Household Matters

Summer Window Draperies.

A new idea is, instead of taking down heavy window or door hangings, to cover them with linen or chintz coverings similar to furniture slips. These covers are fastened from the poles the same as the heavy curtains, and completely envelop them. A broad band of the linen fastens them around the centre.

The Sudden Leak.

In case of a sudden leak, when, as usual, it is impossible to get a plumber quickly, turn off the water, then mix some common yellow soap and whiting with enough water to make a thick paste and stop up the leak yourself. It will do temporarily as well as solder, providing you turn the water on again rather slowly, as a sudden rush might force it out. I have used this on two occasions and it lasted until the plumber came—half a day afterward.—Good Housekeeping.

Cleaning Marble.

Stationary marble washstands often become stained and soiled by spots which soap and water will not take out. It is a good plan to wash stationary washstands, when the house is cleaned, with a preparation of soap and water and oxgall. Do not try to clean marble with acid. If the marble is stained with oil or grease which cannot be removed with good soap and water and the addition of oxgall, a paste must be made to take out the grease. The simplest paste is composed of fuller's earth and warm water with a small amount of washing soda melted in the water. Spread this paste thickly over the marble and let it dry on. Scour it off in a day or two with strong soap and water. If this preparation does not clean the marble after applying it once or twice, make a stronger preparation, of equal parts of fresh slacked lime and washing soda, and water enough to make a paste. Do not touch the mixture, as it is very caustic. Let it dry over the marble and remain twenty-four hours, then wash it off with an abundance of hot water. It will remove the most obstinate grease spots that have soaked into the marble, and it may be used on any pure white marble, although it may possibly stain some fancy colored marbles.—New York Tribune.

Care of Carpets.

To keep a good carpet do not hide it under a cheap drugget, as many a prudent but short-sighted housewife does. This only makes a good carpet the lining for a poor one. Through the loose fibers of the drugget dust filters and little bits of dirt, which wear away the fabric underneath.

It is always best to have the carpet laid by men from the store, as they know how to avoid straining the fibre. Let them also clean the carpets, as the amateur usually does more harm than good as a cleaner. The carpet should be brushed away from the nap. Nap dragged daily the wrong way weakens and pulls away.

To clean a carpet it should be gone over yard by yard with a clothes brush, sweeping with the nap. This will give you a chance to see all the stains.

The right method to treat a good carpet is to lay it carefully on a soft bedding of thick layers of newspapers or of brown paper. The printing ink on newspapers is disliked by the moth, which will avoid such linings as a place unsuitable for the laying of its eggs.

Thus thick folds of newspapers not only give a thick underfooting for the floor, but relieve the housewife of one source of worry—moths in her best carpet. The papers should be renewed each time the carpet is taken up.—New York Journal.

. . RECIPES . .

Cauliflower and Onion Salad—Peel two Bermuda onions and slice them fine; soak them in a little salt and vinegar for an hour. Have a cauliflower cooked and thoroughly chilled and separated into flowerets. Drain the onions and arrange them in alternate layers with the cauliflower; dress with French dressing.

Creme Toast—With cake cutter cut circles from stale bread one-half inch thick, butter these and toast in oven; place two slices together with finely chopped parsley between, place on platter and pour over hot cream sauce made from one-half pint milk and a little flour, well seasoned with butter, pepper and salt. Garnish with parsley and serve with grated cheese.

Potato Rolls—To one cupful of warm mashed potatoes add two tablespoonfuls of butter, yolks of two eggs (beaten), one cupful of milk and one and a half cupfuls of sifted flour; beat this mixture thoroughly; add the whites of the eggs (beaten) and two level teaspoonfuls of baking powder; butter gem pans and nearly fill with the mixture; bake in a moderate oven twenty minutes.

Fricassee Eggs—Hard boil six eggs. Put two level teaspoonfuls of butter in a saucepan; when melted add two teaspoonfuls of flour and stir until smooth; add a cup of gravy or stock; season with salt and pepper to taste; add two minced mushrooms and a sprig of parsley, minced; let the mushrooms cook for five minutes in the sauce if they are canned; if fresh cook them in the butter before the flour goes in. When the sauce is made slice the hard-boiled eggs and add them to the sauce. Let the sauce boil up once and serve.

MISSISSIPPI RIVER CRAFT

Inflammable Character of the Craft Still Used on the Great River.

