

TOPICS FOR WOMEN.

A Scarcity of First-Class Terpsichorean Artists.

"Oh," said Mile. Augusta Sohlke, the once favorite danseuse of the Empress Eugenie, now a director of the ballet at a Philadelphia theatre: "It has been so long since I learned to dance that I have forgotten when I took my first lesson. Lucille Grahn, one of the most famous dancers in Europe, was my teacher. My father did not like danseuses very much, but I was bound to learn, and as mother made no opposition I received my lessons in private. Five, six and seven hours practice every day. Think of it!" and she raised her hands and eyed her toes as if recalling the suffering they had caused her.

"That was work, my dear sir. Girls won't do it now. That is the reason there are so few great dancers. American girls would make the most superb dancers in the world, but they are lazy." The experienced premiere shuddered over the laziness of novices in this country. "They practice an hour and then come to you with tears in their eyes and say: 'Oh, madame, my feet are killing me!'" A dancer's aching feet never killed her," added Mile. Sohlke, in a way that admitted no contradiction.

"Then they complain that their legs ache. To be sure they ache, but that is what develops them and makes them beautiful. Poor ninnies, they never think of that. Oh, these have too many other things on their minds. They have sweethearts and all that sort of thing, and they forget their art. "English girls are fully as lazy as Americans, but they have such tender toes. A dancer's toes should never get tired if she loves her art. No one ever hears that the fingers of a great piano player are stiff and sore, that he is unable to play, do they?" Well, a dancer's toes should be like a piano player's fingers. German girls are, as a rule awkward and lazy. The Italian and French make the best dancers. The French are not afraid to work and they are generally graceful.

"Are dancers long lived?" said Mile. Sohlke, repeating the question and laughing before she answered. "Certainly they are; notably so. To be a good dancer one must be temperate and have good habits. Having plenty of exercise, their appetites are good and they must take rest or they could not dance. Taglioni, the father of the famous dancer Maris, was the ballet master at the Grand Opera House in Berlin when he was ninety years of age. Oh, you may depend upon it, dancers live to a ripe old age if they take care of themselves."—Philadelphia Record.

The Origin of Bangs.

Various stories are told of the sources from which the present fashion of wearing the hair banged is derived. Off-color ladies of China are credited with starting the style, and more than one authority has traced it to the Duchess of Portsmouth, the favorite of Charles II. of England. If pictures are to be depended upon, however, Charles II. himself started the fashion long before he was old enough to know anything about the fair lady he admired, for there is his portrait still, in some feminine garb, he is shown with his hair cut short in front, as ladies now wear their bangs.

Let us not be too severe upon bangs, nor the girls who wear them. They are the tribute from youth to age, for while bangs prevail, no one need ever be bald. Look at any oldtime engraving where boys are represented, and you will see them with their hair cut straight across the front, or if you have ever seen an Irish gossoon, you will find he, too, wears his hair banged.

Indeed, banging the hair is an Irish fashion, and goes as far back as the struggle of the Irish of the pale in the time of James I. of England. Short hair in front and long locks behind was the distinctive mark of nationality, and identified with the adherents of the old religion. When traits of dress were swept away by the advancing enlightenment, the bangs survived in the lower orders, and in the grooming of dogs and horses. The lady-love of an English sporting gentleman borrowed the fashion from one of his favorite horses, noticing that the shading of the face by the hair gave the animal's eyes a softer expression, and so its echoes roll from pole to pole. It is alleged that banging the hair and wearing it over the forehead has a decidedly hygienic influence, preventing cold setting in the head, and averting the pains of neuralgia.

Marriage.

Marriage is, of all earthly unions, almost the only one permitting of no change but that of death. It is that engagement in which man exerts his most awful and solemn power—the power of responsibility which belongs to him as one that shall give account—the power of abnegating the right to change, the power of parting with his freedom, the power of doing that which in this world can never be reversed. And yet it is that relationship which is spoken of most frivolously and entered into most carelessly and wantonly. It is not a union merely between two creatures, it is a union between two spirits; and the intention of that bond is to perfect the nature of both, by supplementing their character with the force of contrast, giving to each sex those excellencies in which it is naturally deficient; to the one strength of character and firmness of moral will, to the other sympathy, meekness, tenderness. And just so solemn, and just so glorious as these ends are for which the union was contemplated and intended, just so terrible are the consequences if it be perverted and abused; for there is no earthly relationship which has so much power to enoble and exalt.

Preaching at Women.

