

## HOUSEHOLD.

### CHILBLAINS.

These painful and annoying disfigurements come from various causes—sometimes from a weak constitution, sometimes from lack of proper nourishment.

Children are more subject to chilblains than grown people, but frequently outgrow the tendency. Occasionally, however, the complaint attacks people after they are grown.

To prevent them, one should begin a long time before winter appears, to take precautionary measures. As soon as the days begin to be chilly, you must never go out of doors without gloves, and at once make a change into warmer underclothing.

Be sure that the sleeves of your dresses are made long enough to cover the wrists, and that you are warmly dressed underneath. Wear stout shoes with gaiters and take plenty of exercise. As the cold weather comes on, put on all-wool clothing, and carry a muff; indoors wear warmly lined slippers; and have night socks. Never sit over a fire or warm your hands and feet at it; if they are cold, wash in hot water, or rub till the blood circulates. Take plenty of exercise indoors as well as out. Walk, bicycle, skate. Indoors, dancing is the best way to get the feet warm. It is, however, not only in the cold weather that chilblains attack one; mild, damp, winters are frequently as bad for them, if not worse.

The best thing to use for removing chilblains is the following lotion, but they must not be broken ones, or there will be great harm done in setting up inflammation; Opodeldoc, one ounce; tincture of cantharides, one-quarter of an ounce; oil of cajuput, one-quarter of an ounce. Rub this in for ten minutes at a time, three times a day. It is essential that aperient medicine should be taken every night when suffering from chilblains, and that the daily morning bath should be warm. To prevent chilblains from appearing, use lemon juice daily, or vinegar, to which a fourth part of camphorated spirits has been added. Tea should be given up and cocoa taken instead; and cod-liver oil should be taken three times a day, and a strong tonic as well.

A good lotion for unbroken chilblains is colloidon, two ounces; turpentine, six drachms; tincture of benzoin, one-half ounce. Eat plenty of celery, both raw and as a vegetable; and avoid too rich, greasy food, or many hot dishes. Where the chilblains are broken, apply tincture of catechu, two fluid ounces; honey, one ounce; rose water, four to eight ounces. Also anoint them with this pomade: White wax, two drachms; balsam of Peru, two drachms; sweet almond oil, twelve ounces; rose water, twenty drachms; spermaceti, two drachms. Dissolve and beat together a thick paste. Where the chilblains are ulcerated, dilute tincture of myrrh in warm water and bathe them with it. If the ulcers are at all bad, you must not attempt to put on boots or gloves, but remain quietly at home, living on a strengthening diet till you are cured.

### A LILY POND.

Any one who has a nice lawn, should by all means, have a lily pond. It is easily made and a thing of beauty. There are many ways of making these ponds, either of stone, brick or masonry, but as these are all expensive, we will give our attention to another sort that will cost but a few dollars, and at the same time last for years. Have a wooden tub made similar to a wooden cistern or tank, with straight sides and about four feet deep. It can be made round or square and as large as you wish, but should not be smaller than six feet across. This size will hold six or eight bulbs. One foot from the bottom have a hole two inches in diameter, and a plug to fit it, which must be put in from the inside, and project far enough to make its removal easy. Make the top of the tank exactly above this plug, so that you may know where to find it when the time comes to let out the water. This tank should then be sunk in the ground to within two inches of the top, then make a gravel border around it of about eighteen inches. When preparing the hole in which to put the tank, determine upon which side the place where the plug is to come and dig a place about eighteen inches across, and as deep, and fill it with small stones. This is done in order that the water will have a place to drain into when the plug is removed.

Give your tank a coat of waterproof paint on the inside, and of tar on the outside, before sinking it in the ground. This preserves the wood from decay, and the tank will last much longer. When your tank is all ready fill it up to the plug with pond mud, or any rich earth which has at least a quarter of cow manure, and put in your lily bulbs. Run in the water gently so as not to disturb the soil, and fill but a few inches above the bulbs. When they show signs of growing, add more water, until at length it is almost or quite full.

When the water freezes to the depth of a half inch, reach down and remove the plug, and after the water has run out, replace the plug, and fill the tank full to the top with dry leaves or loose hay and lay boards over the top. Any tender lilies like callas,

should be removed and either placed in the cellar in a pail of mud, or dried off. When the hard frosts are over in the spring, remove the litter, add a little rotted cow manure, and any new bulbs you wish, and gradually refill with water.

