

SUGAR was unknown to the ancient Greeks and Romans.

QUEEN VICTORIA was born on May 24, 1819, and succeeded her uncle, William IV., on June 20, 1837.

A SEALSKIN coat or robe has been "built" and lined with salite for the Duchess of Portland at a cost of 1,000 guineas.

LONDON affords for the use of its 5,000,000 of inhabitants nineteen free public and twenty-five commercial bathing establishments.

AN attempt is being made in London to form a huge ring for the control of the calico printing business. Many of the largest houses are already pledged to the syndicate.

AN agnostic is a man who vows he knows nothing, and gets wrath and vexed with you if you believe him. He says he doesn't know anything, but he really believes he knows everything.

A PHILADELPHIA cable-car, turning a street curve, jolted the "bang" off the forehead of a stylish lady and flung it on the newspaper of a gentleman who was reading of a scalping incident somewhere West.

THE national powder mill at St. Medard-en-Jalle, in France, has recently been lighted by incandescent lamps, and it is believed to be the first mill of its class on the Continent to use electric lighting.

EDOUARD DETAILLE'S great military picture, the finest he has ever painted, depicting a charge of the Fourth French Hussars in 1807, and called "Vive l'Empereur!" is soon to be exhibited in this country.

LABOUCHERE says that a woman who stands in a car is a nuisance. The truth of this remark will come home to every man who has been made uncomfortable in his seat by the eyes of a woman clinging to a car-strap.

JUMPING claims in Idaho is dangerous business. A man at Wallace named Harris found three men putting up a cabin on a lot owned by him. They refused to leave, whereupon he got his gun, shot two of them dead and dangerously wounded the third.

"I PROPOSE to die!" said a man as he entered a Sacramento saloon. "Give me a glass of beer in which to take poison!" It was handed him, his money dropped into the till, and the barkeeper watched him as he sprinkled in strichnine and drank it off, to die two hours later.

THE Earl of Devon became a bankrupt in 1872, owing \$3,500,000, most of which was "on honor" or for racing obligations. He paid about half a cent on a dollar and didn't lose much rest over the balance. As he is dead now his patient creditors may strike a balance and call it square.

HENRY WILLIAMS gave a hack-driver \$2 to take him to the depot in Savannah in advance of the bus, and he got there just in time to be run over by a horse, smashed under a bill board and trampled on by a drove of mules. When the bus came rolling up he was rolled off to a hospital.

A NEW YORK club recently gave a dinner to all the principal freaks in the dime museums. Living skeletons, fat women, turtle boys, contortionists, magnetic women, Chinese giants, calf-headed boys, three-armed and four-legged both dined and danced with their hosts until a very late hour.

SOME years ago Lady Assington philanthropically sent twenty-four English families to the Cape to found an improved colony. She bought land for them, but the result was a failure. The men would not work, but hired Kaffirs instead. Some died of drink, and most of those remaining left for the gold fields.

THE Archduke Charles Louis, heir presumptive to the Austrian throne, allows each of his sons fifty florins a month (\$83.50) for spending money until they are of age. When they have attained their eighteenth year they are free, and each then can "go the pace" if he so desires, with an income of 20,000 florins a year (\$33,400).

BEDS are quite an innovation in Russia, and many well-to-do houses are still unprovided with them. Peasants sleep on the tops of their ovens; middle-class people and servants roll themselves up in sheepskins and lie down near stoves; soldiers rest upon wooden cots without bedding; and it is only within the last few years that students in state schools have been allowed beds.

PROF. DARA concludes that during the glacial period Long Island Sound, instead of being, as it now is, an arm of the ocean twenty miles wide, was for the greater part of its length a narrow channel serving as a common trunk for many Connecticut streams and a few from Long Island. In these circumstances the supply of fresh water for the Sound river would have been so great that salt water would have barely passed the entrance of the Sound.

THE lace factories of Kursk and Ory are receiving more orders from France than they can fill. At the late exhibition in Paris the Russian lace

was bought with avidity by the French ladies. Since then lace has become fashionable throughout France. The Russian lace manufacturers indulge in the hope that the demand for their ware will steadily increase; they accordingly enlarge their workshops and engage as many laborers as they can get.

QUEEN VICTORIA's family circle now numbers fifty living descendants, including sons and daughters, grandsons and granddaughters, great grandsons and great granddaughters. Besides these she has four sons-in-law, five grandsons-in-law, and one granddaughter-in-law. The Queen has lost one son, one daughter, five grandsons, one great-grandson, and one son-in-law. If these were living her family circle would number seventy-four.