There is no fear of women not going to church to hear themselves preached at, as in the case of men. No matter how faithfully the preacher puts the points on the us, they will flock to listen to him. They like it. The harder he hits, the more they will go. They all have consciences, and it produces a sort of pleasurable pain to have them rudely shaken. An able disquisition on dress would attract crowds. The preacher might discourse on tournaments, denounce the fashion of san manches, and enter even into more minute details of underclothing, suggesting additions, and so forth, with the best possible effect. He should make him-

self acquainted with the especial vanities, with the ruses to which they resort to attract men, with their envyings and jealousies, with the uses they make of one another as decoys, with the schemes of match-making mammas, with their methods of obtaining social distinction and securing admiration, and expose them mercilessly. The only trouble is, they would all end by doing only harm; that is why it is essential that he should be old, and have a wife and large family.

CURIOS FEATURES OF ACTUAL LIFE.

An Englishman Nailed to a Flagstaff and Exposed to a Tropical Sun.

A story that has just reached this country from the Niger illustrates the cruelty and lawlessness which prevailed in that region and we fear also in other West African rivers not under the government of any civilized State. It appears that Mr. U. H. Bennett, who is described as an intelligent and educated native of Sierra Leone, acted as the representative of a French house at a place called Loko, where he had purchased large quantities of ivory from the natives, and carried on other profitable business.

The general agent for the French firm on the Niger, M. Mattei, is also the French Consul on that river. It is said that he entertained some suspicion as to the existence of irregularities in Mr. Bennett's mode of conducting business. He was of course perfectly entitled to inquire into the proceedings of the sub-agent, and if he thought fit, to prosecute him in the consular courts.

But, according to the Lagos Times, Bennett was arrested by a party of four French men armed with revolvers, and in a state of semi-nudity beaten and carried on board a French ship where he was handcuffed and made fast to one of the masts. On the arrival of the unfortunate man at the town of Lokoja he was lashed to a flagstaff. His handcuffs were not removed, and his sufferings under the fierce heat of a tropical sun were so great that, in the language of an eye-witness, "all who saw pitied him, and not a few of the natives wept."

The Mohammedan Governor of the town was so moved by indignation that he compelled the Frenchmen to remove their prisoner to a shed, where, however, he was denied the protection of a mosquito net which a friendly native desired to place at his disposal. It further appears that, although these events occurred during the first days of October, six weeks later he still remained a prisoner, without having undergone either examination or trial. For years past there have been many complaints of lawlessness on the part of Europeans trading in the Niger, and of a disposition to punish prisoners first and try them afterward.

It is, however, unfortunately, very seldom that the public receive so clear and connected a statement of the facts as is forthcoming in the present instance.

Devon Cattle.

COL. M. C. WELD writes as follows in American Agriculturist for February:

One who sees a herd of Devons for the first time is struck with their extraordinary beauty and uniformity, and sees at once that they differ from every other breed, or stock of cattle with which he is acquainted. They are of a brilliant, rich mahogany red, without white upon the body, but with white switches to their tails, and frequently with white udders. Though heavy in carcass they are light-limbed and the older cows low-set. Their heads are small and clean-cut, elegantly placed and carried high, while they are adorned with long, light, tapering white horns, curving upward and outward. Their throats are clean; withers thin; necks free from dewlaps; chests very wide, and briskets projecting and hung low. In girth they are large for their height; very thick through the heart, and unequalled in the crops, which point carries the fullness of the shoulders back to the ribs without perceptible depression. The backs are very level from the withers to the setting of the tails, which are long and delicately tapered. The loins are wide and muscular; the hips wide apart, the back long to the rump, while the thighs are long to the hocks, and in the twist well let down, yet in the lower parts they are thin, giving room between them for capacious udders. The soft flanks are usually very low, giving the barrels a cylindrical, level look upon the under line. Devons are commonly heavily coated, and the air is wavy, if not positively curly, in many cases. The skin is plastic and mellow under the touch, even when the animal is in low condition, but when in good order it is typically fine, not thin and papery, but elastic and yielding under the pressure of the finger tips, and offering a mobile, unctuous handful if grasped over the ribs. The skin color varies, but not a few show a rich cream color, inclining to orange under the fore-arm, and in the ears. Add to this description that the legs are short, small-boned and clean, that the whole carriage and style are elastic and graceful, with a promptness and energy rarely seen in neat cattle, while the large, lively yet placid and fearless eye, indicates at once intelligence, confidence and repose, and we have a picture of a high-bred, beautiful and useful race of cattle, such as has no equal anywhere. The oxen are much trained, very quick in their movements, fast walkers and untiring workers. The cows are deep milkers.

