

GIRLS' SWIMMING MATCH

ANNUAL EXHIBITION OF THE BROOKLYN MERMAIDS' CLUB.

Sixty Brooklyn girls comprise the Mermaid Club, which yesterday held its annual prize races and swimming exhibition at the club's own bath at the foot of Forty-third street, Brooklyn. The mermaids were there in force, as also were their mothers, their big sisters and their little brothers, but none of their friends were admitted to the bath.

The bath is an enclosure about 50 feet square, which floats at the end of a plank ridge more than a city block from the shore.

On the inside of the enclosure, fringing the bath are thirty dressing rooms, which are as unlike the regulation seaside bathhouse rooms as a girl's chamber is unlike a log cabin. Fancy mirrors adorned with ribbons, wicker-stools, and pretty cruet mats adorn the dressing rooms of the Brooklyn mermaids.

The exclusion of men from the enclosure the troublesome skirt and to enter the pool, which is six feet deep, in low cut, armless waist and closely fitting knickerbockers without stockings. A pretty girl, indeed, was presented to the onlookers when the 34 mermaids, com-



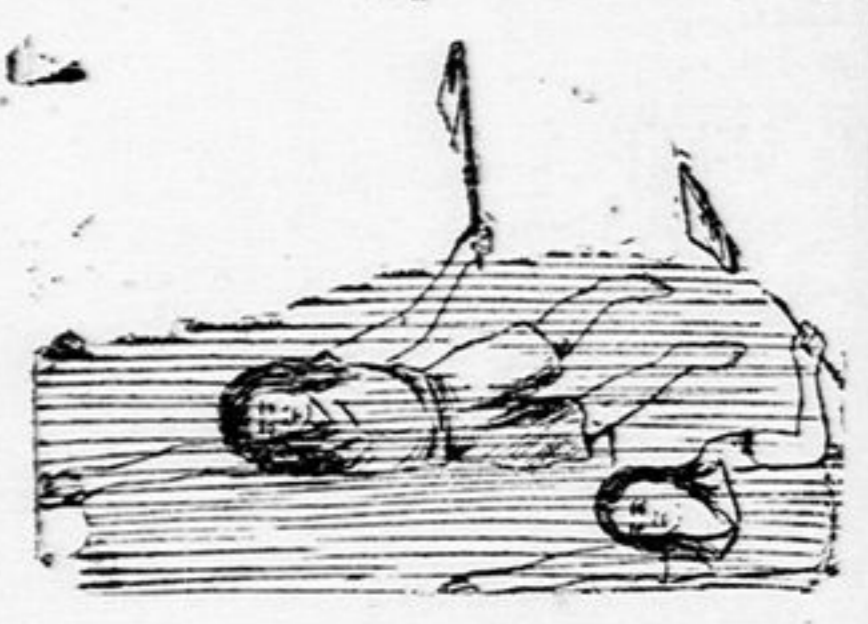
MISTRESS OF CEREMONIES.

petitors and judges, emerged from their dressing rooms and gathered together at one side to discuss conditions and entries.

Miss Belle Halket officiated as "mistress of ceremonies," and when she displayed the little array of prizes, there was a ripple of "Ohs" and "Ahs." After much discussion Will the big janitor, was called in to act as referee, if the judges disagreed. Some of the girls objected to this arrangement at first, but finally all agreed that to prevent misunderstandings the services of "just one man" were absolutely needed.

At 11 o'clock the blue-eyed mistress of ceremonies announced to the assembled mammas that the first event would be a yacht race between Vigilant and Britannia. Not a breath of wind was stirring as the two girls who represented the yachts, one with a British flag, the other with the Stars and Stripes up-lifted, stood ready to start at the word. Britannia was Sadie Dwinell, a real English maid of 17, with bronzed cheeks and brown eyes and hair. She wore a crimson suit. Vigilant was smaller, but a trifle more lithe than her British sister, and her friends felt sure that fair-haired May Bennett, who carried the American colors, would come out a dripping winner. She wore a blue suit.

"Go!" shouted the mistress of ceremonies, and the two figures slid into the pool without a ripple, their right hands extended as a bowsprit, the little flags up-



VIGILANT AND BRITANNIA.

held in the left, and the propelling done entirely by the feet, carried so far below the surface that not a wave showed their motion. As the swimmers glided silently across the pool each mermaid cheered her friend to her very best efforts.

