WHAT WILL YOU DECIDE?

Indecision on Vital Matters is a Sign and Source of Weakness.

A despatch from Brooklyn, N. Y., says: Rev. Dr. Newell Dwight Hillis preached from the following text: How long halt ye between two opinions?—I. Kings, xviii., 21.

It is a question the prophet Elijah put to the vacillating people of his day, and it is just as pertinent to-day as when the prophet asked it.

The situation Elijah faced is repeated in each succeeding generation. The true religion and the false religion are ever coming into conflict. The religion of truth is always making war upon the religion of error, the religion of the spirit upon the religion of the flesh. Christianity and the world are in everlasting conflict, and there is much good in each. There is much that is good in Christianity—every one acknowledges this. Its principles are beautiful, its ideals are white and shining.

No one of intelligence can speak disrespectfully of the teachings of Jesus of Nazareth. But there is also something that is pleasant in the religion of the world. There is much in it that is desirable and sweet. And, therefore, men do not want to give up Christianity entirely, nor are they willing to give up the religion of the world altogether. They simply halt between two opinions. One of the characteristic features of our day is the large number of non-committal men. One of the problems of the hour is to

BRING MEN TO DECISION.

Many forces have conspired to make this an age of indecision. There have been times when men have repudiated Christianity with scorn. The crowd has often shouted, "Down with Jesus of Nazareth, the impostor!" But to-day men refuse to express themselves. When the preacher says, "How long halt ye between two opinions?" his congregation meets him with silence. Men are becoming more and more latitudinarians. Their religious beliefs have no ascertainable boundaries. In the realm of spiritual matters they walk in a haze. They have no convictions and therefore no conclusions. The deep foundations of organized Christianity are being worn away by the corrosive action of the wavering mind.

Indecision on vital matters is a sign and source of weakness. Men who boast of our modern freedom of thought ought to do some thinking. Men who think often at least surely sooner or later to reach at least a few definite conclusions, and having reached conclusions they are under obligation to let the world know what they are. Much has been said in recent years about man's right to think; the time has come to emphasize his duty to think. Every right carries along with it a corresponding duty. If we have the right to think we are bound to reach conclusions, and having reached them we are bound to express them if they relate to problems which affect the welfare of all the people. No man is strong who has not deep rooted convictions, and if a man has convictions it is impossible for him to smother them without

BLIGHTING HIS SOUL.

It is the man who is afraid of speaking his mind who comes at last to have no mind at all.

A man owes it to his fellow man to reach a decision in regard to Christianity and, having reached it, to let men know what his decision is. He owes this to his city, he owes it to humanity. A tremendous war is in progress. Two armies are arrayed against each other. Right and wrong are fighting. A vast empire of cruelty and injustice, of passion, greed and hate must be attacked and overcome. And Christ calls men everywhere to arm themselves for the battle. To every man Christianity says, "What will you do? What attitude will you take? Will you take up arms against the forces of evil?" What shall we say of the man who slinks off and says never a word? That is not the stuff of which the men were made who have made this world worth living in. It is only the men who have convictions and who dare express them who are mighty in the pulling down of strongholds and able to usher in a brighter day.

THE S. S. LESSON

INTERNATIONAL LESSON, JULY 2.

Lesson I. Sennacherib's Invasion. Golden Text, 2 Chron. 32.8.

LESSON WORD STUDIES.

Note.—These Word Studies for this lesson are based on the text of the Revised Version.

Introductory Note.—The Old Testament lessons which begin with this month, and which will be continued throughout the remainder of this year, take up again the thread of Jewish history at the point at which the last Old Testament lessons for 1901 dropped the study. Samaria, the capital of the northern kingdom, had fallen in the year 722 B.C., just after Sargon, general of the Assyrian army, had ascended the throne of Assyria. Sargon had led into captivity many thousands of the people of Israel. At the same time Hezekiah, a God-fearing king and strenuous reformer, was on the throne of Judah. His chief counselor was none other than the great prophet and statesman Isaiah. When in the year 705 Sargon died and was succeeded by Sennacherib the provinces of western Asia—Damascus, Tyre, Philistia, and others—considered this an opportune moment to declare and re-establish their independence. Judah also was nominally a dependency of the Assyrian monarch though retaining a degree of independence not enjoyed by the neighboring provinces. In the year 701 Sennacherib, after subduing similar revolts in other parts of his kingdom, undertook a campaign against Palestine in order to bring into subjection again the revolting provinces. After quickly reducing to submission the kingdoms to the north and west he invaded Judah, took most of its fenced cities, led away many captives, and all but succeeded in capturing Jerusalem itself. At this point our lesson for to-day takes up the story.

