

IT WAS ON THE TRAY.

The lady who lives at the family hotel on the North side was dressing for dinner. She was not expecting company just at that moment and was somewhat startling to the eye. But no eye was there save hers. Suddenly she was roused from a contemplation of her charms in the mirror by a knock.

"Some one is rapping again," she muttered. "Everybody in this hotel seems to have a hammer out."

Then in a clear, bird-like voice she called:

"Who is it?"

"It's Johnnie," said a voice.

Johnnie was the sad-faced boy with the painstaking head who brought up ice water and things.

"What is it, Johnnie?" asked the lady fair.

"I have a card," replied the page.

"Put it under the door," said the charming guest.

"I can't," said Johnnie; "it's on a tray."

And the elevator fell to the basement with a great crash.

IN OUR POCKETS.

In the forward march of science, nature's methods are being closely imitated in the laboratories of the synthetical chemist who has already been able to make an artificial quinine which contains most of the therapeutical properties of the real article. Two German chemists working in Berlin have just produced an artificially prepared caffeine, the alkaloid to which both tea and coffee owe their refreshing stimulating and analgesic properties.

As may be readily imagined, says the Cincinnati Enquirer, the process by which this has been done is exceedingly elaborate and costly, but the discoverers are not without hope that they will be able to simplify and cheapen it so as to bring it within the region of practical economics, as has been done with many of the coal-tar preparations which, though now exceedingly cheap, were very expensive when first produced.

Should the anticipations of these two gentlemen be realized a cup of tea or coffee will resolve itself into a question of minute pellets; one of the alkaloid, one of saccharine, and one of a highly concentrated milk, which will only need to be put into a cup of boiling water to be an efficient substitute for the real article.

FOR DOOR MATS.

A use has been found for old shoes, a derelict product that has heretofore defied the efforts of that class of claimants who view with despair the absolute loss of anything, says the New York Journal. The leather is cut into little disks of various shapes. These are set on edge and held together with long wire staples, and the result is an odd looking but flexible and serviceable door mat, which seems to do the work excellently of the wire and steel mats that are in such general use in outer halls. The leather scrap mat is very cheap, and will last a long time.

SPIN BY HAND.

The hum of the spinning wheel is still a familiar sound in Block Island, a quaint and interesting resort in summer and a miniature world in winter, in which the habits and customs are those of 150 years ago. The island is 15 miles off the Rhode Island shore and almost directly south of stormy Point Judith, says the New York Herald.

The heads of 30 Block Island families set sail in fishing boats the other day and pushed up the Thames river to Oakdale, where they left heaps of wool to be carded into rolls for hand spinning. The rolls will be spun and knitted into stockings and mittens for the protection of the hardy islanders against the bleak winter winds of the Atlantic.

There are times during the winter when the wind sweeps across the treeless land at a velocity of 84 miles an hour, and women take their lives in their hands when they venture out of doors. The isolation of the island is almost complete.

John Schofield established the first woollen mill in Connecticut near Oakdale, where the carding was done by power cards. In 1798 the Block Islanders began to send wool to the mill to be carded into rolls, and generation after generation have kept up the practice. Formerly many bags of grain accompanied the wool, and grist and woollen mills were kept running day and night, while the fishermen and farmers enjoyed themselves in the quiet Connecticut village until the work was done.

A FUNERAL COSTUME.

"On my first circuit I had a lesson in human nature that I have never forgotten," said a Methodist minister to a Washington Star reporter.

"The circuit was in the mountains of West Virginia, and among the members of my church was a widow, who, in addition to the loss of her husband, had suffered final earthly parting with four of her children, leaving but two, a girl and a boy nearly grown.

"One night I was asked to hasten to her cabin, which I did, reaching there just in time to be with her son when he died from the effects of an accident.

"The mother, although deeply grieved, acted more calmly than I expected, and early in the morning I went home, returning in the afternoon. I found the widow in the paroxysm of tears. I tried to comfort her with the usual Christian consolation. Finally she quieted down enough to say:

"'Tain't only that he died. I know he's a heap better off."

"What is it, then?"

"We kain't hev no funeral."

"No funeral?"

"No. Sal's jess got back from th' sto', an' not a ya'd o' black hev they got. I never did 'tend no funeral 'thout black, an' I ain't goin' ter 'tend now. He kin git 'long ter be buried 'thout a funeral better'n I kin bemean myse'f hav'n one when I ain't got nothin' fitten to w'ar."

"And Jim was buried with no one present except his mother, his sister and me."

EFFECT OF MUSIC.

The old story that Saul when out of temper used to summon David to play the harp, and found the music to be a sedative, may prove to be more than a simple historic incident, for both Charcot and Tarchanow have declared that musical sounds are a remedial agency in disease which no physician can afford to ignore, says the New York Herald.

Mr. Warthin, of Michigan, who has given a great deal of thought to this subject, asserts that different kinds of sounds are more effective than drugs in the cure of disease. For instance, he boldly assures us that the music of Valkyrie will increase perspiration, and, therefore, cure certain forms of ailment caused by checking its flow. The operative energy is not the music as such, but the peculiar vibrations made by it. Tannhauser, on the other hand, is a vibratory soporific and induces a serene state of mind and body.

M. Coriveaud, of Paris, asserts that violin playing is at least a temporary remedy for sciatica. He adduces the instance of a patient who found almost instant relief in that way and who successfully resorted to it whenever threatened with an attack.

Perhaps this is an appeal to the imagination, but what matters it if the patient is cured? Perhaps, again, there is a law hidden somewhere in the pile of apparent impossibilities—one which will some time be discovered for our benefit. We never smile with incredulity at anything in these wonder-working days.

All children who present themselves at the veat for study are received. It is not ever required that their parents bring them or send them, says Popular Science Monthly. The newcomer chooses his professor, and, if accepted, begins at once to study under his direction, installs himself in his cell or in the school hall, and becomes his servant. If the professor has already too many pupils, he refuses the new pupil and advises him to choose another teacher; sometimes he guides his choice, directing him to a master who has few or no pupils, or takes him to the superior who will select a teacher for him. The choice of a professor is always a grave affair, because it is held in Cambodia, as in all Buddhist and Brahmic countries, that professor and pupil are bound by strong ties of spiritual affinity, and that the pupil ought to respect his master as he does his father and mother. The law inflicts the same penalty upon an offense of the pupil against his master as an offense by a son against his father and mother and it prescribes that in certain cases the pupil may be heir of his professor when he has cared for him or supported him or served him when studying under his direction; not only a family bond but a religious bond, too, is established between them, for the professor makes it his business to teach his pupil the course by which he may earn more advantageous reincarnation and reach the Nirvana, and becomes his spiritual guide.