

ITALY is to spend \$15,000,000 on its new navy this fiscal year.

It is a superstition that where the eagle builds its nest the lightning never strikes.

It has been shown that if the sun were a burning sphere of solid coal it could not last 6,000 years.

One need not be hopelessly a fatalist to yet recognize a certain sequence in life that transcends our conscious endeavor.

THERE are in the United States thirty-five or more colleges of pharmacy or departments of pharmacy of universities or colleges.

THE pumice stone was a writing material of the ancients; they used it to smooth the roughness of the parchment or to sharpen their reeds.

It is said that in New York City there is one millionaire in every 1,600 of the population. There is very little comfort in that for the less fortunate 1,599.

The Nicaragua canal is progressing all right. A great deal of work has already been done. It looks as if the canal may be finished within five years.

The library of the Seventh Regiment of New York City contains a new treasure. It is an album of about seventy-five photographic views taken along the line of Sherman's march through Georgia.

The Thomas Cat, a weekly paper in Thomas County, Kansas, emitted its last despairing howl a short time ago, and its bones lie bleaching on the great sandy desert that lies between Vol. I. No. 1 and success in journalism. Its nine lives were not enough.

QUEEN VICTORIA's family now numbers no less than fifty living descendants, including sons and daughters, grandsons and granddaughters, great-grandsons and great-granddaughters. She has also four sons-in-law, four daughters-in-law, five grandsons-in-law, and one granddaughter-in-law. If all the descendants were living, the immediate family would number seventy-four.

The Adams Express Company joins the United States Company in obeying the postal laws intended to cut off the supplies of the Louisiana Lottery Company. In refusing to carry its letters or packages these express companies have badly crippled the great fraud. It is considered certain now that the charter of the company will not be renewed, and its death will save the people of the whole country many million dollars per year.

JUSTICE is not as laggard in England as it is here. Little over a month ago the body of a woman was found in London, and it was at first supposed that Jack the Ripper had claimed another victim. Later it appeared probable that the woman had been murdered by a mistress of her husband. There was an investigation, arrest and trial, and the next day the guilty woman was sentenced to be hanged. This would have been a six months' or year's case in the United States.

In London there is a man who follows the business of tattooing. The majority of his patients are men who have designs of a naval character pricked into their skin, but there are also a great many women who employ his art, if it may be termed such. With them the decoration is usually a bee, a butterfly, a spray of flowers or a monogram. These ornaments are worn inside the wrist, so that they can be hidden by the glove if necessary.

THERE must be some very naughty people in Oklahoma. One house of the territorial Legislature has passed a bill making it a criminal libel for a newspaper to even insinuate anything against a man's character, whether it is fact or not. In describing a burglary under this law, therefore, the newspaper reporter would remark that a gentleman named Slippery Dick got by mistake into Mr. Jones' at 2 o'clock in the morning, and Mr. Jones' silverware somehow got entangled in Mr. Dick's clothing, and he unconsciously walked off with it.

THERE has been another victim to the fraud of Christian science, and a coroner's jury has properly condemned the neglect which permitted a man stricken with deadly disease to die unattended and depending upon nothing better than the empiricisms of a parcel of fanatics. It is hard to be even decently patient with people who are so blind to the rules of life as to allow a fever to run its deadly course to the end, depending upon the charlatany of such a system to do what can only be done by the aid of science and the knowledge of skilled and enlightened men.

The Argentine Committee in London has reported in favor of funding the coupons of the national and external bonds of that Republic for three years. During that time the greatest possible amount of the inflated paper currency is to be withdrawn and burnt. This measure is recommended as giving a sufficient breathing time, and preventing a stoppage in the payment of interest. It is advised that the new

funded bonds shall be secured by the customs receipts, and it is expected that their market value will soon rise to within 10 per cent. of par.

## OUR LITTLE ONES.

A COLUMN DEVOTED TO YOUNG FOLKS' READING.

Complete Instructions for Making the Dancing Marionettes—Some Funny Sayings from the Little Ones—Neat and Pretty Gifts that Children Can Make.

Home from School.  
The western sun comes softly in  
Through half door open wide;  
Young Rover lies with low-stretched chin  
Upon the steps outside;  
The great hall clock ticks sleepily;  
A hint of clucking hen  
Comes from the yard uncertainly;  
Then all is still again.

