#### EARD ON THE POETS.

Prof. Outhrie Doubts Immortality of Homer and Shakespears.

Prodicts New Literary Sea Which Will Cost Into the Background the Genius of the Loved Bards.

Memer and Shakespeare were shahes from their high and lofty pedestale in the immortal row of classic poets and writers by Wildiam Norman Guthrie, director of the Cincininati conferences of art and literature the other afternoon in a pub-"He lecture at the University of Chicago. Not only did the lecturer declare that these two peers in the realm of literature were not immortal, that he insisted to the astoniahment of his andience that he should be hittherly disappointed if they were im-

According to Mr. Guthrie, who deliverediture lectures the other afternoon the growded houses, there is a bright day coming for the future man and ma. They will be so far shove and harond the tastes, feelings and intel-Sectuality of the present-day reader that Homer, thakespeare and other Miserary lights, dear to many generathous, will no longer be fit to read.

Shakespeare and Homer are ac-Ameniaded by Mr. Guthrie tobe great poets even supreme at the precent stime-but he does not want to think athet they are going to hold their misces in the front rank of great litserery merit.

The penny novel came in for praise when he said that he had a certain pamount of respect for people who for the "penny dreadful," because it is the beginning of imagination. It to the lack of imagination in many books that ealled forth criticism from the lecturer.

The lecturer caused quite a stir mong the women in the audience when, in presenting the idea that litserature to be understood must be practiced, he said "the proper unestanding of this idea will bill the idea that literature is a diversion for certain class of idle ladies.

"To some extent," he said, "lisersthere has been mistaught, because # has been the only art which people have tried to study without trying to meactice. If you are going to study a movel, write one; if a drama, write one. I wrote six dramas, one after the bet "

The art of reading has been lost, asspording to Mr. Guthrie. Students do mot know how to read, because they do not know the agony with which construction is effected. They never mult know until they get their hands Mr. No man, he said, can read verse without being able to write it.

"Sugar-coated novels" are read by a great many people, who would mever read them unless they con-Sained a religious story or many moral

"Imquisitiveness," he said, "is the materal feeling of a normal, healthy body. If women are more inquisitive than men. It is because they are more bealthy and have better appetites and digention."

## PING-PONG POR ESKINOS.

Miss Pener, Daughter of the Arotic Explorer, Takes the Game Along on Trip Towards Pole.

The Peary relief ship Windward han come down the Hudson from Hewburg, where it has been refitted with new boilers, and docked at Jermey City for supplies to take north. Thirty tons of food supplies, consisting principally of camed goods and sereals, were taken on board and the best started immediately on The veyage to the north.

Mrs. Peary saw the ship off and will go north herself by train to Sydney, N. S., where the Windward will stop to coal. Mrs. Peary, with her daughter, will go aboard there seamd go the rest of the voyage to Cape Sabine, 79 degrees north, in Eliamere Land, where the relieving marty, expects to find Lieut. Peary. He will return to the United States with them. The daughter, Miss Marie, is going to take along a pingpong outfit and show her father and

# AUTOMOBILE LAWN-MOWER.

the Eskimos how to play.

New Machine Which Cuts the Green Sward on Capitol Hill at Washington,

An automobile lawn mower has been set to work on the greensward of Capitol Hill at Washington. The new machine resembles both a steam road roller and a steamboat whistle. A huge brass dome, surmounted with a brass smokestack, is mounted on a pair of rollers. Ahead of the front roller is fixed a lawn mower mechan-Mann, over which sits the chaffeur. The little machine puffs up the hills and swings around and goes down again, while the grass flies up in front like a green mountain. It cuts about three times the amount of grass that can be laid low by the old une-horse machine, which it superwoded. The advantage which is Mislamed for the mower is that the roller passing over the ground after the grass has been eut crushes down authe weeds and kills them.

When Profesours Should Talk. President Harper does not propose so muzzle his professors, but he inissues that they shall not talk hereafter unless they have something to imny. This seems barsh, says the Chicago Inter Ocean, but discipline as necessary in a great educational fastisation as it is eleewhere.