Verse 9. After this—That is, after preparation for the defense of the city (Jerusalem) had been completed (comp. verses 1-8).

Sennacherib—Assyr. "Sin-akhi-erba," Sin (the moon god) hath increased the brethren; Son of Sargon, king of Assyria (705-681 B. C.) During almost his entire reign Babylonia was in a state of revolt against the Assyrian monarch, and Judah after the invasion of 701 was left undisturbed in its independent position. As a ruler Sennacherib was boastful and vain possessing few of the sterling traits of his distinguished father. He built the great wall of Nineveh, eight miles in circumference, and also the famous palace of Koiyunjik. To him also is ascribed the extensive repairing of ancient aqueducts and the construction of brick embankments along the side of the Tigris River. He was murdered in 681 B. C. by his son (or sons), who instigated a rebellion against the father and succeeded in holding Nineveh for six weeks. At the end of that time, however, another son, Asarhaddon, who at the time of the murder commanded the Assyrian army in a campaign against Ararat, defeated the rebel brother (or brothers), took Nineveh, and succeeded his father Sennacherib on the throne of Assyria (comp. 2 Kings 19. 37).

Assyria—A country famed in antiquity on the east and the middle Tigris, between thirty-five and thirty-seven degrees north latitude. Its ancient name was Assur, and its extent varied greatly at different times.

Before Lachish—An important fenced city, twenty-five miles south of Jerusalem; the capture and spoliation of which by Sennacherib is described on an Assyrian relief tablet now in the British Museum. Sennacherib's ultimate objective being Egypt, the capture of Lachish was greater importance to him of even than the capture of Jerusalem.

Hezekiah—The twelfth king and (counting Queen Athaliah) the thirteenth sovereign of the separate kingdom of Judah. His father was the wicked King Ahaz and his son the no less wicked Manasseh. Between those two Hezekiah, who instituted many reforms, stands out in a most favorable light.

10. In the siege—Perhaps better, as in the marginal reading, in the fortress, or fortified city. The natural position as well as the fortification of Jerusalem was very strong.

11. To die by famine and by thirst—The besieging general virtually admits that to take the city by storm was out of the question. A long siege alone could compel its surrender.

12. His high places—Outdoor sanctuaries of Jehovah located on hilltops in different parts of the kingdom; not necessarily places of idolatrous worship, yet, because of their heathen associations, places in which the temptation to idolatry was especially strong. These high places Hezekiah removed from all parts of his kingdom.

Ye shall worship before one altar—By prohibiting idolatry and by centralizing the national worship, by destroying local sanctuaries throughout the borders of Judah, Hezekiah paved the way for another and yet more thorough reformation carried out by King Josiah in the next century.

13. What I and my fathers have done—Sennacherib's father, Sargon, had been a great and successful warrior, and Sennacherib himself had been successful in several engagements against other minor revolting states. The severe punishment inflicted on these he cites as an example and warning to Jerusalem.

14. Utterly destroyed—Literally, and in the marginal reading, "devoted." The Hebrew word means, to devote to destruction; hence to utterly destroy, to exterminate. It was used especially of cities and their inhabitants (comp. Deut. 2. 34; Josh. 8. 26; Jer. 51. 3).

15. How much less shall your God deliver you—Judah, in the eyes of the Assyrian monarch, was in some respects inferior to other kingdoms already brought into submission. The Assyrians were polytheists believing that every nation had its own god or gods. It therefore became with them a question of strength and authority between the God of the Jews and of Jerusalem, and the gods of Assyria and in the superior strength of the latter they had the utmost confidence.

16. Jehovah—A word resulting from the corruption of two Hebrew words, one meaning "Lord," and the other being the proper name Jahve (Yahweh), meaning God. The Hebrews in writing used only consonants, the vowel sounds being supplied by the reader; but in reading the sacred Scripture the devout Hebrew always substituted the word "Lord" (Adonai) for the proper name Yahweh, which he considered too sacred to be spoken. Many centuries later, in comparatively modern times, when Hebrew proper was no longer a spoken language, it became necessary to indicate the vowels in Hebrew text. Hence the vowels of the word Adonai were printed with the consonants of the word Yahweh to indicate that not Yahweh, but Adonai, was to be spoken. These consonants of the word Yahweh together with the vowels of the word Adonai, if pronounced as written, as they soon were by persons ignorant of the real facts in the case, give approximately the word Jehovah. The word Jehovah, although resulting from an error, must now be considered to be good English.