THE magnesium flash-light has been recently used experimentally for night signaling at Potsdam, Germany, with interesting results. It has been found that even in a snow-laden atmosphere the flash from three grams of magnesium powder was visible at a distance of about forty-six miles. By the addition of a small quantity of strontium, or lithium salts, red light was produced which could be seen even further than the white flash.

A SHORT distance out from Buena Vista, Cal., there is a cave literally swarming with spiders of a curious species of immense size, some having legs four inches in length and a body as large as that of a canary bird. The cave was discovered in December, 1879, and was often resorted to by the pioneers, who obtained the webs for use in place of thread. Early and late the cave constantly resounds with a buzzing noise which is emitted by the spiders while they are weaving their nets.

DR. KELLNER, director of a cellulose factory, says the *Elektrotechnisches Echo*, has succeeded in materially reducing the cost of that article. His method is to put the shredded wool into lead-lined boilers, with a 5 per cent solution of common salt, which is electrolyzed for three and one-half hours, the nascent chlorine bleaching the wool fiber to a snow-white silky substance. The operation is conducted at a temperature of 126 to 128 degrees, and paper made from the product is of a particularly fine texture.

THE fair banjoist has struck a new fad which she proposes to pursue until her instrument is all aglow with fluttering souvenirs. Each one of the silken ribbons displays at one end the monogram of the giver, sometimes embroidered and sometimes stamped in gold. These are frequently presented by the young belle's masculine friends, thus reversing the order of things—the young woman wearing her admirer's colors. It is pathetic to watch the embarrassment of the color-blind young man when he discovers that he has presented his lady love with a ribbon as green as the Emerald Isle under the impression that it was a divine blue, which is so symbolic of fidelity.

A LONDON magazine states that before 1840 there were no granite pavements in that city. Wood pavements were used in 1839. Asphalt, which now covers so much of London, was not used until 1869, fifteen years after it was first laid down in Paris. Some years ago, it was found by observations of the number of falling horses that a horse might be expected to travel 132 miles on granite, 191 on asphalt, and 446 on wood without falling. In wet weather granite is nearly as safe as wood when dry. Asphalt is decidedly the most risky of all, for even when dry the estimate of an increased distance is no more than 223 miles, and when damp and wet, 125 and 192 miles are set down as a limit.

THE Worcester Spy relates the following incident: "Among the visitors at the court house yesterday was a snow-white pigeon that alighted on the sill of one of the windows of the clerk's office. The window was opened and the bird calmly walked in with all the confidence of a lawyer. He as calmly walked the whole length of the office, quietly observing everything. Pretty soon, as his acquaintance with the officials increased, he perched himself upon the desks and later on the shoulders and head of one of the assistants. It was not decided by the officials whether he had a case to try or whether he wished to enter a writ. Anyway, he was placed on a shelf among the ancient dead. The window was opened, but the inner atmosphere was more congenial to his excellency, so he stayed."

ONE is apt to think that the world has been pretty well ransacked for advertising schemes, and that the supply is liable to run out. Experience proves, however, that the mind of the inventor is practically inexhaustible and breaks out in perennial exhibitions of its resources. One of these is the new toy-gun for posting advertisements. The gun is used for shooting advertising arrows into trees, fences, buildings or any inanimate objects. The arrow is feathered with light cardboard of various colors bearing in large type any desired inscription. Two sections of the cardboard and the resultant angles are embraced by a cross slit kerf, the rear of the stick being wound with cord and the point being sharpened to increase penetration. The advertising darts can thus be projected out of ordinary reach, but just high enough not to escape the notice of the passer-by.

IT was a little bear cub. It stopped directly in front of the window, and, sitting up, nodded to Alice in the most friendly manner. "Oh, you amusing thing," she cried. "I'm going to feed you." And opening the window, she tossed out a sweet cracker, which Master Bear snapped up in a moment; then, sitting up, he made another bow, and held out his paw for more. So she gave him another, but just as he was stooping to snap it up he suddenly fell at full length on the snow; and, with his forepaws over his eyes, lay perfectly still. "Why, you poor little fellow, what can be the matter?" said Allie. At the same moment she saw a man coming very fast; he had

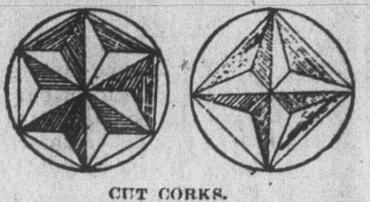
CUTE THINGS IN CORK

HOW CHILDREN CAN HAVE FUN WITHOUT EXPENSE.