A Wild Cat Riding a Deer.

One night recently a hunter residing near Custer was aroused by an unusual noise near his cabin. Taking his gun he went out to see what the trouble was, and noticed a deer at full speed with a wild cat perched on its back, and making frantic efforts to cut the deer's throat with its sharp teeth. The hunter raised his gun and fired. The wild cat instantly jumped off the deer's back and made for its assailant. The man reloaded his rifle, and when the animal was within twelve or fifteen feet of him he again fired and killed the brute. Just as he fired the first shot the deer fell dead but a few paces from where the hunter first saw it. Examination revealed that the man's first shot had wounded the wild cat in the belly, while the second hit it squarely in the head, and that the deer had died from the effects of the biting received from its strange rider.

NEWS IN A NUTSHELL.

FIVE MINUTES' SELECT READING.

Summary of Foreign, Domestic and War Items—Concise, Pithy and Pointed.

Hon. George Couture has been for the eleventh time elected Mayor of Levis. The anniversary meetings of Protestant societies have been in progress in Montreal. A fire occurred in Lawry's packing-house, Hamilton, caused by overheating. Mr. George Gosnel, residing near Highgate, was killed by a falling tree. Damage to the value of \$500 was done to the Lower town market at Ottawa, by fire.

Three men employed in the Lindsay Paper Mill have been seriously scalded. Thomas Brady, tinsmith, has been arrested at Hamilton for committing a burglary at the Ontario Canning Works.

John Newton, for embezzling from H. H. Date, of Hamilton, while working for him as a clerk, has been arrested. The market-house, J. W. Barry's hide and tallow shop, and the fire hall at Bradford, have been burned. No traces of Mrs. Daken, who mysteriously disappeared at Annapolis, N.S., have been discovered.

A Scotch forger in Edinburgh, having absconded, is being searched for at Montreal. His name is Peddie, and his forgeries amount to \$22,000. Mrs. F. L. Barnfather, of Hamilton, was using a crochet hook, and by some unaccountable means the hook went in between the finger and thumb, causing lockjaw.

A delegation of two members of the Meliste tribe of Indians, of New Brunswick, have arrived in Ottawa on business connected with the interests of their people.

The medical faculties of Montreal are about to petition the Government to enforce the existing laws so as to compel the hospital authorities to give up unclaimed corpses for dissection.

As Francis McCarthy, of Beeton, was felling a tree it lodged in a smaller one, splintering it, and causing it to fly back and strike him, severing one of his arms, and pinning him to the ground.

McFeron and McIntosh, Pittsburgers, have arranged a prize fight for \$500 a side. U. S. Minister Logan's recall from Peru is expected, because of his letter written to Montero.

Dr. Louis Schade, of Buffalo, was for a number of years surgeon on the steamship Cimbrina, recently sunk.

The Marquis of Lorne, and party, arrived at Washington last night over the Alexandria and Fredericksburg railroad.

Considerable excitement has been caused at Bayview, Wis., by the discovery that a drug clerk has been selling cocaine for whiskey.

H. M. S. Dido, 12 guns, 2,520 tons, Capt. Donville, sailed from Charleston, S. C., for Bermuda, bearing the Princess Louise.

At Big Rapids Turnkey Shaw was summoned to a part of the jail containing three desperadoes, when they turned on him, beat him, and escaped.

A teamster named Charles Bardwell was driving across the Grand Trunk railway track at Port Huron, when a Detroit passenger train dashed into his waggon. He was killed.

Flotow, the composer, is dead. Lord Greville is dead, aged 62. He was a Liberal.

Richard Deasy, Lord Justice of Appeal in Ireland, is dangerously ill. Dora Henninger, the singer, reported lost on the Cimbrina, is at Paris.

The Porte has again promised the introduction of the much needed reforms in Armenia.

The burgomaster of Versa, who arrested Overland, is constantly receiving threatening letters.

The president of the German Reichstag has received 42,000 marks from the New York brewers.

The Austrian Emperor granted a private audience to De Giers, Russian Foreign Minister.

A hurricane at Limerick caused serious damage. Houses were blown down, and shipping suffered.

The British troops were recently engaged in manoeuvres at Alexandria, in imitation of a siege of Cairo.

Important evidence has been obtained regarding the perpetration of outrages for the last two years in the west of Ireland.

The police are guarding the house of the informer Farrell, in Dublin, in consequence of threats of violence against his mother and sister.

Over three thousand congratulatory letters and telegrams were received by the Crown Prince and Princess, on the occasion of their silver wedding.