20. Isaiah the prophet—Compare Word Studies on lesson for Sunday, July 9.

21. Cut off all the mighty men of valor—The account in Kings (2 Kings 19. 8, 9) mentions the sending of a letter by Sennacherib to Hezekiah making another demand for surrender. Concerning his own unexpected defeat Sennacherib himself, in his accounts found on Babylonian tablets, is silent. That he failed to take Jerusalem is, however, implied in his own vague statement that he shut up Hezekiah like a bird in a cage. The historian Herodotus refers to the destruction of the Assyrian army and speaks of it as being probably due to a plague. Whatever the means may have been which Jehovah employed to work disaster in the camp of the king of Assyria, the impression made upon Sennacherib was such that though he lived for twenty years longer he never again entered Palestine or besieged Jerusalem.

23. Exalted in the sight of all nations from henceforth—The victory of faith achieved by Hezekiah was mainly due to the influence of Isaiah but the glory of that victory fell also on the sovereign who shared the prophet's lofty spirit and confidence in Jehovah.

A LUCKY GIRL.

Saved From Deadly Decline by Dr. Williams' Pink Pills.

"When I think of my former condition of health," says Miss Winnifred Perry, of West River, Sheet Harbor, N.S., "I consider myself a lucky girl that I am well and strong to-day, and I owe my present good health entirely to Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. I suffered almost all that one can endure from weakness and nervousness. I was as pale as a sheet, and wasted away. The least noise would startle me, and I was troubled with fainting spells, when I would suddenly lose consciousness and drop to the floor. At other times my heart would palpitate violently and cause a smothering sensation. Night and day my nerves were in a terrible condition and I seemed to be continually growing worse. No medicine that I took helped me in the least until I began taking Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, and after I had taken a half dozen boxes I felt so much better that I stopped taking them and went on a visit to Boston. I had made a mistake, however, in stopping the pills too soon, and I began to go back to my former condition. I then called on a well known Boston doctor, and after explaining my case, told him how Dr. Williams' Pink Pills had helped me before. He told me to continue their use, saying I could take nothing better, and I got another supply, and soon began to regain health. I took about eighteen boxes in all, and they fully and completely restored my health, and I have had no sickness since."

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills can do just as much for every weak, nervous, pale-faced young woman, who is slipping from anæmia into deadly decline. They make new, rich health-giving blood, and that is what every growing girl and woman must have to retain their health. It is because these pills actually make new blood that they strike at the root of all common ailments of life, such as headache and sideaches and backaches, indigestion, palpitation of the heart, kidney troubles, sciatica, rheumatism, neuralgia, St. Vitus Dance, and paralysis. But only the genuine pills can do this, and the sick one should see that the full name ("Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People") is printed on the wrapper around every box. Don't let anyone persuade you to take anything else. Sold by all dealers, or sent by mail at 50c a box, or six boxes for $2.50, by writing the Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

TINY FIGHTING FORCES.

Republics That Maintain Equally Small Armies.

The smallest army in the world belongs to the principality of Monaco, with seventy-five guards, seventy-five carbineers, and twenty firemen. Next comes that of Luxemburg, with 135 gendarmes, 170 volunteers, and thirty-nine musicians. In case of war, say the laws, "the number of volunteers may be temporarily raised to 250."

In the Republic of San Marino they have universal compulsory service, with the result that they can put in the field nine companies, comprising 950 men and thirty-eight officers, commanded by a marshal. This, however, is the war strength of the forces. On a peace footing the republic can only put one company of sixty men on the parade-ground.

In the case of the Republic of Liberia, the most striking feature is the proportion of officers to privates. There are 800 of the former and only 700 of the latter. None the less the Republic issues proclamations of neutrality when wars break out between the great powers of Europe.

NOT MUCH IN IT.

"No," said the doctor. "I can't make anything out of his case at all. It bothers me."

"Why," replied his wife, "I thought it was only a simple cold."

"Exactly. That's why I can't make anything out of it."

The Home

DELECTED RECIPES.

