and heart work, done by those who abide in Christ. I have seen mighty big mills that turned out awful small grists. I call up one man, and to my certain knowledge he is more to the Master's service in winning souls to the cross than a half dozen called swell churches.

It won't do to give the best energy of the church to the secular half. That's where we ail. We have ten pounds of effort, and the best of it—the grist five (often it is seven or nine) go to the human side. Give the best time, plans and thought to direct soul saving work among building Christian character.—Christia Herald.

Here and There a Gem.

Those who do the will of God heartily will do it speedily; while we delay, time is lost and the heart hardened.—Henry.

No one who loves Christ and has caught his spirit can believe that which, if true, would make Christ's invitation, "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden," insincere. We who have the hope of glory expect to meet a multitude like the stars, innumerable as the sands—an immeasurable host of all nations, kindred, people and tongues.—Interior.

Faith makes the Christian. Life proves the Christian. Trial tests the Christian. Death crowns the Christian.

Time wasted is existence—used is life.—Young.

It isn't hard to be a Christian when you devote your whole time to it.

No man must come between the seeker and God, for the best of men are but men at the best. Not even the ordinances of religion can meet the need of the people, though they be God appointed. They were meant to lead us to God, and not to be a substitute for him.—C. H. Spurgeon.

London Grog Shops.

London has 8,325 miles of streets and a population of 5,847,000—more than the whole of Scotland or of Ireland. It has only 439 church buildings. It has about 8,500 people to the square mile; 145,000 paupers, one-third of whom are children. London has over 26,000 registered, habitual criminals. There are over 14,000 policemen, which cost the city over \$7,000,000 a year. London has also 14,000 grogshops. How much these cost nobody can figure up. Never will there be any way out of "darkest" London, or the bottomless miseries and degradation of any other city, so long as the grogshop curse is tolerated.—Ad vance.

Dispensary for Drunkards.

The West Side Woman's Christian Temperance union, of Chicago, has established a free dispensary for the cure of alcoholism at W. C. T. U. headquarters at 870 West Madison street, in charge of Dr. A. V. Hutchins. It is open every evening from 8 till 9 and the treatment is absolutely free.

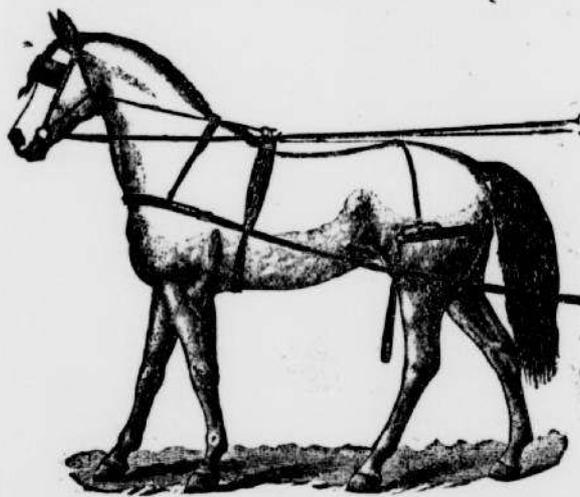
It Debauches and Degrades.

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- 3 Lots on Donovan street, on Belt Line, on one of which are two small tenements which rent for \$6 per month.
- 2 Lots on Davis street, on one a house which rents for \$3 per month.
- 2 Lots near Butler's Hill.
- 14 Lots in rear of Judge A. W. O. Hicks' home place.
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