An admirable pond seen some years since was made in the following manner: A hole, some twelve feet in diameter five feet in depth was first dug, and this was plastered with mortar to the depth of four inches, at the sides and bottom. A piece of lead pipe was put in to make the desired drain, and due respect was paid to constructing a place outside of where it went through, so that the water would drain off through a layer of rocks and sand. When the mortar was dry it was treated to a coat of cistern cement. In the center was constructed a miniature island of stones and earth, and upon it was a mass of foliage and flowers, while pink, white and yellow water lilies filled the space around it, and some tadpoles grew to be sedate frogs under the shade of the broad leaves. One year half a dozen dwarf callas and a lot of old-fashioned "Wandering Jew" made the island a fairy like place, and several years later amaryllis plants of many colors revelled in the sun and moisture of the island. No one who has not seen one of the miniature ponds can imagine their beauty.

### FIVE-MINUTE RESTS.

Few understand, except those who have had to resort to five-minute rests in order to keep up during a tedious convalescence, how much elasticity of figure is unconsciously acquired if the body is given periodic rests during the day. The cult of the five-minute rests is gaining disciples among women whose social duties are quite as wearing as those grimmer ones of the kitchen slave or the working housewife; and the fact is such a wholesome one that the girl who wishes to keep her freshness and save her strength for congenial work will do well to adopt it. In order to derive the greatest benefit from a five-minute rest, one must relax all the muscles of the body, and of the mind, if possible. Be a limp, inert, lazy bundle for a brief spell. Shut the eyes, let the shoulders and hands droop, relieve all tension which dignity usually demands, and try not to think for 300 seconds.

### WORTH TRYING.

To remove white spots on varnished furniture, dip a soft flannel in spirits of wine and rub the spots well. Afterwards repolish the furniture with a furniture cream.

A cup of hot water, declares Sir Andrew Clark of London, possesses the same medicinal qualities attributed to an equal amount of whisky, while lacking the injurious properties. Hot water in abundance is especially recommended in malarial troubles.

Carbonate of soda dissolved in water will remove mud stains from dresses. Lay the soiled part of the cloth and wash and rub the places with water, keeping the dress quite smooth.

Ink stains are entirely removed by the immediate application of dry salt before the ink has dried. When the salt becomes discolored by absorbing the ink, brush it off and apply more; wet slightly. Continue until the ink has disappeared.

A small dish of powdered charcoal kept on one of the upper shelves of the refrigerator is an excellent thing to absorb odors. It should be changed every few days.

If the carpet looks dusty and dull after sweeping, wipe over with a damp cloth wrung out of ammonia water. A tablespoonful of ammonia will suffice for a half pail of water.

The piano keys should never be cleaned with water, which discolors them; instead, they should be rubbed over with a soft flannel or piece of silk dipped in oxygenized water, which can be obtained at any chemist's, and when the keys are stained or greasy, use methylated spirits, gin or diluted whisky. Clear alcohol is good.

### HERE'S A NEW GAS.

Another new gas has recently been discovered, not in the atmosphere, this time, but in the gases given off by certain volcanic fissures in the earth. The discovery is interesting as affording one more proof that the elements of which the earth is composed are precisely similar to those which go to make up the sun. It has been known for some time that certain elements exist in the corona of the sun of which no trace could be found on earth. One of these, which has been named corona is reported to have been found by means of the spectroscope. Theoretically it should be lighter than hydrogen, hitherto the lightest element known, but as it has not yet been obtained in a pure state this cannot be verified. It is to be hoped that this discovery may be followed by those of a similar kind.

### A WONDERFUL WEAVE LOOM.

In the effort to meet German competition the fabric manufacturers of Roubaix, France, have developed the new weaving machine, which in speed surpasses the new Northrop machine of American invention, and permits the use of ordinary material. The fabric produced is turned out at the astonishingly rapid rate of 100 to 175 yards per day of ten hours. There is great economy, one workman overseeing six machines, and the motive force is one-half of the ordinary requirements. The fabric shows a woven effect on one side and knitted on the other, and it is believed that the machine will be a powerful factor in competing for the plain goods market if not for high novelties.