But bark! A banging of the gate!  
A clatter up the walk!  
A tangle of blithe sounds elate  
In song and laugh and talk!  
Loud strikes the clock! The chickens flee!  
Rover's frantic fool!

The very sunshine laughs to see  
The children home from school!

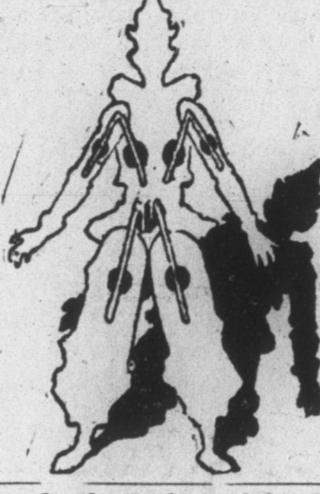
### Dancing Marionettes.

Marionettes, says a sanguine inventor, must have an inherent life of their own. The clown, the Columbine, and all the figures representing animals will now caper about on their own hook.

Worn out visiting cards, matchsticks, these are the very simple materials with which people who are fond of a little nonsense now and then can fashion all the figures represented by these designs, which can at any time be set in motion like mechanical toys.

Take, for instance, a clown. First

draw and paint the figure on the back



of a card—the body and head first, then the two legs and arms—carefully cut out these five pieces, place the body on a table, and above it the legs and arms in a position of rest.

Now these limbs must be joined, and this is how it is to be done. Take, for instance, an arm, mark with a pencil, at the shoulder end of the arm, the exact spot forming the axis of rotation, pierce a hole with a pin at this point and put it through the shoulder in the body. Bend a matchstick at the center as much as possible without breaking, and drop a little melted sealing-wax, joining the two ligaments to the arm and body respectively, making the part forming the joint be in contact with the pin. Do the same for the other limbs, remove the four pins, and the figure is complete. Now we have to give it life.

All that has to be done for this is to place the side of the figure on which are the matches in a plate containing a thin layer, so to say, of water. The bent fibers of wood which have not been broken will swell by means of the moisture absorbed and will try to regain their rectilinear position. The figure will then make a series of abrupt movements, which are very amusing. The legs and arms will move apart as those which are moved by a string. Be careful to use only large, common matchsticks. The Swedish ones are impregnated with paraffine and would not move as required.

Each one can perfect the mode of fashioning these figures as he likes best. A ballet girl who can lift her foot to her forehead, a rooster which can move its legs about are pretty easy to make. A horse with twelve different joints is bit too difficult for an amateur. For the horse each leg is composed of three different portions.

Instead of placing the figure on a plate we can put a drop of water on each joint with the finger or with a paint brush, and the effect will be the same.

The winter evenings are present which cause young and old to assemble round the family table. The time



seems favorable to recommend to our readers those new dancing marionettes.

Sayings of Small Ones.

One day Ray and Ernest were playing together, and as they occasionally quarreled their mother said:

"If you are naughty again I will separate you."

In a little while Ernest called:

"Mamma, please come and separate Ray, he's naughty."

"Mamma, what's twins?" asked the smallest child.

"I know," replied an older one before the mother could answer. "Twins is two babies just the same age; three babies are triplets; four are quadrupeds, and five are centipedes."

One day Tommie, aged three years and nine months, said to Jack, aged two years:

"Jack, do you know what knowledge is?"

"No, indeed," said Jack.

"I don't, either," was the reply.

Then after a few minutes:

"Jack, you will never amount to anything if you don't know what knowledge is."

"Well, ef dat bird end talk, when I had him by de neck and wuz a gwinne ter wring his head off, why de debbil didn't he say so?"—New Orleans Delta.

The other day a little five-year old girl called at a toy store and asked if they had any little dolls for a cent. A pretty little earthenware doll was handed out, and the little girl took it in her tiny hands, gazed into the doll's face as if admiring its beauty, and then raised it to her lips and gave it a fervent kiss.

"I just wanted to kiss little dolly—dat's all I wanted."

Then she handed the little image back to the astonished salesman and tripped lightly out upon the street with a beaming smile of satisfaction.

