

Toys for the Children.

A toy shop of to-day must seem like a veritable fairyland to the children. The old styles have been put away to make room for new marvels of invention and skill. Heretofore most toys have been dumb and inanimate. But this season the human figures all walk and make gestures, and the animals utter their accustomed sounds, use their limbs and move so naturally that one imagines himself transported to the farmyard, the jungle, or the recesses of the forest. The birds sing from their perches or flit about the room. The vehicles are fitted automatically with electric or steam motors, and require no string or handle to propel them. An afternoon in a toy shop now means hours in a museum of moving, noise-making and quasi animate creatures. Some articles, classed as musical toys, are enumerated with an interrogation point. For instance, the first thing one is shown is a cigar case. A spring is touched and an interior music box plays the latest popular air, while a revolving cylinder turns inside out, exposing an array of cigars. Next is a vase with a ballet dancer who keeps time to an interior air, and finally kisses her hand to the audience and retires. A negro in a musical vase dances a clog. A ship in the next vase rides on the waves to a tune, while on a cliff near by a lighthouse flashes and a windmill spins. You are invited to be seated in a cane-bottomed chair, which responds with music as the cane is pressed. A beer glass evolves a tune when the amber-colored beverage is introduced. Decanters have airs to emit as well as liquids. The wax angel hanging from the ceiling plays a harp-like air when requested, or, if a Gabriel, blows a trumpet. One may have a tune from the bottom of a cup with tea or coffee, or with a sniff of flowers from a vase. Comic toys are of endless variety. The figures which suddenly spring from a box when the lid is removed are comic in the

extreme. There are noisy fellows who play cymbals and turn somersaults. There are acrobats who perform any feat of the ring; old couples who doze in chairs only to wake and wag their heads. The whistling figures whistle vociferously either as birds, sticks or boys. Punch and Judy have voices for several sounds. Santa Claus has a huge pack on his back and leads away a bad boy who cries loudly. The cat says "Meow," the dog "Bow wow," the monkeys squeal, the rabbits move their long ears, the roosters crow, and the parrots mimic sounds. The model bird in the cage sings the canary's song or the red bird's cry, and requires no food or water. Wind up the bird at the bottom of the cage and he will sing as often as you care to turn the key. Any kind of an eating animal may be had which automatically opens its mouth and receives food or swallows a mouse. The donkeys move their heads, wag their long ears, kick viciously, and finally utter a bray. Elephants are of enormous size and contain a whole Noah's family. They switch their tails, flap their ears, and give out a shrill scream. Horses are saddled ready to trot or whinny. The sheep walk and bleat. The cows move their heads, give milk, and in a deep bass voice say "m-o-o." The lion lashes his tail and roars. All of these animals are also made of leather, which is both more durable and more expensive.

Full Dress.

"Are you going to Miss Fussanfeather's party?" asked a young lady of a friend as they met on the street.
 "No!" was the response.
 "And why not, pray? It is to be very swell."
 "Yes, I know, but I haven't anything to wear."
 "Oh, you don't need anything much; it's to be full dress, you know."

VARIETIES.

There is now no established religion in Japan, and missionaries are regarded as harmless curiosities.

At the Poultry Show recently held at Amsterdam concurrently with the Agricultural exhibition one of the female birds in a pen of Toulouse geese sent from England weighed thirty-four pounds.

The Church of the Holy Ghost at Heidelberg is divided by a partition running lengthwise through it. On the one side the service is Protestant and on the other Roman Catholic. The Elector Palatine in 1719, undertook to annex the Protestant part of the church; but the attempt was a failure.

Some interesting particulars have been given before the Social Science Congress concerning the extent to which excessive railway-rates are driving business from the Midlands to the ports. No fewer than six important firms are said to be removing their manufactories from Birmingham to the sea-coast.

The oldest and largest tree in the world, so far as known, is a chestnut at the foot of Mount Etna. It is hollow and large enough to admit two carriages driving abreast through it. The circumference of the main trunk is two hundred and twelve feet. The American Grizzly Giant, monarch of the Mariposa Grove, measures ninety-two feet.

The Yangste-Kiang, or Blue River, of China, usually called the Ta-kiang, or Great River, rises in the high central plateau of Tibet. It extends from 88° E to 122° E, covering its winding course a distance of some three thousand miles, of which two thousand miles are navigable. The main stream is formed by three branches having their confluence in 94° E, 34° 50' N., where its breadth in the dry weather is seven hundred and fifty feet, and in the summer rains over a mile. Its level here is thirteen thousand feet above the sea.