## GREAT BRITAIN IS READY.

ANY EVENTUALITY CAN BE FACED AT A MOMENT'S NOTICE.

Her Navy Never so Fit for Active Service—France May be Feverish but Britain is Calm and Confident.

While the Gallic cock cries there is barely so much as a wag of the British lion's tail to show the mood he is in says the London Daily Mail. The French folk may be devoting night and day to bringing their naval forces into a decent state, but it is certain that our dockyards are, if anything, less active than usual.

This inaction is not the outcome of any supineness or inability to appreciate the gravity of the situation, it is rather the coolness of the foreseeing man who has all his preparations made, and doesn't intend to waste breath in unnecessary vapourings.

Recently, our correspondent interviewed a prominent dockyard official on the situation.

What is the best we could do in the way of mobilization?" said he. "Why, if need be, we could commission a squadron of cruisers here this afternoon and have them off the French coast by to-morrow morning."

"It is true we are taking things very quietly, but why should we do otherwise? We can afford to take things coolly. The French may have to work night and day to get their ships into trim, but ours are ready."

"What is the use of our Fleet Reserve and our mobilization schemes but to prepare for crises like this? Why, we could send out a formidable fleet from our home dockyards probably about

### THIRTY GOOD STRONG SHIPS

without any particularly great exertion.

"At Portsmouth alone we have a squadron of useful cruisers, all lying ready to hoist the pennant immediately they are required and all of which would prove nasty opponents to an enemy."

There is no doubt that if the necessity for such action should arise our fleets would be found capable of swifter action than a good many Britishers think them to be. For some years past the Admiralty have been quietly applying lessons learned from other powers, and from our own experiments, to perfecting our naval organization.

And so well has this been done that the ships in the Fleet Reserve at our various dockyards are—actually, not supposedly—ready to put to sea at practically a moment's notice. The naval mobilization which was Britain's reply to the Kaiser's famous telegram must not be accepted as a sample of the best we can do in this way. It was a good, broad hint to the Emperor, and it served its purpose.

A mobilization of reserves in case of war would be a vastly different affair. About 48 hours is the time officially supposed to be required for getting a ship in the Fleet Reserve ready for sea. But so far as the ships themselves are concerned, a very much shorter time than this would suffice; it is obtaining the men to man them that would cause the greatest delay. Every ship in the A. division of the Fleet Reserve—that is those that have been passed as completed for the pennant—requires but to take aboard a crew and its perishable stores to be ready for active service.

Before the ships are passed into this division of the reserve they are fully coaled and all their magazines are filled. The skeleton crews told off to them are kept busy looking after the guns, cleaning ship, and attending to the engines.

### EVERY PRECAUTION IS TAKEN

to see that nothing is allowed to get out of order, and thus impair the efficiency of the vessel for quick mobilization. Each ship has its engineer-officer and undergoes periodical steam trials.

Just at the present moment the reserve ships are being subjected to their annual overhaul in dry-dock, and their engine tests. During the Franco-German war the French found that in consequence of having neglected to look properly after their ordnance stores, the shell in many cases would not fit the guns.

To guard against any such occurrence as that in our navy all the shells in the magazines of our reserve ships are periodically examined and cleaned. The greatest care is taken that neither the guns nor the ammunition required for use in them is allowed to deteriorate into an unfit state.

There is little fear of a British warship ever going to sea with the effectiveness of its armament impaired from this cause. In fact, so well are the ships looked after that it would be quite possible to commission a squadron of the fleet at say, Portsmouth on one day that could appear before Cherbourg on the next.

In case of great emergency, the delay which now takes place between the commissioning of a ship and sending her to sea would disappear; the practice of running commissioning trials and having Commander-in-Chief's inspections is a laudable one, as it ensures that our ships leave England for their various stations in

### TAUT, GOOD SEA-GOING TRIM.

But these are formalities that may be dispensed with when we mobilize our fleet for war.

An impression is abroad that the ships in our fleet reserve are mainly useless old crocks. But this is not the case. Many of them, though of obsolete types are really useful vessels;

some few are of little use except as a kind of forlorn hope. On the other hand some of the reserve ships are quite modern. But few people have any idea of the thorough way in which everything connected with these ships is organized.