Gifts that Children Can Make.

Pen-wipers and book-marks are very pretty, and can be made by children. For a pen-wiper take three or four small oval pieces of chamois skin. "Extracts from the pen of—" can be marked on the top layer with a colored pencil. Put a bow of ribbon where the layers are fastened together, and through this bow put a quill cut in the shape of a pen. When finished it is odd put pretty.

Sand rolls are very useful to lay across a book to keep it open when laid on the table, also on a piano to keep a book open while one is playing from it. A small roll can be made of plush, silk or woolen, with some design painted or embroidered on it. If you use plush, take a piece nine inches long and four and one-half inches wide. Stitch it up lengthwise, gather up one end, make a bag filled with sand, slip inside the plush, gather up the end and finish with a ball tassel at both ends.

Mind Reading in Chicago.

P. Alexander Johnstone, the wonderful young mind-reader, gave an exhibition of his powers on an Indiana avenue horse-car that resulted in the complete demoralization of a prominent South Side business man, and furnished infinite amusement to several of his friends. The business man is very fond of his wife, whom he affectionately calls Jennie, and is exceptionally proud of his three interesting children, the eldest of whom is an auburn-haired miss of 15. When he seated himself beside Johnstone, facing his friends, he ventured a remark that led up to an animated conversation. Mind-reading was finally broached, when Johnstone, concealing his identity, said he could duplicate the mind-reader's work. The business man's incredulity was expressed in his ejaculation, "Rats."

"Take one of those letters you hold in your hand," said Johnstone, "and think intently of the signature." The man complied, and in an instant Johnstone repeated the name at the bottom of the epistle. The man looked a little surprised, but presently, glancing at the envelope, saw the signer's card on the upper left corner. "That's only a trick," he said, "now tell me the signature to this," holding out a dainty missive.

Johnstone took the man's wrist, closed his eyes, and, after thinking a moment, asked if he really wanted the full signature mentioned. "Why, yes," said the man, doubtfully, and betokening a certain apprehension.

"Your loving little sweetheart, Edith," Johnstone replied.

The business man looked at Johnstone in wild-eyed amazement, and then hastily left the car, followed by the uproarious laughter of his friends. "It's a good thing for Ned that Jennie isn't here," commented one of the friends.—Chicago Evening Journal.

THE POET POE'S COTTAGE.

In the village of Fordham, a suburb of New York City, still stands, in a good state of preservation, the cottage



EDGAR POE'S COTTAGE.

occupied by Edgar Allan Poe, the author of "The Raven," "Fall of the House of Usher," "Hans Pfall," "The Gold Bug," and other famous stories and poems.

The quaint, white, story-and-a-half cottage is daily visited by many admirers of the dead poet, whose happiest days were spent beneath its thatched roof.

A Rather Expensive Bird.

Two darkies in the country made, in partnership, a splendid cotton crop and shipped it to New Orleans. One of the partners came down with it to sell it, and to buy the provisions for the next year. After the sale of the cotton he was walking down the street looking for something to buy as a present for his partner. In passing a bird store on Charles street his eye was caught by a parrot, and he went in and priced it. He was told \$25. "Huh!" said he, "\$25 for that bird?" "Yes," said the dealer, "that bird can talk."

"Lemme hear him," said the darky. And the parrot was put through his paces. The darky bought him, and, as he had to stay over and buy the provisions for next year, he shipped him up on the boat leaving next afternoon, directed to his partner. The next week he went up, and as he stepped off the boat was met by his partner when, after the usual salutations, the following conversation took place:

"Well, Tom, how did you like dat bird I sent you?"

"Huh wuz a mighty putty bird, but he were powful tuff."

"Tuff? Tuff? You doan' mean ter tell me dat you dun eat dat bird?"

"Dat bird? In course I dun eat dat bird."

"My Gawd, nigger, dat bird cos' twenty-five dollars, an' he end talk like er lawyer."

"Well, ef dat bird end talk, when I had him by de neck and wuz a gwinne ter wring his head off, why de debbil didn't he say so?"—New Orleans Delta.

She Can Read Clicks.