The burning of the steamer Sunrise at her landing in front of the city serves again to call attention to the inflammable character of the craft that are universally used for river traffic. It is true that no lives were lost as a result of the destruction of the Sunrise, but a number of people had a narrow escape, and it is certain that had the fire occurred when the boat was running there would have been loss of life just as there was in the recent City of Pittsburg disaster.

The trouble, of course, is not due to any carelessness on the Sunrise or on any of the other river craft which have been destroyed by fire. It is more than probable that both the Sunrise and the City of Pittsburg were well equipped in the way of fire-fighting apparatus and were probably in all respects up-to-date boats of their kind. The real secret of the disasters is to be found in the construction of all river boats. These vessels are made entirely of wood, with light wooden upper works, which, dried by the sun and wind as well as by the heat from their own engines and boilers, become little better than vast tinder boxes. If such vessels catch fire it is practically a hopeless case from the first.

These river craft have changed but little in construction or materials in the past fifty years. In many respects, of course, they are admirably suited to the trade in which they are engaged, and active competition from the railroads makes it essential that cheapness of materials in the construction of these boats should be considered. At the same time common prudence, as well as business sense, ought to dictate the advisability of experimenting with materials less inflammable than those which commonly enter into the construction of the average river steamer. It is true that passenger business is not what it used to be, but it is also true that the number of passengers using the boats is still large, and it is now on the increase. The comfort of passengers is undoubtedly well cared for on river boats, but the principal consideration is their safety.

River steamers do not, as a rule, carry enough lifeboats, nor are the appliances for lowering such boats what they should be. More and better arranged boats would undoubtedly minimize the danger to life, but what is needed, above all, is a change to some less inflammable material than wood for the construction of boats. Vessels have been constructed with light steel hulls that have given satisfaction, and there is no reason why light steel construction should not replace wood in the cabins and living quarters of river steamers. Even if it should be deemed best to keep to wood for hulls and main decks of boats, the upper works, which are now the source of the most danger, could be constructed of light steel.

It is true that even steel ships occasionally burn at sea, but at the same time it is a fact that they burn much more slowly than steamboats, and generally give ample time to save passengers and crew, and often even to reach port from long distances at sea. While it is not to be hoped that a fireproof boat can be built, there ought to be something done to make river craft less inflammable than they now are. Moreover, all passenger vessels should be compelled to carry a sufficient number of lifeboats and rafts, so kept as to be easily lowered into the water at the shortest possible notice.—New Orleans Picayune.

Electrifying Swiss Roads.

A proposition is afoot to electrify the entire system of Swiss steam railroads. The plan is that of L. Thormann, a Zuric engineer. It is estimated that the cost of the proposed change would be something like $31,000,000, which would be divided about as follows: Rolling stock, $7,750,000; transmission lines, $13,510,000, and converter sub-stations, $9,843,000. Economic advantage is the unusual argument urged for the adoption of the innovation. It is claimed the conversion would change the commercial balance of Switzerland. Switzerland unfortunately is dependent on foreign countries for her entire coal supply, and there being a great number of waterfalls available, it is proposed to harness these for the development of electric current. The net saving in operation to the railroads would not be so great, but the money that is now expended outside of the country would be distributed among its own people, and this would mean a decided encouragement to other industries. It is asserted that the electrical works at Oerlikon have made an application to the Federal Government for a concession to establish a road of twelve and one-half miles of standard gauge electric railway for experimental purposes.

Boots and Prosperity.

Some years ago I was talking with one of our leading boot manufacturers, and himself a very acute man. He told me that long experience had shown him that the sale of boots is a sure barometer of the prosperity of the country, so far as the working classes were concerned, says London Truth. If things are going well people buy new boots when their old ones have worn out, if the reverse, they do not, but make shift without new purchases. And he instanced Ireland, where he had a large trade output, as an instance of this. When, therefore, I hear that the boot business is not flourishing, I know what that means. Although it cannot be said to be absolutely bad, yet there is already a shrinkage in sales at home, owing to the effect of the war on the resources of the wage-earning class.

THE WOMEN OF BOLIVIA

THEY ARE THE STURDIEST OF THEIR SEX IN THE WORLD.

Eat Little Meat, Because the Cattle and Sheep Are "Trained Athletes"—How Fruits Are Prepared—Coffee Like Oil—Arrangement of the Adobe Houses.