The Way to Cut Cork—How to Make a Cork Bull Dog, a Tight-Rope Walker, and Many Other Things of Interest to Children.

The decoration of a small box in cork costs but little in labor and nothing in cash, particularly if a system of rosettes be devised, such as is here shown, says a writer in *Golden Days*.

Make a couple of hundred of these carved roundels and glue them on



CUT CORKS.

two rows, and you will hardly believe the result is your handiwork.

"Carved roundels" sounds very artistic, indeed. Perhaps a sketch, showing how the roundels are made, may quell any alarm the phrase may have inspired. Take a few old bottle-corks and cut them like this:

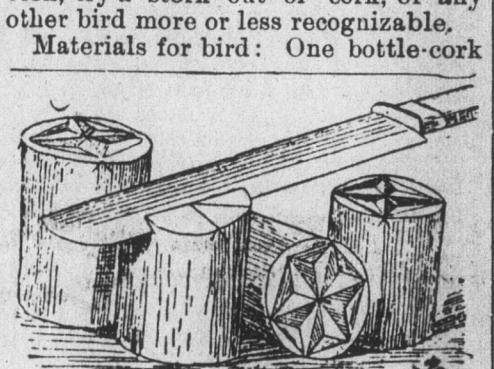
Hold your knife at half a right angle as you cut the cross-pieces, and then cut it from the sides, also at half a right angle, and in this way you will produce the "incised work."

If you want four rays, make two cuts across; if you want six, make three in the manner shown by the artist where he has put the knife in.

The cork tree is said to be an oak yielding a valuable bark. It may not be inappropriate, therefore, to model out of cork another source of bark more or less worthless.

TRY a bulldog. His body is one cork; his head is another; his legs are four matches; his tail is another match; his nose, his mouth, his eyes are made with a red-hot skewer. To stick the head onto the body, use a double-pointed match, and thus give him the power of twisting his head round if you feel so inclined. A comical little fellow is this cork bulldog, and when you get so far as a dozen of them they look very well indeed.

Having succeeded with a dog out of cork, try a stork out of cork, or any other bird more or less recognizable. Materials for bird: One bottle-cork



THE WAY TO CUT THEM.

(used), two matches, one hairpin. Average cost, nothing; time, ten minutes.

Cut the body first. Cut the head out of one of the body fragments.

Stick in the neck; stick on the head with the beak in it; stick on the legs; stick the legs in the stand. Can anything be simpler?

Never chop a cork: cut it as if you were sawing it. Above all, do not use new corks; their roughness is their chief artistic merit.

To make a figure that will move, take four sticks for the arms and legs, cut a cork for his body and thrust in his limbs. Cut a round knob out of another cork, mortise in a nose, cut out a mouth, and, with a skewer or hairpin, burn out his eyes and buttons.

Then, with a piece of match, fix on his head, and if you can find some feathers, give him a topknot.

Cut a nick in the side of his right



A CORK TIGHT-ROPE WALKER.

foot, and in his waist fix a couple of table forks. Then stand him on a string sloping from one end of the room to the other, and away he will go as gracefully as any live rope-walker.

A CUNNING CUB.

Alice stood at the window, watching the falling snow. "What's that?" she said as she caught sight of something up the street.

"It's a dog—a woolly dog," she cried out. "Oh, no, it's not a dog: it's a little bear!"

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a whip. He stopped when he saw the cub, and snapped the whip. In a moment, Master Bear was sitting up, bowing and offering his paw.

Alice was afraid that he would be punished for running away, so she opened the window and said, in coaxing little voice: "Oh, please don't whip him; he's so cunning!"

"Well, I won't, miss, if you don't want me to," said the man. "Come, Ned!" Ned understood by the tone of his master's voice that he was not to be punished; he immediately got up and clasped his paws around his master's leg and hugged him tight. "That's the way he always does when we wake up," said the man.—*Annie L. Hanan*, in *Little Men and Women*.

PORTABLE PARLOR FOUNTAIN

An Ingenious and Simple Contrivance Which Is Very Attractive.

The annexed engraving, taken from a Vienna paper, illustrates a fountain consisting principally of two equal-sized basins, each containing a spraying nozzle and an outlet pipe, the spraying nozzles being connected by two rubber pipes with the outlet pipes, as plainly shown in the sectional view.

The basins are supported on suitable holders connected with each other by parallel levers fulcrumed on the flower stand. A weight is adapted to be hung

Station Master and the Nobles.