NEW ZEALAND MUTTON. — London takes an immense quantity of New Zealand mutton, and it is largely supplied even by the West-end butchers, without the knowledge of their customers. The quality is excellent. The freezing arrangements are so far perfected that the London butcher can send to the large cold store rooms at the docks for as many carcasses as he requires, with the certainty of being able in a couple of hours to furnish his customers with joints which they will be unable to distinguish from home-fatted mutton. Buying these at fivepence per pound and retailing them at elevenpence, his motives for preferring them to animals bought at Islington at even sevenpence per pound are sufficiently obvious.

INTERMARRIAGE OF COUSINS. — The prevalent idea that the offspring of the intermarriage of first cousins are specially liable to be below the average intellectually and physically is not found to be sustained by good evidence. Mr. G. H. Darwin, in a very carefully prepared paper, read before the Statistical Society, comes to the conclusion, as the result of close comparison of all the records available, that evidence will not "enable anyone to say positively that the marriage of first cousins has any effect in the production of insanity or idiocy. . . . With respect to deaf mutes, there is no evidence whatever of any ill results accruing to the offspring in consequence of the cousinship of their parents." And again, "It tends to invalidate the high death-rate among the offspring of cousins." And once more, "the safest verdict seems to be that the charge against consanguineous marriages on this head is not proven."

Fighting Sleep With Tea.

The practice of taking tea or coffee by students, in order to work at night; is downright madness, especially when preparing for an examination. More than half of the cases of break-down, loss of memory, fainting, etc., which occur during severe examinations, and far more frequently than is commonly known, is due to this.

I frequently hear of promising students who have thus failed; and, on inquiry, have learned—in almost every instance—that the victim had previously drugged himself with tea or coffee. Sleep is the rest of the brain; to rob the hard-worked brain of its necessary rest is cerebral suicide.

My old friend, the late Thomas Wright was a victim of this terrible folly. He undertook the translation of the life of Julius Caesar, by Napoleon III., and to do it in a cruelly short time. He fulfilled his contract by sitting up several nights successively by the aid of strong tea or coffee (I forget which). I saw him shortly afterward. In a few weeks he had aged alarmingly, and became quite bald, his brain gave way and he never recovered. There was but little difference between his age and mine, and but for this dreadful cerebral strain, rendered possible only by the alkaloid (for otherwise he would have fallen asleep over his work, and thereby saved his life), he might still be amusing and instructing thousands of readers by fresh volumes.

Cremation in Scandinavia.

Cremation is making way even in Scandinavia. The Swedes have long favored cremation, but hitherto their efforts to obtain from their authorities the sanction for building a crematorium at Stockholm have been unsuccessful. At the last meeting of the Swedish Cremation Society, however, the President, Lieut.-Gen. Klingenstierna, announced that arrangements had been made with the Stockholm authorities for erecting a crematorium in one of the suburbs. The place chosen is a high rocky plain to the north of the city, where a wide view is obtained of the surroundings. A large plot of ground round the crematorium is to be laid out as a public park at the expense of the town. It is hardly likely to be a popular promenade when a cremation is in progress.

SCIENTIFIC GOSSIP.

A Swiss naturalist maintains that there is only one coloring substance in plants, and the various colors of flowers are only due to the modifications produced in this substance by the acids or alkalis contained in the plants.

On some occasions M. Colladon has observed that two or three seconds after hailstones had fallen to the ground they sprang into the air again to a height of from eight inches to more than eleven inches, as if they had been struck upward by the earth.

The coal mines in the Nord district of France produced 3,789,000 tons of coal last year, an increase of 3 per cent. on the quantity of the preceding year. To raise this total 19,880 men were employed, and of these there were about 15,510 engaged under ground.

It is said that the largest organ in the world has been built by Walck, of Ludwigsburg, and placed in the Cathedral of Riga. It measures 36 feet in width, 32 feet from back to front, and 65 feet in height. It has not less than 6,826 pipes, distributed among 114 sounding stops.

At the Antwerp Universal Exhibition Van Rysselberghe gave a practical solution of the possibility of sending a telegraphic and a telephonic message over the same wire at the same time. The transmission and receipt of the messages were effected by the usual instruments over ordinary telegraph wire.