"The sturdiest women of the world are probably the women of Bolivia," said Louis B. Jennings, who, with a party of young men, recently returned from a visit to that country. "The people of Bolivia are of necessity mainly vegetarian in their diet, for beef is scarce, and consequently very expensive. In fact, the beef to be had there is not good, for the country is mountainous and all of the cattle develop hard muscles. This is especially true of the sheep, which are 'trained athletes.' The mutton has the consistency of rubber, and is as tough as leather. Northerners who are in the habit of depending on meat find no satisfaction in steaks, chops and roasts in Bolivia. We fared well without meat after futile efforts to eat it. The only part of the beef which was at all possible was the tenderloin, and even that was not as palatable as the fruits and vegetables.

"Delicious fruits at low prices abound in the markets of Bolivia. The breakfasts consists of fruit, and plenty of it. We had bananas, prickly pears, or tunas, which are the best of the native fruits, and of which one can buy ten for a cent; peaches, grapes, luscious strawberries, fresh figs, fragrant pineapples, alligator pears, chirimoyas, pepinos and star apples.

"Chirimoyas have a soft, sweet pulp and large black seeds, and are enclosed in a thick skin. They are broken in halves and eaten with a spoon. Pepinos grow on palm trees, and look like cucumbers on the outside, but inside are much like muskmelons, with thick, very sweet pulp. These must be cut first to let the milky juice out. They are then eaten like a cantaloupe. The star apple is a fine fruit. It is beautiful to look at, about the size of an apple, and has a smooth and shining skin, graduating in color from a light purple at one end to a dark shade at the other. When the thick, leathery skin is broken open the centre is found to be pure white, the pulp becoming darker toward the outer skin until it is deep purple next to it. The pulp is soft and milky.

"The two cereals of the country which are most popular are quinua and canagua. The former is white and the latter black. The grains are smaller than rice, but somewhat like it. Quinua is washed and boiled in milk. It is considered very wholesome. Canagua is toasted and ground into a black flour and eaten after it is soaked in water or made into a drink resembling coffee. Another cereal, a sort of barley, appears in all the shades of the rainbow, a phenomenon no one seems able to explain. Potatoes grow in the same varied tints.

"All kinds of vegetables grow luxuriantly in the fertile valleys, and the people seem to live wholly on them, the cereals and the fruits. Coffee is made exceedingly strong and is almost like oil in character. It has a different color and a different aroma from the coffee known here. In the course of time one grows to like it, although the only milk to be had to drink in it is American condensed milk.

"Chickens and ducks, native fish and imported corned beef are the popular meat and fish courses of a dinner. Mutton stew or broth is about the only thing to be had as a soup. Chickens are the special feast day piece de resistance, and are raised by all classes of people. The bread is coarse and made of dark wheat. The imported canned meats and fish are more popular than the home products of the same kind.

"The ice crop never fails, and there is no ice trust in Bolivia. Ice is obtained in abundance from the immense glacier fields in the upper ranges of the mountains which supply the markets throughout the year from their solid beds and columns of ice.

"Living in Bolivia is cheap. We lived luxuriously in La Paz, the capital of the country, at the best hotel for $5 a week each for room and board. Most of the natives have gardens, and their expenses must be reduced to the minimum.

"The women keep the shops and the markets, and some of them are rich, owning their own plantations, on which they raise fruit, vegetables, chickens, ducks, rabbits, etc. They have the right to acquire their own property and to hold it or sell it as they please until they are married. Then their husbands have a dower right, and must sign a deed to make a sale of property valid.

"The people are divided into three classes—the Spanish, or aristocrats; the native Indians, or laboring class, and the Cholos, or half-breeds, who are the shopkeepers. The last are usually quite rich, as they are exceedingly thrifty. They build beautiful homes, dress extravagantly and wear a great many jewels. It is the Cholo woman who is the most active in the home and in business. The Indian women bear the hardest burdens. Considering their opportunities, the women are most progressive, and welcome all latter-day innovations.

"The Spanish women dress in Parisian styles, years behind the times. The Cholos have a style of their own, and are very fond of imported and expensive stuffs, but all their gowns are made after the same pattern. The skirts are short, showing the white boots and many hued stockings, and the petticoats are made of silk of many colors, and numbering as many as ten or eleven, all of different colors, full and stiff, standing out until the top one is almost horizontal. Of course the idea is to show the ruffles of all of these petticoats. Their hats are of plain felt of some bright hue, and their jackets are of bright velvet.