Already we have described the manner in which the dockyard authorities keep the ships in fighting trim. But this is only a part of the system. The stores of every ship in the reserve are carefully "laid apart" in the victualling depot of the dockyard to which she belongs, so that they can be taken aboard at any moment they may be wanted. In the big victualling storehouses lie huge piles of provisions.

Each ship's complement of stores is placed in a separate pile, which contains everything from the smallest pantry requisite to plate for use in the ward-room. There are barrels of rum, boxes of sugar, biscuits, tinned provisions and mess traps. Each pile is labelled with the name of the ship for which it is intended. They are placed together systematically, and never touched except when wanted for use, unless it be to examine the contents of the cases, or to change the grog that has stood so long in cask that the authorities deem it to have become so potent a spirit

### FOR JACK'S CONSUMPTION.

Stores for the torpedo boat destroyers are treated in the same systematic fashion. In fact, as soon as ever a ship, big or little, is ready for commissioning, the victualling yard "lays apart" her stores, which remain in readiness against the time she wants them, be that soon or late.

This careful organization would have its effect in war-time in enabling us to get our reserve ships equipped and put to sea without making much of a fuss about it. By a singular regulation, when a ship is commissioned for three years, the officers have to purchase the ward-room plate out of their own pockets. At the end of the cruise this plate is sold off by auction, and there is keen competition for it, as the Admiralty take good care that all the articles are of good quality. If a ship is mobilized for a short period of service, such as the annual manoeuvres the officers are allowed to return the plate into store. With respect to the manner in which our ships compare with those of other naval powers, a good deal that is interesting might be written, but it is an undoubted fact that our navy was never more ready to meet a foe than it is at the present moment.

### ENGLAND'S PRECIOUS RELIC.

The Coronation Chair, a Part of Which Jacob Used as His Pillow.

The most precious relic in all England is an old Gothic chair which stands in the chapel of St. Edward, in Westminster Abbey. It is made of black oak in the gothic style, and the back is covered with carved inscriptions, including the initials of many famous men. The feet are four lions. The seat is a large stone, about thirty inches long, by eighteen wide and twelve thick, and all the sovereigns of England for the last eight hundred years have sat upon it when they were crowned. The chair is known as the Coronation chair, and the stone is claimed to be the same, which Jacob, the son of Isaac, the son of Abraham, used as a pillow, when he lay down to sleep on the starlit plains of Judah.

The kings of Israel were crowned upon this stone from the time that they ruled a nation—David, Saul, Solomon and the rest.

The story goes that five hundred and eighty years before Christ, at the time of the Babylonian captivity, Circe, daughter of Sedekiah, the last king of Judea, arrived in Ireland, and was married at Tara to Hermon, a prince of the Tuatha de Danan—which is said to be the Celtic name of the tribe of Dan. The traditions relate that this princess went originally to Egypt in charge of the prophet Jeremiah, her guardian, and the Palace Taphenes, in which they resided there, was discovered in 1886 by Dr. Petrie, the archaeologist.

They went hence to Ireland, and from Circe and Hermon Queen Victoria traces her descent, through James I., who placed the Hon of the tribe of Judah upon the British standard.

Jeremiah is said to have concealed this sacred stone at the time of the destruction of Jerusalem and the captivity of the Jews, and to have brought it, "the stone of the testimony," Bethel, the only witness of the compact between Jehovah and Israel, to Ireland, where it was known as the liaphail, stone wonderful. It was carried to Scotland by Fergus I., and thence to London in the year 1260, and has been used at the coronation of every king and queen of England from Edward I. down to the time of Victoria.

### BENEFIT OF PEERAGE.

Every one may not know what the term "benefit of peerage" implies. A peer can demand a private audience of the sovereign to represent his views on matters of public welfare. For treason or felony he can demand to be tried by his peers; he cannot be outlawed in any civil action, nor can he be arrested unless for an indictable offence, and he is exempt from serving on juries. He may sit with his hat on in courts of justice, and should he be liable to the last penalty of the law, he can demand a silken cord instead of a hempen rope.

### DESERVED IT.

Sheriff, remarked the condemned murderer, as that functionary proceeded to put the black cap over his head, I seem to be the sinner, sure, of all eyes.

Without any further delay the trap was sprung and the hardened wretch went to his doom.