Saffrons from the South of France are said to contain a very small quantity of alumina, not by way of an adulterant, but naturally. The alumina is present only in the proportion of 0.115 to 0.123 per cent. Certain lycopods and *Rebus Articus* are the only plants in which alumina has hitherto been discovered.

Now that the cold weather is approaching, or with us, it ought to be remembered that a covering of felt nicely put on pipes prevents the water from freezing in them and all the train of evil consequences

which frozen water pipes entail, unless the cold is unusually severe or the spell of frost unusually protracted.

An establishment for the manufacture of pharmaceutical chemicals on a large scale has been set up in Tokio by an incorporated company with a capital of \$200,000, of which amount the Japanese Government contributed one half, free of interest, for a period of 20 years, besides making a free grant of land and erecting the necessary buildings.

The topaz occurs frequently in New South Wales. A portion of a large, bluish green crystal found at Mudgee, and now placed in a colonial museum, weighs several pounds. Other specimens weighing several ounces are by no means rare. They are sometimes 2 inches to 3 inches long, and broad in proportion. The pale bluish green tint is the most prevalent, though crystals are occasionally found of a slightly yellow color.

Near Bogoslawsk, Miask, Newjansk, and Nischnei-Tagilsk, in the Ural Mountains, are the Russian sources of supply of platinum. The deposits were discovered in 1824. Some other substances besides platinum are always contained in the mineral. Thus a sample from Nischnei-Tagilsk yielded 75.1 platinum, 1.1 palladium, 3.5 rhodium, 2.6 iridium, .6 osmium, 2.3 osmium, .4 gold, 1 copper, and 8.1. Platinum must be refined before it can be worked up into manufactured articles.

From the Prussian budget for 1884-5 it appears that since Jan. 1, 1884, the railroads acquired by the State were the Upper Silesian line, the Breslau-Schweidnitz-Freiburg line, the Posen-Creuzberg line, the Right Bank of the Oder line, the Altona-Kiel line, and the Schaumburg-Lippe portion of the Hanover-Minden Railway. The extent of the new lines is described as embracing a length of 3,698.72 kilometers, thus bringing up the total length of Prussian State railroads to 18,924.43 kilometers, and leaving 1,700 kilometers in the hands of private corporations.

EATON'S,

190 TO 196 YONGE STREET.

Xmas Sale!

Our customers have the advantage this month of a GRAND XMAS SALE, including every department. We give below a few special items and prices as an index to the general sale prices. Samples will be forwarded to any post-office in the Dominion on application. Goods can be sent by Express or Parcel post.

Eaton's Xmas Sale.

REDUCTIONS IN DRESS GOODS.

35 Cent Brocades selling at 17½ cents per yard.
30 " Dress Goods " 15 " "
25 " " " 12½ " "
15 " " " 7½ " "

Eaton's Xmas Sale.

REDUCTIONS IN MANTLES.

ONE HUNDRED LADIES' CLOTH JACKETS AT \$ 1.50 EACH.
Fifty " " " " \$ 3.00 "
Fifty " " " " \$ 5.00 "
Twelve Dollar Cloth Mantles Selling at - - \$ 8.00 "
Sixteen Dollar Dolmans selling at - - \$12.00 "

All twenty, thirty and forty dollar Dolmans reduced.

Eaton's Xmas Sale,

REDUCTIONS IN GLOVES.

ADIE'S CASHMERE JERSEY GLOVES IN BLK. AND COLORS 15c. A PAIR.
Kid Mita, Fur Tops, with Spring Cuff - - - 65c. " "
3 Button Kid Gloves in Black Colors and Tans - - - 50c. " "
Wool Mita, - - - - - 20c. " "
Children's Wool Mita - - - - - 10c. " "
Kid Mita - - - - - 35c. " "

Eaton's Xmas Sale.

Special prices in Dolls, Vases, Fancies, Notions, and other things suitable for Xmas. A Wax Doll, 22 inches long for \$1.00.

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190, 192, 194, 196 YONGE STREET.

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 Rich Black Silks,
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Also a Magnificent Stock of Elegant MANTLES from the Best Manufacturers of London, Paris and Berlin.

Silk Plush Mantles,
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 Brocaded Silk Mantles,
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