An amusing incident occurred on a Southern railroad in England in connection with the Duke of Norfolk and the Marquis of Bute. The duke and marquis were fellow travelers, and when the train stopped at — station a companion joined them in the person of the station master himself, who was going for a jaunt some twenty miles further up the line. The duke and the station master, who were both diminutive men, and therefore fond of talk, soon got into conversation, while the marquis, a tall, robust man, was inclined to be reticent, until he found his friend, the duke, up to his ears in conversation, when he himself joined, addressing most of his remarks to the stranger.

At length the train arrived at B—, and the marquis bid a hearty farewell to the duke, and with a kindly adieu and a shake of the hand from the stranger the marquis quitted the carriage, while his dispatch box and wraps were secured, to the surprise of the station master, by a tall, powdered footman, and the train soon glided away out of the station. Silence was not, however, long maintained, the station master breaking out with the question. "I wonder who that swell was?"

"That," replied his companion, "was the Marquis of Bute."

The answer seemed to dumbfound the station master for a time, but presently he exclaimed. "Well, now, I do think it kind of him to talk to two such snobby little chaps as us, don't you?"

The duke nodded his assent and had a good laugh. When the train drew up again his grace affably bid his companion "Good-by," and, on alighting on the platform, was received with the greatest deference by a throng of Jesuit priests, this incident again setting the station master the task of inquiry, who inquisitively asked a brother official who that little bloke was.

"That," replied the guard, "is the Duke of Norfolk."

The station master, after this, declared he would never travel first-class again as long as he lived.

He Knew How.

A typical American workingman, quite browned by the sun, muscular, intelligent and smiling, stood upon a platform of boards supported by barrels in front of the porch of an apartment house just off Fifth avenue carrying a gargoyle from a block of brown stone. He was American, because he could work while he talked, was master of his plans, his tools and himself, wore clothes that fitted him, and replied courteously to the many questions of an interested group of bystanders. The block of stone from which he was evolving a face was supported by a pillar of polished Scotch granite, and was part of a somewhat impressive entrance of an expensive pile of stone and mortar, but neither the fact that he could not afford to spoil his job, nor that his studio was in the open air and seemed to trouble him. He hammered, smiled and talked, and the chips flew all around the human circle.

"Yes," he said, "I carry the pattern in my head. (Chirp, chirp.) What is this to be? A Venus. (Chirp.) Yes. A Haytian Venus would not be a bad one. (Chirp, chirp.) This is Portland stone, the best there is for cutting and the best in the world for builders, any way. (Chirp.) How do I keep from making a wrong cut and spoiling the stone? That's my trade, sir; that's knowing how to do it."

Thus he went on chipping at the stone, cutting a deep gash here and hammering off a great chunk of the sandstone there, seemingly reckless of the havoc he was making, but smiling away until, between his mallet and the chisel, he seemed to have transferred his smile to the face that began to gleam from the rough brown surface of the rock.

Facts About the Internal Revenue.

To collect the internal revenue costs in gross, mainly for salaries, about \$4,250,000 a year. You might suppose that the distilling of fruits, say apples, peaches and grapes, would amount to a good deal, but the internal revenue received only about \$1,333,000 from those sources, and from grain distillations it received over \$75,000,000. The government taxes retail liquor dealers, and from them we received \$4,500,000, and nearly \$500,000 more from wholesale liquor dealers. There is a tax amounting to hardly \$5,000 upon the manufacturers of stills and worms. Tobacco cuts the aggregate figure of about \$34,000,000 per annum as compared to alcohol at \$82,000,000. The cigar makers within our country pay the government over \$12,000,000 a year; the tobacco dealers in the chewing and smoking departments pay some \$20,000,000; snuff pays \$750,000, and cigarettes over \$1,000,000. Cigarette consumption increased the mere tax in that department about \$41,000 last year.—*Gath*, in *Cincinnati Enquirer*.

Whitefish and Trout.

At the station of the United States Fish Commission at Alpena, Mich., the total number of whitefish eggs collected during the spawning season was 50,920,000. Of this number two employees of the commission took 1,920,000 from Dec. 1 to 6, at Beaver Island, Lake Michigan. The loss of eggs during December was only six per cent. of the total. About one-third of the eggs were obtained from fish caught in gill nets. The temperature of the water ranged from 33 degrees on Dec. 1st to 34 degrees on the 31st. On the last day of December there were available for distribution from the station at Northville: Lake trout eggs,