### SOME THUMB-RING LORE.

Populatity of a New Industry What Was Introduced There by an American Bootbinch.

"The American occupation of Porto Mee has resulted in the introduction of one Anglo-Sagon institution among the Letin peoples of the West Indies, that has already become fast and permanent," said Dr. J. W. Powher, of the bureau of ethnology, who, reports the Washington Post. returned lately from an archaeological tour of that island, in the course of which he was afforded unusual opportunities for viewing the life and customs of the islanders tempered by American influences. Continuing, he said:

SERVES IN PORTO RICO. 144

"The first American troops :that landed on the island were ascompanied by a colored bootblack; a boy about 12 or 14 years of age, from New York, who drove a thriving bush mees shining the shoes of the officers. The Porto Ricans were strangers to such an institution, but being of an imitative turn, were set dong in adopting what to them seemed worth copying. Following on the heels of the army came other Americans, so that the little bootblack from New York soon had more business than he could attend to. But thin, however, did not last very long, and in less than two months after his makes, he experienced very lively competition from the youngsters of San Juan, who, watching his movementa, straightway provided themselves with boxes, brushes, and blacking, and learning the word "Shine," were ready to black shoes after the most approved American

fashion. "To-day every city and town in Porto Rico is full of little bostblacks; for the natives having noticed that properly polished shoes constituted part of the make-up of well-dressed Americans, and auxious not to be outdone in the matter of style, adopted the custom of keeping their shoes shined.

The American occupation and influence is being felt in other ways throughout the island, and is more epecially noticeable in the schools. The people are anxious to learn, and education is looking up all over the island. During my sojourn among these people I visited a country achool one day where the teacher, a bright young Porto Rican, called one of his pupils, a little boy ten years of age, to the blackboard and directed him to draw, a map of the state of Pennsylvania. The little fellow executed the map as well, if not better, than I could have done myself, putting in the rivers and cities, the names of which he wrote out in Spanish. Another little fellow drew a map of Connecticut, and I am free to confess that I never in my life saw a brighter class in geog-

"Another thing I noticed in that everybody on the island is anxious into use more and more every day. It is now being taught in all the schools, and the generation now growing up will be able to speak and read the language as well as their native Spanish."

## THEY LIKE ERUPTIONS.

Sawalians Welcome the Activity of Kilanes as a Great Attraction to Victors.

"In Rawall we pray for Mount Kilauea to become active, and the more eruptions there are the better we like it," said Philip Peck, a banker of Hilo, recently, according to the Washington Times. "An eruption does no harm," he added, naively.

"Doesn't do any harm? Well, it appears that Mont Pelee did plenty of

"That was a different kind of activity from Kilauca. In Hawaii where Mount Kilaues has not been disturbed for two years, the eruption is of slight consquence. But it is a great sight to see the great lake of lava boil over the sides of the creater and pushed its way down into the bowllike valley which has been formed by eruptions more violent in the ages past.

"The right is such an unusual one that ft causes a great influx of visitors each year, and that naturally is a good thing for the island financially. That's why we like the volcano to be active. Kilanea's crater is the largest in the world. People used to go and sit by its edges and watch for an overflow of the lava. The guides could tell almost to the minute when these overflows would occur.

"In 1882 there threatened a great eruption, and the natives were afraid that the town of Hilo would be injured. The Princess Ruth, of the royal family of Kamahameha, went to the mountain down which the lave had begun to run. With her she carried several chickens and one or two other animals. Standing by the edge of the erater she threw up her head-she was one of those imperial looking women and weighed about 400 pounds. She called out addressing the the Hawatian

"'Pelee, you promised never to hurt Hilo; now I have come to remind you of your promise."

"With this she threw the chickens into the lava. The next day the disturbance somewhat subsided, and the natives attributed to the princess the credit of it."

The Seeds Were There. First Neighbor-Hallo, you look busy; what are you doing?

Becond Neighbor Planting some of my seeds, that's all. First Neighbor (suspiciously)-H'm. thought it looked as if you were planting one of my hens.