"The Indian women are more easily satisfied, and seldom wear any under garments, shoes or hose, but each wears several skirts and a jacket. The wild tribes wear no clothing.

"The houses are all built of adobe, even those of the richest class. This is due to the lack of transportation facilities for heavy stones from the mountains or heavy timbers from the luxuriant forests. The roofs and stairways are of brick and tile, and the houses are all low and built around a series of courtyards, with an entrance through the centre. The front courtyard is surrounded by the drawing rooms and verandas for entertainment of guests; the second, by the dining room and bedrooms of the family; the third, by the kitchen and servants' quarters, and the fourth by the horses, mules, ducks, chickens, rabbits, etc., the outside walls about the whole presenting a solid line of adobe. Contrary to the fashion in Mexico the windows look outward as well as into the courtyard.

"The women of the highest class are beautiful, and those of mixed breed are often fine looking. All are healthy, sturdy and a happy looking lot of people. The laboring class has great powers of endurance, carrying on their backs heavy burdens such as in this country are conveyed by trucks.

"The Indians of Bolivia are short in stature, deep chested and capable of great endurance. Consumption is never heard of in the country, nor, indeed, are many other diseases that are common elsewhere. The climate is a sort of continuous spring and fall, the temperature varying from twenty-six degrees to seventy-six degrees. There is no intervening hot summer and freezing winter."—New York Tribune.

Spare the Other Birds.

Many sportsmen when on hunting trips are in the habit of shooting birds that can in no sense be considered game, "simply for practice." It is undoubtedly a fact that large numbers of gulls, terns, swallows, swifts, night hawks, which in some sections of the country are known as bullbats, and birds of like character are destroyed every year. Without considering the aesthetic side of the question, such birds, from an economic standpoint, should not be killed; they are of great value to the public, and to wantonly destroy them for "practice" in shooting is a habit that no true sportsman will engage in and which, we hope, is the result of thoughtlessness. The appeal is made to the sportsmen of the country by the national committee of the Audubon Society, "to ask them to consider the great value of the non-game birds, and it is believed that they will not only abstain from killing such birds, but will preach the gospel of protection at all times." A careful reading of this gospel will show every true sportsman that the Florida Audubon Society, in urging this for your consideration, would in no way wish to interfere with legitimate sport, but it does ask you to endeavor in your power, at all times, to prevent merciless cruelty.—Florida Times-Union.

To Measure Objects.

The dimensions of an object may be known even if no measuring line is to be had. The girth of the hand is equal to the length of the foot.

Many useful measures can be found in the body. The first finger is usually four inches long, two inches from the knuckle to the next joint and two inches more to the tip. From the tip of the middle finger to the elbow is about sixteen inches on an average, and the distance from finger top to finger tip of the outstretched hands is about six feet, the fathom, from fadham, "to embrace."

Individuals vary in these respects, but if, once for all, you measure the exact length of your finger, your arm, your outstretched hands and your foot or boot you will have permanent measures always with you, which may prove very useful.

Aristocratic Names.

A studio building in West Fortieth street, New York, is occupied chiefly by women artists. A weary man crawled up to the top floor and lay down in the hall to sleep. There was feminine confusion, and a policeman was summoned. The awakened sleeper said that he was an artist. "At present I am temporarily embarrassed, but I am still a gentleman." His name—a beautiful one—was Philip Plantagenet. This reminds me of the man who, brought before the magistrate, said his name was Harold Montressor. "Give me your real name," roared the Judge. "Must I?" whispered the accused. "Well, if I must give it—Fitzgerald Fortescue."—Boston Journal.

Telephones in a Forest.

The irrigation companies and electric power companies that make use of the San Gabriel River, in California, have devised a unique scheme for protecting their plants. They have installed fifty telephone stations throughout the San Gabriel forest reserve, for the special purpose of giving immediate notice if a fire breaks out anywhere in the woods. Twenty-five rangers, armed with portable telephones, will patrol the forest, as an additional precaution, who will be able, in an emergency, to make connection with the nearest wire and send their message, without taking the time to go to a station.

Hydrogen a Mild Poison.

Hydrogen, which heretofore has been regarded as harmless, is now believed to act as a mild poison. This opinion is based upon certain observed effects of it on workmen in the electric light stations of Dublin, Ireland, where accumulators giving off hydrogen were in use.