Every nerve was strained to the utmost by the English swimmer, but the tips of Vigilant's fingers were three or four inches ahead of Britannia's as they sized the glided ring at the top, and their owner quickly followed them, greeted by cheers. The winner straightway proceeded to a looking glass, as her bedraggled appearance somewhat dampened the pleasure of her victory.

What was called the "Cup Race" followed and was won by Miss Frankie Orr, who succeeded in carrying across the pool a cup full of water on her forehead as she swam on her back. The four other competitors fell out of the race through dropping their cups before any of them were half way across. Miss Orr's prize was a fine Dresden china individual cup.

Next came the game "over the rope." Eight of the mermaids entered this competition. All were required to tread water in line, about three feet away from a heavy rope stretched across the pool, and, at the word "Jump," all sprang forward, caught the rope in both hands, and somersaulted over and around



CUP RACE WINNER.

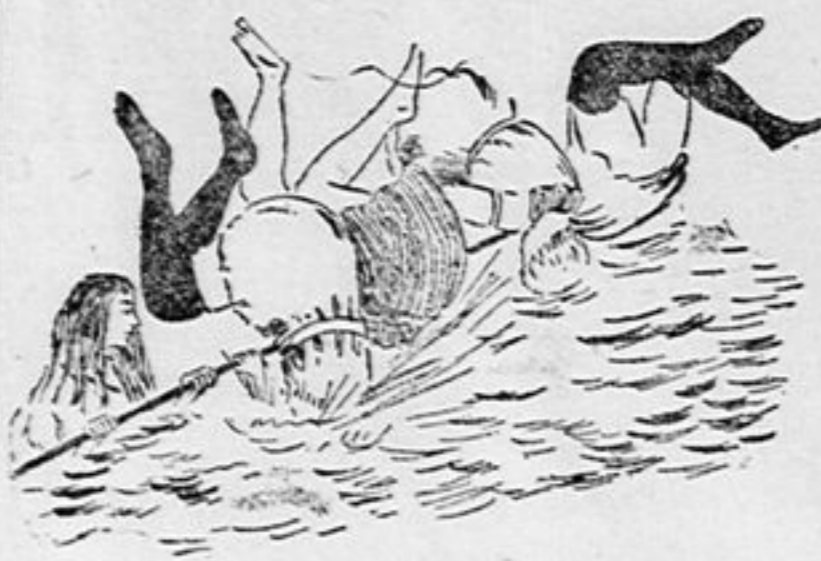
along as they could, at the word all sprang, but no two went over the rope at the same time. One mermaid did try to circle the rope, but landed fairly on it, and there she hung, shaking the rope and laughing at the rest. A sponge cake

THE FARM AND GARDEN

HINTS AND NEWS NOTES BOTH FOR CITY AND COUNTRY.

Original Articles and Press Clippings Which Have Been Prepared Especially for Our Readers.

All farmers know that the principal value of barnyard manure is in the ammonia, or nitrogen, it contains. The strong odor around a pile of fermenting manure is due for the most part to the escaping of nitrogenous or ammoniacal gas, and farmers generally use absorbents of some kind to prevent the escape of the principal value of the manure. None of the agricultural crops will yield satisfactorily unless it has had a free supply of nitrogen during growth. How to get this supply of nitrogen for the crops is the principal problem in farming. It is very seldom that a farmer has all the barnyard manure he can use to advantage, and thousands of tons of "ammoniated phosphates" are sold and used every year, generally with profit to the user. Nitrate of soda and sulphate of ammonia are used in large quantities, and some kind of high priced, the sole object in using them is to get the nitrogen they contain for the benefit of the crops on which they are used.



THE FLIP FLAP.

collisions occurred between the two barges, but neither was broken up. Barge No. 1, composed of Miss Sarah Orr, Miss Katherine Bennett and Miss Louise Tuck, beat barge No. 2 by two lengths and a half, and each received a jelly sandwich.

"I've lost one of my green garters," wailed the stroke oar of barge No. 2, and immediately there was a grand splash, and for what seemed like several minutes not one of the score of heads was seen above the water. At last a hand appeared, grasping the treasured green garter, and in a moment twenty mermaids landed and prepared to watch the tub race, which was the next event.

Six contestants doubled up their legs, as if they were in tubs and paddled with their hands. Such a time as they had getting into line for the start.

Miss Agness Arnoux was the winner by half a yard, and carried away a neat soap box in the shape of a tub.

