

A Pleasing Experiment.

Every time I try to improve my mind with science I resolve that I will never do it again, and then I always go and do it.

I was reading a lovely book the other day. It was all about balloons and parachutes. A parachute is a thing you fall out of a balloon with.

I told Tom Maginnis about it, and we said we would make a parachute, and jump out of the second-story window with it.

We didn't have the least doubt that the book told the truth. But Tom didn't want to be the first to jump out of the window—neither did I—and we thought we'd give Sue's kitten a chance to try a parachute, and see how she liked it.

A radical improvement would be made on many farms by the adoption of the practice of keeping the surface-crust of the soil constantly broken, and by never allowing young weeds to see daylight.

The minute we dropped the cat and the umbrella out of the window the wind took them and blew them clear over the fence into Deacon Smedley's pasture before they struck the ground.

Tom and I came home again, and when we got a little rested we said we would take the big umbrella and try the pleasing scientific experiment; at least I said that Tom ought to try it, for we had proved that a little silk umbrella would let a kitten down to the ground without hurting her, and of course a great big umbrella would hold Tom up all right.

After a while Tom said he would do it, and when the wind blew hard he jumped.

It is my opinion, now that the thing is all over, that the umbrella wasn't large enough, and that if Tom had struck the ground he would have been hurt. He went down awfully fast, but by good luck the grocer's man was just coming out of the kitchen door as Tom came down, and he lit right on the man's head.

They were just getting out from among the eggs when Sue came in with some of the ribs of her umbrella that somebody had fished out of the river and given to her. There didn't seem to be any kitten left, for Sue didn't know anything about it, but father and Mr. Maginnis came in a few minutes afterward, and I had to explain the whole thing to them.

This is the last "pleasing scientific experiment" I shall ever try. I don't think science is at all nice, and, besides, I am awfully sorry about the kitten.—"Johnny Brown," in Harper's Young People.

—The probate Court of Hennepin County, Minn., has decided that the widow of the late ex-Governor C. C. Washburn is entitled to one-third of the decedent's estate in Minnesota (estimated to be worth \$260,000), independent of the provisions made for her in her husband's will.

—The Duke of Connaught, third son of Queen Victoria, has been appointed to the command of a brigade in India, in order to give him an opportunity to qualify himself for the office of Viceroy of India, which the Queen desires to see him occupy.

Clean Fields and Heavy Crops.

There are two drawbacks in the methods largely adopted by the farmers of this country in the cultivation of their crops during the first half of the season. These methods involve a needless expenditure of labor, and permit an extensive growth of weeds.

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