Asparagus Soup.—When asparagus is plenty and cheap, make an asparagus soup by cooking together in two quarts of milk a large bunch of the best vegetables, two peeled and quartered potatoes, a stalk of celery, a small onion and a bouquet of herbs. When soft press through a sieve and season with salt and paprika. Bind the soup with flour and butter, about two tablespoonfuls of each. One quart each of milk and water may be used instead of two quarts of milk.

Vanilla Ice-Cream With Chocolate Sauce.—Beat the whites of six eggs and add three cupfuls of sugar and one quart of boiling milk; turn into a double boiler and cook for three minutes; then stir in the beaten whites of the six eggs and a teaspoonful of extract of vanilla. When cold stir in a quart of thick cream. The chocolate sauce is made as follows: Mix three ounces of grated chocolate with two and one-fourth cupfuls of granulated sugar, two-thirds of a cupful of hot water and four tablespoonfuls of melted butter, and cook until it strings; then add a little vanilla and serve with the cream.

Princess Potatoes.—When you have left cold mashed potatoes in sufficient quantity press them into a small, plain mould, so that you can cut them into strips two inches long, one inch wide and half an inch thick. Have in a saucer a tablespoonful of butter, melted and seasoned with a little cayenne and minced parsley. Cover every part of the potato strips with this, let them stand until butter hardens, then dip into beaten egg. With a knife remove them to buttered baking tins and place in the oven for about twelve minutes to brown nicely.

Strawberry Pudding.—Beat the whites and yolks of four eggs, first separately and then together, until very light; add one pint of milk and four cupfuls of flour. Beat this mixture smooth before adding two tablespoonfuls of melted butter, two salt-spoonfuls of salt and 2½ teaspoonfuls of baking powder. Drain a quart of berries, dredge with flour, stir into the batter and turn in buttered patty pans. Set in boiling water, cover and boil steadily for three hours.

Colonial Cake.—Cream one cup of sugar with a third of a cup of butter, and then beat in two eggs, the yolks and whites of which have been first whipped separately, a cupful of milk in which is dissolved a teaspoonful of soda, and lastly two cups of flour with two teaspoonfuls of tartar sifted in it. This is an old-time recipe and used for both layer and loaf cakes.

USEFUL HINTS.

A brilliant polish may be given to brass door fixtures, ornaments, etc., by washing them in alum and lye. Make a solution by boiling an ounce of alum in a pint of lye, and wash the articles in it.

A writer in a current magazine gives some useful suggestions for porch furniture. Among other things, she recommends that cushions be covered on one side with oilcloth. At night the oilcloth side should be turned uppermost, so if it should rain they will suffer no harm. Moss is used for stuffing the pillows, since dampness is fatal to feathers or down.

Instead of throwing bits of toilet paper away, place them in a jar as they accumulate. Make bags of fine cheesecloth four by six inches in size, and fill them with a few bits of soap, oatmeal or bran, and a teaspoonful or so of powdered orris root. Fasten the bags at the top and use them for wash cloths.

Silver, if left lying near gutta-percha, gets tarnished very quickly. If put in a pantry where gas is used, it should always be kept well wrapped up in chamois leather.

Tired feet should be well bathed in warm water, to which a little sea-salt has been added. Dry thoroughly and rub with a little lemon juice. It is wonderful how this treatment soothes them.

When travelling it is well to be provided with a bottle of aromatic spirits of ammonia. In case of faintness ten to twenty drops taken in a wineglass of water will often give relief. If one is to be alone it is well to provide the medicine beforehand. Fill a three-ounce bottle with boiled water and add a teaspoonful of the spirits, shake well and cork tightly. It can be taken in two doses half an hour apart.

When long hair becomes so matted that it is difficult to comb the tangled locks, they should be saturated with alcohol. This done, they will become amenable to the brush and comb as if by magic.

When asparagus is to be served cold as a salad, boil and drain as usual, and after draining let cold water run gently over the stalks to keep them firm and fresh looking.

LOOK AFTER THE PIANO.

Whether we are musical or not, our pianos must be carefully looked after. As there is a certain amount of felt inside them we ought to realize what havoc may be wrought by moth and dust in that delicate and complex anatomy, to say nothing of damp, which, in its insidious inroads, is fatal in its effects. If the instrument stands against the wall, care should be taken to keep it quite 4 inches away from the partition, and, if possible, an inside wall should be chosen against which to place it. It is also well to have a long strip of flannel to spread over the keys. Should the latter become discolored, moisten a cloth with eau de Cologne or other spirit, and dip it into prepared chalk before applying it to the surface of the ivory. To keep the wires from getting rusty, tack a small bag of unslacked lime inside, underneath the cover of the piano, and it will absorb the moisture.