AMERICA'S RICE CROP

CARE TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT TO FOSTER THIS INDUSTRY.

The Importance Which Rice Has Assumed Among the Cereal Crops of the Southern Seaboard States—Educating People in the Art of Preparing Rice.

Such an enormous quantity of rice is now being planted in the Southern seaboard States where suitable stretches of land for its cultivation exist as to call attention to the importance which rice has assumed among the cereal crops. This is due to several causes, chief of which is the care taken by the Government to foster and enlarge the scope of this industry. For several years past the United States has imported from abroad seed rice to experiment with in the rice lands of this country, and now has a commission at work, under the direction of its Department of Agriculture, studying rice, its culture, and the lands wherein it has been and may be grown in every part of the world. The reputation of this country for its success in the culture of rice is known in the East, and it was to the United States that Turkey turned for instruction and information relative to putting certain lands under cultivation in rice.

Japan has 150 varieties of rice, many of which are adapted to American soil, and one, known as the "short straw Japan," is in general use in the Gulf coast rice belt. It is a most prolific plant, and the stalk is short and hardy, which enables it to resist those heavy winds that sometimes flatten fields of long-straw rice.

The United States Rice Commission is composed of Professor S. A. Knapp and Professor W. H. Heilman. Professor Knapp, who left Iowa, and took up his residence in Southwest Louisiana several years ago, for the benefit of his health, has become an expert upon the subject of rice culture. He has been making a tour of the world studying the processes of raising rice in various countries, and especially in China, Japan, India, the Philippines, Egypt and the islands of the Pacific, and he has sent to the experimental growers in this country seed that seemed to him adapted to the soils of their States.

Professor Heilman is making a soil survey of the rice belt, after which he will map out its different soils and determine their adaptability to various qualities of rice and other crops and decide what fertilization might be advantageously supplied.

For many hundreds of miles under the rice belt an underground reservoir of fresh water, at a temperature of seventy degrees, is tapped at a depth varying from 125 to 200 feet. The United States Government is endeavoring to discover the course and extent of this underground river, which supplies innumerable deep-well irrigation plants and canals with an inexhaustible quantity of clear water. This underground river is easily tapped. A well has been sunk in it to a depth of 200 feet in fourteen hours' time. It lies in the region of the oil reservoirs and sulphur beds of Southwest Louisiana and Southeast Texas; how far beyond is not yet determined.

Through the wide extent of rice lands, wild and cultivated, which lie in this region, flow ten navigable and many smaller streams besides a hundred irrigation canals which vary in length from one to forty-five miles and in width from twenty to 150 feet. These have many miles of laterals and pumping stations, or relifts, wherever a fall in the incline of the land throws the canal below its highest level. The canals are built in the ridges, or high portions of the prairies which are from six to twenty-five feet above the surface of the streams that traverse them. Some of these pumping stations have a capacity of 250,000 gallons a minute, but most of them average 20,000 to 50,000 gallons a minute.

The Chinese claim to have been cultivating rice for 5000 years, and their crop has attained to 3,000,000,000 barrels annually. In this country the first rice that grew successfully was in 1694 at Charleston, S. C., and in the Gulf coast rice belt in 1847, while the total rice production last season represented four and a half pounds per capita, Louisiana and Texas produced over 300,000,000 pounds between them, and have enlarged their canals many miles, increased their acreage, and arranged to produce double that amount this year.

Under the irrigation system a rice crop never fails, as it is not subject to the effect of low water in the rivers or drought.

Over thirty rice mills, largely owned by New York capital, are situated in the rice centres of Louisiana and Texas, exclusive of those in the large cities. These have a daily capacity of from 300 to 2500 barrels, and can warehouse as high as 100,000 sacks of rice at one time. These sacks hold 162 pounds of rice in the hull, or 100 pounds and over of clean, polished rice.

Notwithstanding the increase in irrigating canals and rice acreage the cereal did not assume great proportions as a merchantable article until the Government took an interest in it. Then the Rice Association of America established a kitchen at the Buffalo Exposition, where rice was cooked in 200 different ways by culinary artists, who could have made anything taste delicious. This was a great advertisement for rice, and the association, which intended to sink money in the venture, cleared $3000 over and above all expenses. The Southern Pacific Railroad is reported to have spent $100,000 in making known the values of rice, and is now maintaining rice kitchens in Washington and other large cities, with a view to educating people in the art of preparing rice.

