



Some New Designs.

The most desirable of these are made from Pimento and ornamented with snake-like tracings of silver. The Pimento is really the root of a species of coffee plant, and is imported in bunches, in rough form just as the root is pulled from the ground. The process of preparation is somewhat interesting. First the sticks are sorted into qualities, those having the most garlic and twists being considered the most valuable. Now they are trimmed with a fine circular saw, manufactured especially for the purpose, as it requires a very fine temper to withstand the tough knots, to say nothing of the fine grit and small stones that are often imbedded between the roots and out of sight of the sawyer. If the branch that is joined to the root is long enough and not too crooked the ends and heads are of one piece, but as is the case in many instances, the branch has to be severed from the root, which is then prepared as a handle for some other stick. It is followed out and joined so neatly to another stick as to be imperceptible to the novice. As the roots are very hard they are susceptible of high polish and fine carving.

One of the recent novelties in Pimento cases has a silver lizard, so placed as to look as if he were crawling among the roots after a fly that is ingeniously placed on the opposite side of the stick. Another has a spider's net of silver threads spread between the gnarls. It is a neat though rather suggestive design in the hand of a sporting man.

The popular Madagascar vine is from Brazil. It is a heavy stick and in a free light is worth two Irish blackthorns. Deep seams and heavy knots are its peculiar features. As it is a very fibrous stick it is hard to cut, and is thereby usually finished in natural form by trimming and polishing the end. It is frequently stained a fine seal brown, and makes a swell case for the use of the young man who takes his afternoon stroll in a walking out of brown or mouse color.

Wagon sticks are a Chinese production and are valued because of their peculiar irregular points. The favorite among Germans is the Weichsel. It is cut from a wild cherry that is said to grow only in the Black Forest. Naturally this stick is very crooked and gnarled. In order to get straight sticks the German peasants build frames around the trees and train the young shoots upon them by fastening strings to the tip ends, passing them over pulleys. A light weight is attached to the other end of the string, and as the branch grows stronger the weight is increased. The genuine Weichsel is distinguishable by its pungent odor which comes from the end of the stick at the root after it has been cut down. While the odor is the strongest in the newly cut stick, it is quite noticeable for several years. It is a curious thing of the Weichsel that although it will grow seemingly white as well when transplanted from its native home, sticks cut from the trees that have taken root in the new soil lack in the distinguishing odor of those grown in the Black Forest. The stick known as the

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A YEAR IN A WAGON.

The Queer Home on Wheels of an Artist and His Wife.

H. L. Brewer, the well-known artist, and his wife, have lived for over a year in a cottage on wheels, says the San Francisco Chronicle. Their movable residence is at present a lot in Alameda, where they are encamped under a spreading oak, and where they intend to stay the coming winter. Their home is a result of Mr. Brewer's attempt to secure a place where he could work as a painter and still be able to go where he wished. The house was built in 1894, at a cost of about \$500, and Mr. Brewer said recently that he had already made enough by the saving in rent and expenses to pay for it. The van is somewhat similar to those in use by gypsies, but is fitted up in much more comfortable style. It has one room 10 feet long, 4 1/2 feet wide and 6 feet 3 inches high, and in this space Mr. Brewer and his wife have lived, slept and eaten for the last year. At one end of the wagon, over the wheels, is a raised platform, and here is a pocket edition of a cooking stove, with a collection of shining pots and pans around it. Under the seat of the wagon is Mrs. Brewer's emporium, and her table consists of the top of the big trunk, which contains the wardrobe of the pair. The sleeping arrangements are, however, the greatest puzzle to the uninitiated. The bed consists of two big cushions laid out upon the floor of the wagon, and bedding is stored in a box under the wagon, reached by a trap door in its floor. The little house has plenty of light, as it must have, for Mr. Brewer has it for his studio on occasions. The door is on the left side, between the wheels, and is made in two halves, so that either can be opened independently of the other. Beside the door there is a big plate glass window and several smaller windows. The whole contrivance, including two persons, the little stove and the big trunk, weighs less than 2,400 pounds, and can be taken anywhere by two horses. Mrs. Brewer is no less enthusiastic about the traveling home than her husband. All last winter they were domiciled in the hills above Berkeley and never felt better in their lives. Last August they started with their caravan from Alameda. They went over the hills to Contra Costa county and spent several months sketching in the valleys. Then they went to Berkeley for the winter, and in the spring moved their residence farther up into the hills. This winter they expect to spend in Alameda, and in the spring they will start out for a tour of the state.

Six Dollars for a Wife.

A very romantic story comes from Sumnerville, Chastanock county. Some days ago a couple arrived in that city evidently in the first stage of a violent case of conjugal affection. Their loving tenderness and conspicuous caresses attracted the attention of the steady-going citizens of that model mountain town. They could be seen in the gloaming, out strolling together, and the precincts of Cleghorn spring were rendered still more picturesque by their presence. Married folk took it for granted that they were enjoying the first fruits of love's young dream, and simply passed by on the other side and made wry faces. The single folk blushed

Effect of Fright on Lobsters.

Lobsters are not warlike creatures. They do not mind boiling, but have an extraordinary terror of the smell of powder and the sound of big guns. Such, at least, was the statement made last night at the weekly meeting of the Placatorial Society in the Holborn Restaurant. It was affirmed by one of the speakers that during big gun practices by coast artillery lobsters in the neighborhood become so terrified that their claws drop off from sheer fright. Other kinds of fish, more alert in their movements, also become alarmed at the sound of big guns and leave the locality of the range in millions to take refuge in the deep sea. —London Telegram.

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Fruit Commission Merchant

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