DON'T FORGET BIRTHDAYS.

The happiest households are those that do not let drop out the sentiment connected with various anniversaries. Although gift-giving or recognition of such events in a suitable way may be out of the question, owing to the straitened circumstances of those "within the gates," there can yet be a little air of festivity when mother's or father's birthday comes round, or some wedding anniversary is to be celebrated. An extra dish, a little bunch of flowers, or some special music prepared for the occasion, will show the kindly spirit and the loving remembrance that count far more than the money value of any gift. As the children grow up, if these festivals are encouraged, they will have much to look forward to and much more to remember in the years to come when they go out to do battle with the world and find that sentiment is crushed under foot and affection is regarded only as a side issue.

CLEANING COTTON FABRICS.

French sateens will clean beautifully by putting them in a lather of lukewarm soapsuds in which a cupful of sali has been dissolved; rinse in water also having salt in it, dip in very thin starch, and roll up in a clean sheet; in two hours iron on the wrong side. A tablespoonful of washing soda in a gallon of cold rinsing water will brighten blue and purple ginghams, while a teacupful of vinegar to a gallon of water will improve greens and pink shades. Clean black and gray-blue ginghams by washing in hot suds containing a cup of salt; rinse in very blue water and dry in the shade, then dip in thin starch, and when nearly dry iron with a moderately warm iron on the wrong side.

TO KEEP A DISH HOT.

When it is required that a dish or plate of food be kept hot for half an hour or so, waiting perhaps for a tardy diner, a better plan than putting it in the oven is to set it with its contents on a saucepan of boiling water and let the saucepan stand on the top of the oven or covered part of the stove. The plate should be covered with another plate or close-fitting metal cover, and to prevent the food from becoming over-dry plenty of gravy should be added to it, also an extra bit of butter if it is anything too dry. A little milk added to a boiled pudding that is to be kept hot is sometimes an improvement.

LONDON'S FINEST MANSION.

Stafford House, Home of the Duke of Sutherland.

The Duke of Sutherland's London home is certainly the most beautiful palace, not merely of the British metropolis, but of most European capitals. Disregarding one of his novels described it as "not unworthy of Vicenza at its best." Empress Eugenie was so taken with it that she wanted Napoleon III. to build, for her an exact copy of it in Paris, and Queen Victoria, when she used to drive from Buckingham Palace to visit her great friend, Duchess Harriet of Sutherland, grandmother of the present Duke, was wont to greet her with the remark, "Well, dear, I'm coming from my house to visit you in your palace." It is a noble pile, looking upon Green Park and upon Birdcage Walk, and was built less than one hundred years ago for the Duke of York, second son of King George III., on money borrowed from the then Marquis of Stafford. The Duke died before his wonderful new house could be finished, and the Marquis of Stafford, who had meanwhile become the first Duke of Sutherland, took possession of the building and secured the land on which it stood on a Crown lease. He spent no end of money on its completion, under the direction of Sir Charles Barry, the designer of the Houses of Parliament. According to the terms of the lease, the building as it now stands, with the fixtures, though not with the other contents, will in a few years come into the possession of the ground landlord—that is to say, the Crown—without any compensation to the Duke or his heirs, and there is no doubt that then the palace—for it is impossible to describe it by any other name—will be assigned to one of the members of the reigning family as a metropolitan residence. Like Trentham, it is crowded from garret to cellar with art treasures, including two of the most famous Murillos in existence, a number of Van Dykes, Rubenses and Raphaels. Between the immense reception hall and the carriage entrance stand a large pair of glass doors which are never opened for royalty or for a departing bride.

HOW TO SEAL LETTERS.

It is often very desirable to know how to seal a letter so that it cannot be opened without betraying the fact. Steam or hot water will open envelopes closed with mucilage and even a wafer. A hot iron or a strong lamp dissolves sealing-wax, an impression in glass having been taken of the seal. By the combined use of wafer and sealing wax, however, all attempts to open the letter otherwise than by force can be frustrated. All that is necessary is to close the letter first with a small moist wafer and to pierce the latter with a coarse needle. The same applies to mucilage), whereupon sealing wax may be used in the usual manner. This seal can neither be opened by dry heat nor by moisture.

During the past year over 20 [illegible] people paid for admission to Shakespeare's birthplace.