"Well, there's more fun in swimming than in tennis," declared a muscular young woman, who came as a spectator, "and I'm going to hang up my racquet and join this club."

When she saw the fancy swimming this Brooklynite was more determined than ever in her resolution to be aquatic. Her mother gently suggested that amphibious exercise—tennis one day and swimming the next—might be preferable. But the enthusiastic convert was immovable, and one less pretty girl will adorn Prospect Park's big tennis grounds after this.

Fancy swimming concluded the day's enjoyment, and all of the mermaids participated. There was the glide, in which the swimmer slides out into the water from the steps with her palms together and forward, and, by the force of the shove from the steps, glides without motion nearly half way across the pool. Then there is the sleeping pose, very like the yacht race, except that the hand which upheld the flag now is crooked and acts as a pillow for her head. The duck stroke is especially adapted to society girls, who don't wish to get their hands wet; the head is held straight up above water, and the hands tread water with a duck-like motion, while the movements of the feet are nearly the same.

The instructors of the Mermaid Club are William Bennett and his two sisters, Theresa and Katherine, who are almost indispensable to the girls. They appreciate them because they go into the water with the timid embryo mermaids instead of using poles, as the instructors in swimming schools generally do. The Mermaid Club intends to have another prize day next year.

IT PAYS TO SPRAY.

Last year at Geneva they tried the effects of spraying an old orchard with a diluted Bordeaux mixture, one pound of copper sulphate in about 11 gallons of water. Spraying began on May 2, when some of the fruit buds were bursting. Another was given on May 10, taking in some trees not sprayed the first time. Another on May 19, when the first blossoms were opening. Another on May 31, when the last blossoms were falling. At this time one ounce of Paris green was added to 11 gallons of water, as it was on June 12 and June 29. The total amount of Bordeaux mixture used was 110 gallons, and the balance had five. Other trees near them were left unsprayed. The fruit was picked, assorted, packed and sold by an experienced handler of fruit. The results show an average receipt per tree from Seckels sprayed six times of \$5.48 per tree, as against \$3.12 for the unsprayed 68 cents per tree; Seckels sprayed five times, \$5.70 per tree, and those unsprayed 93 cents; White Doyenne sprayed five times \$6.55 per tree, those unsprayed 45 cents per tree. Cost of material for spraying and labor, 91.2 cents per acre, the amount, or 47.2 cents for five treatments. A heavy wind blew off many of the pears about three weeks before they were picked, the showing was not as favorable for the spraying as it might have been. The trees were about 35 years old, and the largest from 25 to 30 feet high, and had received but little pruning for several years, which increased the cost of spraying.

HORTICULTURAL NOTES.

Raspberry canes should be kept pinched off when three feet high. They will then branch out and the latter will bear next year. Dewberry vines should be lifted up and the ground under them mulched with straw. Blackberry bushes should be kept thinned. All berries should be grown on well fertilized soil.

In trimming or clipping hedges of hemlock, spruce or arbutus into formal shapes, they should be cut with one side sloping up to the apex, so as to be wider at the bottom than the top. Thus the lower branches will get more light and air than they would if the sides of the hedge were perpendicular and they will not be so likely to lose their leaves and die.

Many bushes often seem to have a much weaker growth than should be natural to them. When such weakened branches are cut across they will often be found hollow from the work of the curculionid borer. Before the winter comes the larva crawls out and goes into the earth to undergo its transformation. If the affected branches are cut away and burned early in the autumn the larvae are destroyed. The puncture on the stem where the egg was deposited can easily be detected.

It saves labor to destroy the ant colony when this can be done. For this purpose insert an air-tight vessel over the ant hill with bi-sulphate of carbon in it. This is a deadly poison to all animal life, and as it is heavier than the air it will settle into the hill and destroy all it comes in contact with. Care must be taken not to expose the carbon bi-sulphide to the fire in any way, either by lighting a match or bringing a lighted lamp or candle near it. The bi-sulphide of carbon is very inflammable and explodes with great violence when brought near fire.

It is useless to attempt to raise small fruits and poultry on the same piece of ground, because the two are incompatible and the amateur may just as well know it first as last. From the time plants are set out until the fruit is ripe they will constantly work injury to it. Chickens weighing less than a pound may be permitted to run at large among raspberries, blackberries and grapes after the fruit is gathered up to blossoming time, and they will be of considerable benefit by destroying insects injurious to these fruits, but from the time the fruit begins to form until they are gathered they must be kept out if the crop is desired. If there is any season or time when chickens of any age or size will do a strawberry plantation any good.