Second Neighbor-Well, that's all right; the seeds are inside.-- Moon-

Pasts of Inferest Concerning Fernance Specimens and Wearers in \_\_\_ Ameleut Eletery.

The custom of rings upon the thumb prevailed in England until the cites of the eighteenth century, and is of very ancient origin. There is a mummy case in the British museum which represents an Eyptian lady wearing: rings upon the thumbs of both her hands. The Romans were greatly addicted to this practice, and as many of their thumb rings were most cumbersome and inconvenient. the patricians varied their rings with the season, terming them "summer" or "winter" rings, as the case might be, says London Lady.

During his visit to Rome. Addison saw some of these old rings, and comments thus upon them: "So very thick about, and with such large stones in them, that 'tis no wonder a fop should reckon them a little cumbersome in the summersesson of so hot a climate. The Emperor Trajan possessed a "winter thumb ring" which measured some 3% inches in width and bore a bust in high relief of his consort. Plotina. English thumb rings do not appear to have been less massive. During the latter part of the middle ages they formed a part of the necessary adorament of the bishop when he was arrayed in full pontificals.

Thomas a Becket possessed a thumb ring set with a valuable ruly, which was about the size of a hea's egg. This ring was a gift from Louis VII. of France. At the reformation, Bluff King Hal seized the archbishop's ring from his despoiled shrine and took it for his own personal adornment, thus bringing thumb rings back into fashion for awhile. They had long been abandoned by the upper classes and had gradually come to be considered indicative of the burgess class. Thumb rings were often set with the tooth of some animal se an amulet. A wolf's tooth was supposed to act as a charm against assault, while a badger's tooth brought wealth and general good luck.

The crapandine, or toadstone, was also used in this way, as it was suposed to possess rarious mystic vire thes, one of which being the power of warning its wearer of the presence of poison in his food-or drink by changing its color. The mystic word "Anamyaptas" was often engraved upon a thumb ring as a charm against epilepsy or eramp. This was in accordance with an old superstition, which gives this work as a cure "for the falling sickness." Another favorite preventive of epilepsy was a silver thumb ring engraved in Gothic characters with the names of Jasper, Melchior and Balthezaar, the three Wise Men from the East. In "The Squire's Tale" Chaucer mentions a magical thumb ring worn by Conace, the daughter of "Cambuscan Bold," which gave her a complete knowledge of the medicinal value of herbs and enabled her to converse with birds in their own language. Wedding rings were formerly worn upon the thumb, but did not always stay there. In the sneient ritual of marriage the bridegroom was directed to place the ring upon the thumb with the words: "With all my worldly goods I thee endow," moving it to the other fingers in PROCESSOR.

## FALSE TAILS FOR HORSES.

The Coat of One of High-Grade Is Equal to That of an Ordinary Horse.

"False tails for horses," said a dealer in horse equipments, according to the New York Sun, "are provided for animals that have become what is called rattailed. It would be in the case of a fine horse only that such a deficiency would be supplied, for false

tails are somewhat expensive. "The least expensive of them would cost \$27.50 and they would run from that up to as high as \$50.

"What? Why, certainly. You could buy a whole horse of some sorts for what such a tail would cost, but the cost of these tails is not disproportionate to the value of the horses upon which they are used.' These animals are fine, handsome and valuable carriage horses, lacking only in this feature, useless in their work without it.

"The false tail is attached to the crupper of the harness and is further secured in place by fastenings made fast around the actual tail; it is put on and taken off with the harness. It is worn without the slightest discomfort to the horse, it can't come off, and it is absolutely undistinguishable from a natural tail.

"False tails for horses are made in England, and while in some cases it might be possible to supply demands from tails in stock here, they are commonly made to order, for the individual horses for which they are required. It takes about two months from their receipt to fill orders for

"The demand for them varies with the fashions in which horses' tails are worn. When horses' tails are worn short there is naturally less demand for false tails than there is when long tails are in fashion.