Perhaps the only society woman in New York, who has any practical knowledge of telegraphy is Mrs. Collis, wife of General Charles H. T. Collis, ex-General, ex-banker, and at present insurance magnate. Mrs. Collis, who is a strikingly handsome woman, unusually accomplished, may really be considered an expert in the art of telegraphing. She learned when General Collis, then a banker, had a private wire connecting his New York and Philadelphia offices with his handsome Fifth Avenue residence.

Mrs. Collis learned to telegraph that she might have little snatches of conversation with her husband during business hours or his occasional absences in Philadelphia, and so thoroughly did she acquire a knowledge that General Collis declares no telegraphic expert can click a message over the wire with greater skill and firmness than his pretty wife can wire.

"Please send me a check."

## THEY LIVE FOR LOVE.

Mexican Women Interest Themselves Only in Heart Affairs.

MEXICAN educates his sons and sends them to college, but his daughters have to remain with their mother. There are too many women there, and they live for nothing but love. They become accomplished, of course, but beyond being good entertainers, good Mexicans, and good linguists they do not amount to much.

It is considered a disgrace for a Mexican lady to earn her own living. The men do the cooking and male servants do the housework. If a young lady should learn stenography and typewriting, or should try in any manner to earn her own living, she would be ostracized from society.

A Mexican lover must woo in patience, as his intentions are from the start, treated as a family matter by the parents of the beloved of his soul. He is bound by custom to make known to his lady love his desire to pay his addresses. If the communication is pleasant he is referred to the mother and the siege of the maiden's heart may be said to be begun.

Custom compels the youth to execute a movement called "Playing the bear," which consists of a daily afternoon promenade before the shaded jalouse behind which sits the maiden, flanked by her mother, sisters, female cousins, and aunts.

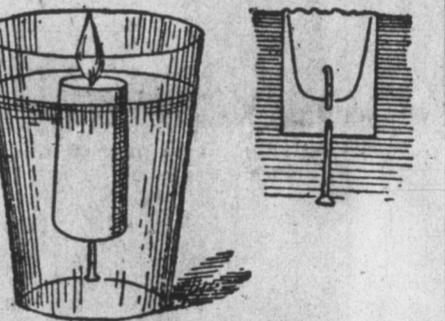
Before such a battery of black eyes the suitor must pace back and forth for at least twenty minutes a day. He may toss a note up into the jalouse, if so he has sufficient courage to face the party, but his missives are read by the mother before they are delivered to his love.

His love may answer the notes, but her replies must be read and edited by her mother before they are given to the stately senior pacing up and down in the blazing tropical sun. If the suitor is approved by the family, he is soon permitted to talk to the senorita, still in the presence of her family. Ere long he is allowed to call, and thenceforth the wooing progresses more in accordance with American views.

A WATER CANDLESTICK.

Clever Way of Making a Wick Burn Steadily and Without Odor.

In a tumbler filled with water a piece of a paraffin candle is placed, after having been weighted by a nail stuck in the lower end to keep the candle floating. The advantage of this light is that it



THE WATER CANDLESTICK.

burns steadily, being below the line of any draught, and when it is extinguished by the water, leaving no smoke.

As the candle burns down in the ordinary light it flickers and at last gives out an odor of burning grease, which is very unpleasant to the sick. The water glass candle-holder prevents all this.

Two Fingers to an American.

Although the manners of French "smart men" do not savor quite as much of the stable as those of England, they are, if possible, greater prigs, writes H. C. Taylor in the Chicago News. It is their custom to shake hands according to rank. An ordinary mortal is given two fingers; a baron, viscount, or count is given three; a marquis four; and a duke or prince the entire hand. A few months ago a Frenchman, whose mother is an American, met an American whom he had known from childhood. In shaking hands the Frenchman put out two fingers.

The American, having lived much in France, would not permit this upstart to patronize him, so he turned to the Frenchman and told him that if he ever tried to shake hands with two fingers again, he would pull his nose. For six months the Frenchman always presented his entire hand. A short time since, however, the American was leaving Havre for home. He met the Frenchman on the ship, who was there for the purpose of seeing his mother off for America. Just as the gangway was being lowered, the two parted, and the Frenchman presented his two fingers and rushed off the ship. He had been waiting his opportunity, and it was thus that he paid the American for the threatened insult.

She Can Read Clicks.