The Porte has sent a note to the Powers pointing out that the English note concerning Egypt is at variance with Turkey's admitted rights over Egypt.

The Brazilian loan of four million pounds at four and a half per cent. put on the London market by Rothschild at 89 has been more than subscribed.

The Irish police anticipate capturing all the members of the organization which promoted crimes, and also the persons concerned in the murder of Lord Mountmorris.

A Misguided Showman.

A foolish Showman once Advertised for the Following Curiosities: A Printer who carried Tobacco, a Negro Minstrel who did not wear a Plug Hat, a Woman who did not Wash her Face with a Rag, an Editor who Had Ten dollars in his Pocket, a Dog whose Hind legs were in Plumb with his Front Legs, a Business Manager who did not Consider the Editors Robbers, and a Pair of Shoes that were too Small for the Lady who Wore them. The foolish Showman Died a Death of Bitter Disappointment.—Denver Tribune.

The Lacquer Industry of Japan.

Our knowledge of this important Chinese industry, says the British Trade Journal, has hitherto been so limited that special interest attaches to the lengthy report of Vice-Consul Quin, of Hakodato, upon the subject. The lacquer business is one in which the Japanese have always excelled but respecting which the greatest secrecy has been observed. It appears that the various kinds of lacquer are prepared by tapping the lacquer tree (*Liquidambar*), which is abundant all over the main island, and is also met with in Kiushiu and Shikoku. Special tools are used for the purpose, and it is said to need a certain "knack" to secure the exuding juice in a pure and proper condition. In its crude state the lacquer is priced at 90 to a 100 yen, or, at the present low rate of exchange, equal to between 12L and 13L per tub of about 4 gallons. The manufactured articles undergoes many transformations, mixtures being prepared and sold in which seaweed-jelly, grated sweet potatoes, soot, charcoal, iron filings boiled in rice vinegar, ground sea-shells, turpentine, whetstone water, camphor, oils, oxide of iron, gold, silver, or tin powder and sundry other ingredients are incorporated. Mr. Quin mentions a very remarkable property of lacquer. He says:—

"If crude lacquer, which is originally of the color and consistence of cream, is exposed to the sun for a few days without adding water, it loses its creamy color and becomes quite black, or nearly so, but also becomes thinner and transparent, or rather translucent as can be seen when it is smeared on a white board. It will not now, however, dry if applied to an article, even if kept a month or more in the damp press. But if water is mixed with the lacquer which has thus been exposed and become black it at once loses the black color and its transparency, and becomes again of a creamy color, though slightly darker, as if some coffee had been added, than at first. After evaporating the water, it can then be used like any ordinary lacquer, either alone or in mixtures, and will dry in the lamp press, during which process it again turns black. Lacquer will not dry or harden properly in the open air. It must have a damp, close atmosphere to do so, otherwise it would run and remain sticky. The Japanese use a cave or an underground cellar, where practicable, or, in default, an air-tight case of wood, with rough, unplanned planks inside. These are thoroughly wetted before the lacquered article is put in to dry, the process occupying a period of from six to 50 hours, according to the time of the year and the sort of lacquer used. The business is one evidently requiring patience, care, and cheap labor, seeing that Mr. Quin enumerates 33 different processes in applying the lacquer, with periods of drying or rest between many of them of from 12 to 40 hours. The tools, brushes, smoothers, &c., are different for the various sorts of lacquers, as well as for the articles to which they are applied, gold lacquering, flat or raised, appearing to be the highest form of the art. So far as the particulars given by Mr. Quin enable us to judge, it seems likely that the Japanese will be allowed to retain a monopoly of this, to them, important industry.

An Incident in Virginia.

Our old friend, Mr. Wm. Claughton, of Heathsville, sheriff of Northumberland Co., Va., says, "We have many good medicines in our parts, but nothing which equals St. Jacobs Oil, the Great German Remedy. My family keep the Oil in the house at all times and use it for almost everything that a medicine can be used for. They claim that it is unequalled for rheumatism and all bodily pains.—Tappahannock, (Va.), Tidewater Index.

The toothless man ought to be a sweet talker, for all his world's must of necessity be gum drops. Extract from a letter just received (December, 1882) by Mrs. Thos. Murray, from her husband, Mr. Thos. Murray, who was for many years Bridge Conductor for the Great Western Railway at Niagara Falls, afterwards one of the contractors on the enlarged Welland Canal (sect. 12), and is now in Northern Michigan, looking after his timber interests in that country. He writes:—

"Tell Sutherland I am now starting for the woods with 30 men, where I will be all winter, and that I am now without ache or pain in either my knees or arms (something I have not known for years), thanks to the two bottles of Rheumatism which I procured from him before leaving St. Catharines.