W. F. Massey of the North Carolina station says: "Peach trees usually break down because of neglect in pruning and shaping the young tree. The peach tree is a generalizer, and will grow in almost any soil. If the growth is neglected the fruit-bearing wood gradually gets further and further out on the end of the limbs, and the weight of the crop has a tremendous leverage and splits the limb off. When we plant a young peach tree of one year's growth from the bud (the only one

TRUE ECONOMY

lies in buying good things. Good things need not be expensive. There's a certain hard wall of facts and figures, however, that stands between possibility and prodigal promise. There are certain prices below which no good, honest furniture can be bought. Those prices are ours. If you pay less you get less. No use dodging a fact. We sell the following at:

PARLOR SUITES.....	\$30 00	CENTRE TABLES.....	\$8 00
BEDROOM SUITES.....	10 00	BEDSTEADS.....	2 00
SIDEBOARDS.....	6 00	6 CHAIRS.....	5 00
EXTENSION TABLES.....	5 00		

And a large assortment of PLUSH AND RATTAN GOODS which will be sold at prices away down.

Don't forget We lead the Trade in FURNITURE UNDERTAKING.

ANDERSON NUGENT & COY
KENT STREET LINDSAY.

W. G. WOODS
LEADER IN SUMMER GOODS.

SEE THE OXFORD OIL GAS STOVES
4 Sizes, can be used in every house.

THE OXFORD GAS RANGE
from 75 cents to \$20, each. Gas mains extended free charge to consumers.

LAWN MOWERS IN SEVERAL VARIETIES
PRICES DOWN. FRUIT TREE SPRAYERS, REFRIGERATORS, ETC.

NAME IT
SEIRECORG

Why, of course, it spells groceries when you read it backward and that is just what

SPRATT & KILLEN

deal in. They carry a full stock of everything in the culinary line required at home.

CAMPERS' SUPPLIES.

CANNED CORNED BEEF
SOUPS
SALMON
LOBSTERS
SARDINES
TOMATOES
PIGS FEET.

ALL FRESH GOODS

PROMPT DELIVERY

Is a feature of our business, We deliver packages of any kind, everywhere and at any time free of charge.

GIVE US A CALL
SPRATT & KILLEN,
KENT STREET, LINDSAY

at which they should be planted) we cut the stem back to about 18 or 20 inches from the ground. When growth begins in the spring we rub off all the shoots from the limbs for the future head. These are again shortened back in the fall one-third, and when the shoots are too thick in the interior of the head and interfere with each other, they are thinned out. Every fall the young growth of the season is shortened back one-third, and care is taken to maintain an even distribution of young wood all through the head of the tree. The crop is thus increased over the tree and no damage is done. If the tree is planted and allowed to take the natural shape it assumed in the nursery, the limbs will more readily split off than when formed by heading back.

FAIRM NOTES.

Most farms need more potash. Give your own sows a good chance at least as you give the hired man. Social crops are profitable for the small farmer. Social crops are onions. They have always been so.

There are two taxes that every farmer should pay cheerfully. The first is the school tax, and the second is the road tax. Good schools makes good citizens—good roads help to depopulate places, and well, these are our horses, our wagons and our temper.

Many farmers heretofore say that the crimson clover does not come up to their expectations. Probably one of the reasons for their disappointment is that the clover was cut while in bloom, another crop being expected later in the season, and the crop was not raised. Those disappointed farmers overlooked one important fact when sowing crimson clover, and not a biennial plant. Sow crimson clover in the fall—not in the spring.

Turnips may be sown any time now before August 10, and under favorable conditions make a good crop. They should be sown on very well-prepared ground, and if sown just after a rain they will come up and make a good rapid growth. The flea beetle is very destructive some years, and the only remedy seems to be to sow them pretty thick, thinning them out later when the plants are well established. On small patches in gardens soot is sometimes efficacious in driving them off.