DRINK AND CONSUMPTION

WHAT SIR WILLIAM BROADBENT THINKS.

Alcoholic Excess a Strong Factor in Extending the Disease.

The belief advanced by so many famous surgeons that intemperance is an active agent in the spread of consumption has found a powerful supporter in Sir William Broadbent, says the London Daily Mail.

In a striking speech at the meeting of the National Association for the Prevention of Consumption at the Mansion House, he declared that deficient food, overwork, stuffy rooms and alcoholic excess were the principal factors in the progress of the disease. And then, in impressive tones, he emphasized his belief that the greatest and most potent of these was alcoholic excess.

Expectoration, he continued, caused its spread more than anything. If the whole of the expectoration could be destroyed at one moment, the disease would be stamped out. Spitting must be stopped by public opinion and by punishment. Wherever cases of consumption were known the authorities should be notified, and the dwellings disinfected. Compulsory notification should certainly be adopted.

SANATORIA FOR THE POOR.

Regarding sanatoria, Sir William Broadbent declared that they had been discredited by people expecting too much from them, but that they were nevertheless the principal means of curing the disease. At present they are only for the rich, but they should be made available for the poor.

All the great nations of the world had combined to put down consumption. The association had not done badly in England, but there was still more to do. There should be a central bureau, where people could go for information on the subject, and where they could find out what was being done.

After the Earl of Derby had declared that light and air would do more good than the most skilful attendance and treatment, or the most careful concoction of nauseous drugs, Sir James Crichton Browne gave it as his opinion that the better feeding of school children would diminish the disease in poor districts.

He laughed at the theory that consumption was incurable. In 1902, he said, the disease claimed 50,000 victims, as against 57,000 in 1892 and 67,000 in 1883. This reduction had been brought about in spite of the increase in population and the overcrowding in cities.

GET SOME ZORENE.

The Latest Wonder of the Laboratory.

The London correspondent of the New York Sun cables as follows: The Hungarian chemist, Brunn, of the university of the same name, has now revealed, but has described in a paper which vouches for the facts as being well known in the highest scientific circles in America and Europe, his alleged discovery of a liquid chemical compound which renders certain kinds of matter proof against the effects of time. He asserts that it doubles the density of nearly every kind of stone and renders it waterproof. It imparts to all metals qualities which defy oxygen, and thus they cannot rust. It is also a geniecide of hitherto unequalled powers.

The professor says that while travelling in Greece some twenty-five years ago he noticed that the mortar in stones of ruins which were known to be over 2,000 years old was as hard, fresh and tenacious as if it had been made only a year. He secured a piece of the mortar, and has been working on it ever since until now when, he says, he has discovered the secret. The compound is a yellow liquid, which the professor has christened zorene.

An interviewer describes the following experiments: A piece of ordinary and easily breakable slag after immersion in zorene defied the full blow of a hammer. There was the same effect on ordinary brick and a block of red parrah wood. All three were then immersed in water for a long time. When taken out and weighed with delicate scales the presence of a single particle of added moisture could not be detected. Two pieces of steel submitted to an ammonia test equal to five years' exposure to the air emerged from the bath as they entered it. An ordinary table knife which had laid open five months did not show the slightest stain.

Prof. Brunn asserts that he will be able to make dust, germ and waterproof roads, giving a commercial value to hundreds of millions of tons of slag which is now useless in the mining and smelting districts. It will at the very least double the life of metals exposed to the air such as in bridges, railroads, vessels and tanks.

A committee representing the railways and iron and steel manufacturers will soon make a thorough test of the discovery.

CURIOSITY.

Mrs. Wanterknow—"I should like to know, Mr. W——, why you are so cross when I ask questions. Surely you don't think I have idle curiosity?"

Mr—Great Scot, no! Yours is the most perniciously active, wideawake, sleepless, energetic curiosity it was ever my fate to encounter."

SAD STORY.

Sandy Pikes—Ah, lady, can't yer help a poor sufferer from de Russian war?

The Lady—Were you really there, my poor man?

Sandy Pikes—No'm, I was a school teacher till I sprained me voice pronouncing Russian names.

RULERS AS GARDENERS

KINGS WHO ARE FOND OF RAISING FLOWERS.

His Majesty King Edward Has Planted Many Shrubs and Trees.