The Vicar of Holy Trinity at Stratford-upon-Avon, the church in which he buried the remains of William Shakespeare, has been fined £1 12s. and sent to jail for a day for assaulting one of the choir boys.

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The Electric Oil possesses all the qualities that it is possible to combine in a medicine, thereby giving it a wide range of application as an internal remedy for man and beast. The happiest results follow its use and in Nervous Diseases, such as Rheumatism, Neuralgia and indred diseases, it has no equal. For Throat and Lung Diseases, Bowel Complaints, Etc. It is truly a marvel. The Oil, besides exciting appetite, promoting digestion and checking fermentation on the stomach, antidotes or counteracts the effect of uric acid, which produces rheumatism by destroying the oxalate and phosphate of lime in the bones, and the membranes inclosing the joints.

Price 25 cents per bottle. Sold by all druggists. (Electric Oil is not Electric.)

In the township of Richmond, a contest was avoided in the recent municipal elections by two of the candidates tossing up a copper, "head or tails." This method of deciding an election is free from those abuses which often accompany the use of the ballot.

VEGETINE is nourishing and strengthening: purifies the blood; regulates the bowels; quiets the nervous system, acts directly upon the secretions, and arouses the whole system to action.

A New York plumber has died from overwork. It is suspected that he attempted to make out a dozen bills in one week.

The successful man has many imitators in his peculiar line of business, but still there is only one originator. So, also, the great petroleum hair renewer, Carboline, as now improved and perfected, holds the palm against all imitators as a genuine article of merit. Try it.

A boy of 8 years died in England, poisoned by the action of a substance used in dyeing his stockings. Sir John Humphrey testified that several striking proofs had come under his notice of the danger of wearing many of the dyed stockings offered for sale.

Davy & Clark, Druggists, Renfrew, date of June 3rd, write, "Burdock Blood Bitters through comparatively a new preparation, has taken the lead in this locality as a blood purifier, our sales of it being equal to that of all other medicines used for the purpose during the last year." 18.

According to the Lancet two-thirds of the total quantity of medicines consumed in the United States are sold in the form of secret nostrums.

Important.

When you visit or leave New York City, save Baggage Expressage and Carriage Hire, and stop at GRAND UNION HOTEL, opposite Grand Central Dep. ot. 450 elegant rooms, fitted up at a cost of one million dollars, reduced to \$1 and upwards per day. European plan. Elevator. Restaurant supplied with the best. Horse cars, stages and elevated railroads to all depots. Families can live better for less money at the Grand Union Hotel than at any other first-class hotel in the city.

The Birmingham Medical Review recommends for chilblains equal parts of diluted nitric acid and peppermint water, to be applied daily at first, and then twice a day.

An Admonition.

To neglect a cough or cold, is but to invite consumption, that destroyer of the human race. Hagedard's Pectoral Balsam will cure the cough and allay all irritation of the bronchial tubes and lungs, and effectually remedy all pulmonary complaints, such as Asthma, Bronchitis, Whooping Cough, &c. 17.

An unexpected and delightful offer of marriage to a Michigan girl brought on a fatal attack of heart disease.

The Very Latest News.

"Have you heard the latest news?" said one city swell to another. "No, do tell me what it is." "Well, I have at last got rid of my corns by one trial of Putnam's Painless Corn Extractor, and I know yours were even worse than mine were. I couldn't pass without telling you to get a bottle of your druggist. It guarantees it will cure you completely. It is sure, prompt and painless, taking the corns out at once. Sold every where. Beware of substitutes and imitations.

A young man who wanted to teach school in Kansas could not tell horizontal from perpendicular, but the committee overlooked that as the members had been that way themselves.

A Secret.

The secret of beauty lies in pure blood and good health, without the one the other is impossible. Burdock Blood Bitters is the grand key that unlocks all the secretions, opens the avenue to health by purifying and regulating all the organs to a proper action. It cures all Scrofulous Diseases, acts on the Blood, Liver, Kidneys, Skin and Bowels, and brings the bloom of health to the pallid cheek. 14

"A. P." 110

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FARM FOR SALE—BEING LOT 106 Gwillimbury, adjoining town of Holland Landing 212 acres, Northern R. R. Station situated on corner of this lot, the land is high rolling clay loam brick house frame Bank Barn. J. W. G. WHITNEY, Estate Agent—25 Toronto-st. Toronto.

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