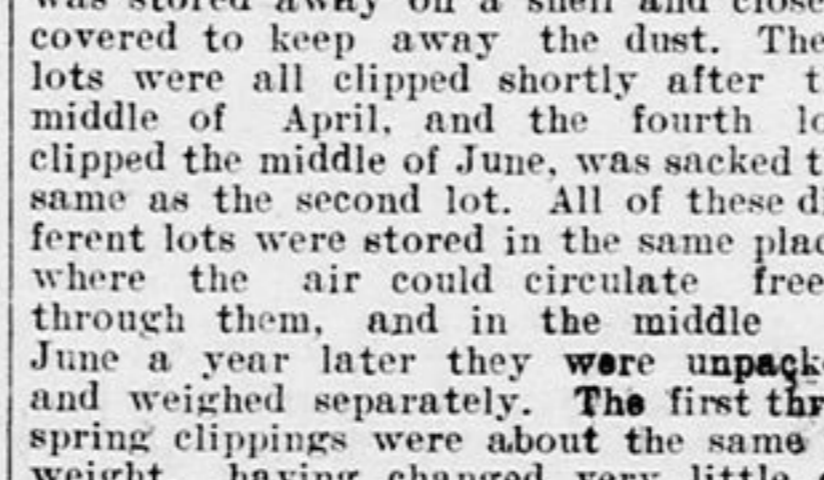
Turnips make their growth after the cool night comes and should be allowed to remain in the ground until after hard frosts have appeared. On many farms this root is never grown, but there are few farms on which it might not be grown with fair profit.

In bulletin No. 21 of the Iowa station the question of shrinkage in wool is discussed. Twenty-four high-grade Shropshire fleeces were divided into several lots and stored away by three different methods recommended for keeping wool. One lot was packed away in a dry, clean box and a closely-fitting cover nailed over it. The second lot was sacked and suspended from the ceiling. The third lot was stored away on a shelf and closely covered to keep away the dust. These lots were all clipped shortly after the middle of April, and the fourth lot, clipped the middle of June, was sacked the same as the second lot. All of these different lots were stored in the same place, where the air could circulate freely through them, and in the middle of June a year later they were unpacked and weighed separately. The first three spring clippings were of the same weight, having changed very little on account of the various methods of packing; but the June-clipped wool showed a loss of about six per cent. The conclusion from the experiment is that the spring-clipped wool that is free from dirt and properly packed away will not shrink to any appreciable extent the first year, but that June-clipped wool will lose at least six per cent. of its original weight if so kept.

Essential Features of Preserving Eggs.

When preserving eggs use only strictly fresh eggs and in packing, the eggs should not touch each other, as one bad egg will spoil the whole. Eggs collected at neighbors or at stores will not answer, as even the most obliging neighbor may unintentionally impose a stale egg on you. Eggs from hens not in company with cocks will keep three times as long as will those from hens mated with cocks. Hence, after hatching is over, remove the males, as the hens will lay fully as well without them. Keep the eggs as near 60 deg. as possible, but 70 deg. is not too high. Keep them in a cool place in summer and do not let them freeze in winter. Be sure and turn the eggs at least twice a week, or the yolks will adhere to the shell, no matter how they may be preserved. This may be done by putting the eggs in a box and turning the box or by placing the eggs on a rack or turning tray.

The cut shown above, and taken from Poultry Keeper, is the best method for turning eggs. No. 1 is the tray ready for the eggs. No. 2 is a V-shaped wood trough as long as the tray is wide, 3-4 in. square and planed down to the V shape. No. 3 is a roller 3-4 or 7-8 in. in diameter (window curtain rollers may be used)



and as long as the V-shaped sticks. Use stout wire at the end, cut it off about an inch long and drive it into the center of the roller. Use wood 1 3-4 in. wide and 1-4 in. thick for pulleys in front, using 1 3-4 in. screws and over the screws drive wire bands such as the manufacturers of bicycles use straightening them out and then bending them so as to fit the screw and go into the cut in the screw so it will not turn in the pulley. Set the pulleys 2 in. apart from center to center. Fifteen rollers may be put in one tray and eight eggs on one roller. Take hold of the middle roller with thumb and finger, the top and bottom so as to turn the roller, and every egg will turn. It must be made to turn easily.

A SOMNAMBULIST'S FALL.

Walked Out of His Window, Fell Forty Feet and Lives.

London, Ont., Aug. 27.—Last night William Sprague, porter of the Walsh House, got up in his sleep and walked out of his bedroom window on the third floor and landed on a shed at the back, rolling from there to the ground. The whole distance of Sprague's fall must have been 40 or 45 feet, and while he received some pretty severe injuries his escape from death was a narrow one.

GREAT 'CYCLING FEAT

Eighty-Six Hours on a Wheel Without a Moment's Sleep.