In the days of his youth King Edward was known as a gardener, and used to sit for hours beside a bed which he had his own hands filled with seeds, watching with the first appearance of the shoots through the soil. To-day His Majesty frequently does a little gardening, and has a number of beds at Sandringham. It is the reputation of being one of the loveliest landscape gardens in artistically-arranged clumps of flowering shrubs and evergreens along the western side of the park. Sandringham are chiefly the result of his taste and design. There also here a wonderful rockery, a waterfall which he designed, and which is one of the pleasantest spots on a hot day. There are many shrubs and trees at Sandringham which have been

PLANTED BY THE KING.

Few men have a greater love for a little amateur gardening than the King of Italy. With his friends King Victor Emmanuel spends a large quantity of seeds of beautiful flowering varieties every year, often in the morning and afterwards goes out himself to water them. No one cannot please him so much as with her own hands to pick one of the flowers of his own planting and place upon the table in his study where he gets it through the effort of his State labors.

One day a friend of his called upon His Majesty on business, and the latter instantly attracted by a flower in the caller's button hole. The King names it at once, which more than its owner could declared that he fancies it will look better specimen than ever. He himself grows it at the time which he was particularly pleased. There was at once an application to the gardens for comparison. Afterwards nothing would satisfy His Majesty, but that the plant which the nosegay had been found be traced and that it be added to the Royal collection.

THE KING OF THE BELGIANS

also something of a gardener, has been known to devote part of his time to the propagation of his flowers. Some of his growings have several times been awarded prizes. Likewise his near neighbor, Queen Wilhelmina, is devoted to the more delicate kinds of flowers, and in the spring and summer at The Hague and her country seats spends many hours in the garden among her own private beds. She is specially addicted to the cultivation of pretty pansies, makes quite a close study of the methods of producing new species. It is said that when she first became engaged to her present husband he gave him as a token of his affection a flower which she had herself raised, and which was one of the choicest specimens of Royal [illegible] to be found anywhere.

The Kaiser in these days has much time for gardening, though does his best to encourage it, not in his humbler subjects; [illegible], however, he has given it attention, and, curiously enough, it is related that that branch which interested him most was the cultivation of vegetables which grew rapidly and well, and

A VEGETABLE MARROW

which was a credit to a German grown under his personal direction.

The aged King of Denmark is happy as when in his garden in the summer-time, and he takes the best interest in all that concerns it. The Shah of Persia is one of the most enthusiastic lovers of flowers and horticulturists among Royal personages of the whole world. He has many gardening achievements to his credit, spends thousands of pounds in the gratification of his tastes in this respect, and his name is so notorious that not long ago a bold attempt was made to make a commercial adventure out of it.

They submitted to the Shah a wonderful scheme for the formation of a limited company and the diversion of a huge portion of Persia into a flower and vegetable garden for the supply of the world generally. But the Shah was not so easily on his hobby as to be exploited in this manner.

DIPLOMACY.

"Papa," the beautiful girl said, pushing the thin locks back from her temples, "I hope you'll never think of my marrying that stupid young Ipswich who comes here occasionally."

"Why, bless my soul, Edith!" he exclaimed, "I've never thought of such things! But now that you have mentioned him, I'd like to know what's the matter with young Ipswich. What is your objection, my dear?"

"Oh, nothing in particular, I suppose—"

"Look here, miss. You'll marry some day, and when you don't know any young fellow you have for a son-in-law, in excellent circumstances, connected with good family, is perfectly sensible, educated, no bad habits, a good-looking chap—just the sort, I should think, that a girl would naturally take a fancy to, and you might consider yourself lucky if you got him. Is the reason you can't entertain the idea of marrying him?"

"Well, because I can't—not before June, anyway."

Slipping away from him, she opened the door and whispered to a young man in the hall—

"Come in, Alfred, it's all right."

RUSSIAN ARM

Hurriedly

RUSSIANS

A despatch from [illegible] says—News has [illegible] exceedingly [illegible] gram of The [illegible] rumors that [illegible] retreating. [illegible] received from [illegible] hearing the [illegible] ly that the [illegible] paused. A [illegible] Pass of W[illegible] the operations [illegible] parently [illegible] and they now [illegible] merely [illegible] front.

It is [illegible] vanced [illegible] road, and [illegible] ment [illegible] to avoid [illegible] until [illegible] reached [illegible] are not [illegible] Cod [illegible] respected [illegible] died at P[illegible]

PARMA

A [illegible] graph [illegible] Mukden [illegible] parals [illegible] with [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]