## ITEMS OF INTEREST.

A Few Paragraphs Which Will be Found Well Worth Reading.

In Logere, France, there are herds of goats and cows which seldom drink. Yet they produce the milk from which Roquefort cheese is made.

Violent laughter, while witnessing a performance at the St. Charles theatre, New Orleans, so distressed William Dompure, that it turned into convulsions, and he died in a few minutes.

A clergyman in Wyandotte, Kansas, has been arrested for kissing a girl who was a member of his congregation. The complainant testified under oath that "the kiss was so cold it made her shiver."

Divorce is simply arranged in Burma. When a couple has decided to separate, two candles of equal size are produced and lighted. One candle represents the husband, the other the wife. The one whose candle burns out first at once leaves the house, and all the property in it belongs to the other partner.

A rancher in Arizona has posted this startling warning on a cottonwood tree near his place: "My wife Sarrah has left my ranch when I didn't Doo a Thing Too her. Any Man as takes her in and Keers for her on my account will get himself Pumped so Full of Led that some tenderfoot will locate him for a mineral claim."

The twelve-year-old son of J. B. Stinebaugh, of Ottawa, Kansas, was seated in his father's buggy, six miles west of the city, when a fierce gale separated the vehicle from the horse, stripping the harness into shreds and lifting the buggy high in the air, and smashing it into kindling wood as it fell. The boy was not seriously hurt.

Two of the deputies in the Legislative Chamber of the Duchy of Luxembourg are such bores that they try to speak at interminable length on all questions. They have become such nuisances that when either of them begins to speak the other members rush hurriedly out of the Chamber, leaving him alone with the presiding officer.

Forty sheep belonging to William Arndt, gathered under a maple tree in Van Wert county, Ohio, and among them were eighteen black ones. A blinding flash of lightning seemed to penetrate the earth in the midst of the flock and killed all the black sheep leaving the white ones unhurt. Each dead sheep had a round hole in the back of its neck, as if from a pistol ball, and around it the wool was burned away.

Twenty bicyclists, male and female, rode in company from Liverpool, England, and stopped at a rural hotel for dinner. The housekeeper wrote the name of each person on a piece of paper, and pinned it where it could be seen—on the front wheel of his or her machine. She adopted the precaution of driving the pin deeply into the tire. When the guests heard of the housekeeper's method of checking, just as they were about to depart, there were wails and curses loud enough to be heard a half-mile away.

### SMALLEST IN THE WORLD.

Things and Places that Excite Interest by Reason of Minuteness.

The smallest book ever printed is the story of Perrault's little "Hop-o-My Thumb," lately published. The book is one and one-half inches long by one inch wide, and one-quarter inch thick. It can be read only by the aid of microscope, but is complete in every way and has four engravings.

Shears no bigger than a pin is one of the exhibits of the skill of a Sheffield workman; a dozen of these shears weigh less than half a grain, or about the weight of a postage stamp; they are as perfectly made as shears of ordinary size.

Goust is the smallest republic as to area, which is exactly one mile. The population numbers 150. It is situated in the Pyrenees.

Tavolara is the smallest republic as to population, having only fifty-three men, women and children. It is twelve miles from Sardinia.

Tristan d'Acunha, in the South Atlantic, sends out its mail once a year to the outside world; it has a population of sixty-four persons—eighteen men, nineteen women, fifteen boys and twelve girls.

King Malietoa the Samoan monarch, lately dead, received a smaller salary than any royalty, \$150 monthly, and it was usually in arrears.

Chinese streets are the narrowest in the world—some of them are only eight feet wide.

The smallest horse in the world is a Shetland pony owned by the Marquis Carcano. Its height does not surpass seventy centimeters; it is often harnessed to a liliupian mail coach.

Berlin has the smallest elephant in the world. It is only one meter high and weighs eighty kilograms.

The smallest camels belong in Persia. They are not more than fifty centimeters high.

The smallest cows in the world are to be found in the Samoan islands.

### A DEPTH YET TO BE REACHED.

You boast of your greater civilization! exclaimed the Indian contemptuously.

Haven't we a right to? No, sir. The Indian has been dragged down by your influence, but he is still superior. He may drink intoxicating liquor. But he doesn't smash the bottles on the asphalt for bicycles to run over.