Another of those abnormal feats to which we have more than once drawn public attention has been accomplished. One of the great "record breakers," as they are called in the cycling world, has says The London Lancet, set all his competitors at defiance by the truly heroic effort of "cycling from the Harland's End to John of Groat's in 86 hours and 15 minutes—that is 9 hours and 40 minutes quicker than the "safety" record. We are informed that he rode the last part of his journey at the rate of 15 miles an hour, that he experienced little fatigue, and that all appearances he was not in any way injured by his success; but the most remarkable part of this act is included in the fact—and it must be recognized as a fact which admits of no dispute—that he performed his task without indulging in one moment of sleep. He was three days 14 hours and 15 minutes without reclining once to rest or ceasing his active movement of propulsion, except by the very briefest moments. There have been periods within our own recollection in which this physical feat would not have been accepted as possible; and although we are forced to accept it now, for no one can contend against truth even under perverted trials of endurance, we are filled with wonder. We know from the best experimental proofs that the human heart will beat 100,000 times in the 24 hours, and that the lowest estimate of the work done by this labor is equal to lifting 122 tons one foot; but it has recently been shown that cycling tells severely and specially on the circulation, and that the number of strokes of the heart is doubled during such active exercise to that to which the rider subjected himself, so that the lowest estimate we can assume for the work of his heart each day was 212,000 beats, with work done at 574 foot tons; and this, maintained for 3 days and 14 hours and 15 minutes was equal to more than 854 foot tons without rest.

The experiment, for it must be looked upon physiologically as an experiment, is not without its uses. It surpasses every kind of ordinary experiment in showing what the human heart is capable of performing, and what tension the vessels of the greater and lesser circulation will bear in the young and healthy man. It shows, also, that there remains much that is as yet unexplained in respect to the cause of sleep, suggesting in the fact that the heart is something in persistent motion of the blood, sustained by volition of a resolute kind, which prevents the nervous system from passing into that passive or negative state to which the term "sleep" is applied.

Air is a Non-Conductor of Heat.

"We have proved to our satisfaction," said a maker of water coolers, "that plain air is as good a non-conductor of heat as we can obtain. We made three refrigerators exactly alike, save that one was packed with sawdust, one with charcoal, and the other provided with an air jacket. Then we put into each a piece of ice, equal in weight and as nearly as possible similar in texture. The three were left overnight, and the next morning for the largest piece of ice was found in the cooler with the air jacket."—The Engineer.

Electric Animal Shearing.

C. M. Palmer has invented an animal shearing device worked by electricity. It is an improvement in clippers, having an electric motor attachment to reciprocate a movable knife in working contact with a fixed and toothed cutter. According to the improvement the cutters proper are connected with a magnet in such way that they are attracted and held in close working contact without the aid of springs or other supplementary devices, the cutters being both oppositely polarized.

Mistakes About Tea.

The reasons why one kind of tea is green and another black have been often and variously explained. One of the causes for the green color that the champions of black tea seem to find so agreeable and enjoy is that the color is the result of drying the tea on copper pans. Dr. Joseph Walsh, who knows all about tea, says there is not the least foundation for this, nor for many of the other opinions, but the real reason for the different color and flavor is that in the green tea of commerce the leaves are cured and dried as quickly as possible after they are picked and rolled, while the leaves that are intended for black tea are exposed to the action of the sun and air for at least twenty-four hours before being fired, being meantime raked and tossed about until they become soft, flaccid and pliant, and again after being fired they are exposed to the oxidizing influence of the atmosphere in a moist state for hours previous to being fired a second time. The leaves are then fired over a slow fire. The method of curing also accounts for the effect that green tea has on some persons, caused, it is believed, by the greater quantity of volatile oil that the rapid process of curing leaves in the leaves.—Boston Journal of Commerce.

Britain's Grip on Commerce.

There seems to be no question as to the great preponderance of the trade of Great Britain, when compared with other European countries. According to recently published statistics, prepared by the English Chamber of Commerce, England sends 87 per cent. of all that Egypt imports, as compared with 10 per cent. sent by France, and 2 per cent. sent by Germany. To the Argentine, Uruguay and Chile she sends from 29 to 45 per cent. of all they import, as compared with about 13 per cent. sent by Germany. To China she sends 21 per cent. of the imports of that country, while France and Germany send comparatively nothing. To Japan Great Britain sends 84 per cent. of its imports, against 8 per cent. sent by Germany, and 5 per cent. sent by France. The trade with