These various endeavors to further rice interests, combined with the work of the Carolina Rice Growers' Association, have not only increased the demand for rice as a nutritive article of diet, but have increased the applicants for rice lands. These lands have advanced in values ranging from $1 to $10 per acre to from $15 to $50. The latter is now an average price for the best rice lands. This price is being paid for land under which oil is known to lie, with no idea of ever boring for oil on the part of the purchaser.

Men who own rice lands in the irrigated territory of Louisiana and Texas either put in one deep-water well to every 200 acres to be irrigated, or pay the irrigation companies a sum of never more than $1.50 per acre to water their lands. If the land is owned by the companies they furnish land, seed and water for one-half the crop, or furnish water only to any farmer for one-fifth or one-fourth of his crop.

The average cost of cultivating an acre of rice is $10, and it yields $30 to $40 per acre, so that nearly every man who leases a farm one season owns it the next, if he has an average good crop.

Nearly all the big mills and irrigating systems are owned by organizations of farmers who protect their own interests and prevent the eating up of property on the mortgage system by outside capitalists. They also own great warehouses for storing rough rice, so that they need not be compelled to throw their rice upon the market when a corner has been made or a full market has lowered the price. Besides the average price of $3.25 and upward for rough rice delivered at the railway station, rice bran sells for $12 per ton, the polished rice for $19 per ton, while rice straw is used as fodder. Attempts to make white paper of the straw have proved so successful that there is a slow but steady movement toward the erection of paper mills in rice sections where the straw can be had almost for the asking. Nothing about rice need be wasted.—New York Times.

Totems and Mascottes.

The totems cherished by some of the Indian tribes suggest the French mascotte. A "totem" is the generic word for a class of material objects which a savage regards with superstitious awe, under the belief that between him and every member of the class there exists an intimate relation. The totem may be a wolf, a beaver, a buffalo, a salmon, a snake, the wind, birch-bark, the leaves of trees, the sun or the snow. But whatever it happens to be, the connection between it and its protege is mutually beneficial. The totem protects the man, and the man testifies his esteem for his protection by not killing it should it be an animal, and not destroying it should it be a plant.

Hunters' License Fees.

In Florida a non-resident hunter is required to pay $10 to each county in which he shoots. In Michigan a resident obtains a license for seventy-five cents, but the non-resident has to pay $25 for the privilege of shooting over the State. Canada taxes each person not a British subject $5 for an angler's permit for three months, and $10 for a period of six months. In British Columbia the fee is $50 for a season's shooting. Minnesota charges residents $25; Illinois, $10.50, Wisconsin $25, New Brunswick $20, and a bond of $100 for a due observance of the laws, Manitoba $50, Ontario $25, South Carolina $25, Wyoming, $40, North Dakota $25, South Dakota $10, West Virginia $25.

Poor Boys in Japan's Army.

The enrollment of lads from the poorer section of the people in the army service of Japan subjects their parents to no small pecuniary embarrassment, but what specially troubles these poor people is the fact that they cannot afford to give the necessary allowances to their sons, for, humble as they are, this is a matter that touches their sense of honor. This was long known to other neighbors, and these, at the instance of some thoughtful members, have decided to collect a private allowance fund to be given to the privates enlisted from their own quarters.

How Chocolate Grows.

Chocolate is a kind of a bean which grows in a vegetable somewhat resembling a cucumber. This cucumber-like vegetable is about five inches long and three inches thick, and contains from twenty to thirty chocolate beans, arranged in fine rows, with partitions between them. The chocolate plant was first found in Mexico, but is now grown in most hot countries. It is occasionally raised in hothouses.

Startling Chemical Union.

A New Yorker who carried matches which ignite "only when struck on the box" added some chlorate of potash lozenges to his match pocket contents. The fire resulting from the union of the chlorate with the phosphorus on the box ruined his clothing and emptied the street car in which he was riding.

Expensive Dog Collars.

Dog collars are made of all sorts of semi-precious stones in effective designs. One fashionable style is of many rows of coral beads, with a large clasp of brilliants. A fantastic collar is of imitation pearls, with a large vampire-like buckle in front, the wings being of odd blue enamel and the eye of blazing red stones.

Brave Boys.

Three Victoria crosses, ten distinguished service medals, two promotions to commissioned rank and four mentions in despatches have fallen to the lot of reform-school lads in South Africa.