Evicted by Bees, An English writer says: "Some of

the smaller birds are deliberately turned out of their nests at times by bees. I remember watching for the completion of a hedge sparrow's nest a few years ago, but before the birds had laid any eggs the nest was usurped by a small species of bumble bee and the rightful owners deserted. A friend of mine had two wrens'

nests in his garden taken possession of by bees in a similar manner, and I once knew of a tawny owl being turned out of her nesting hole in a hollow tree by a awarm of honey been which took possession."-Chicago Daily News.

#### OIL IN THE PHILIPPINES.

The Islands Are Claimed to Be in the Oil Belt That Is Supposed to Girdle the Globe.

There are many undeveloped resources in these islands which have been the basis for much speculation during the past few years, but what may turn out to be the most important of all has hitherto been entirely overlooked. It seems that the Spanish regime failed to take it into consideration and as a result there are no exclusive franchises on this particular field. Reference is made to oil deposits. It now appears that these islands are to be thoroughly tested for this remunerative liquid, and the drillings will commence in the very near future. Prospecting has been carried on for some time past, and every move in that direction has been carefully concealed, but the parties who have been on the field and looking after the interests of the oil companies have now decided that they can afford to go ahead and drill openly; and they are confident that they will be rewarded with success, states the Manile Times.

These islands are claimed to be in the oil belt that is supposed to girdie the globe, and the indications are said to be as good, if not better, than in most of the countries where oil has heretofore been found in large quantities. Upon the bay, and in the immediate vicinity of Cavita. it is claimed that not only appearances of petroleum are to be found, but that at many points the oil is seen to bubble up from the water. It is claimed by experts that this is a sure sign that the oil sand in not far below the bed of the bay, and they have decided to test it. They will drill a number of wells in these islands, beginning their operations in the vicinity of Cavite, which is at present believed to be the most favorable locality.

## VOLCANO KILLS ALL FISH.

The Sea Near Hawaii Is to Disturbed That the Waters Are Bareen of Sea Rook

The volcano at Kilauea is still moderately active, though the expected eruption has not as yet materialized, says a recent Honolulu report. The volcanic action upon Hawaii has had a curious effect upon the fish about the islands. The members of the l'nited States fish commission now exploring on the Albatross in these waters have been having considerable difficulty in discovering fish of any kind off Oahu and Hawsii, though the fishing is good off Kausi. Many new specimens were discovered off that island, but nearer the volcano the nets and dredges have brought up hardly a fish. Hawaiian fishermen account for this fact by the present volcanie disturbances, which are said to be of greater force bee neath the waters than above the sea.

ever since he has known the craters of Mauna Los to show activity the waters of the sea have had a curious up and down and backward and forward motion. Fishermen are so tossed about that it is almost impossible to retain any fish in their nets, and the waters are so constantly in motion by the unusual disturbances that fishing with hook and line is well-nigh impossible.

The eruption of Kilaues is shown also by the irregular action of the surf at Waikiki, which is now pounding irregularly on the coral reefs near here, though hundreds of miles away from the scene of volcanic activity. Around Hilo, which is in the immediate vicinity of the volcano, the water is becoming warmer. . .

## FILIPINO FATALISM.

Cruelty and Indifference to Suffering the Result of Poor Religious Teaching.

There is cruelty and indifference to suffering, often to a shocking degree, among the Filipinos, says James LeRoy in Atlantic. This is due to an ever-present fatalism, which the little real religious teaching the people has received has built upon rather than sought to eliminate, and to the absolute lack of an appeal to, or of an attempt to educate, higher feelings. If it is to be assumed at the outset that these people are forever incapable of such higher feelings, then it ought also to have been assumed that they were incapable of Christianity. Water torture, which has in some cases been resorted to on our side, is one of the forms of torture to which these people are accustomed. The list of victims buried alive by order of guerrilla chiefs, the maiming, mutilations and secret assassinations certainly make up an appalling and shocking chapter. War stirs up the darkest passions among the most advanced people, however, and it was in a degree to be expected that a people untrained in modern international usages, and never in the past treated as though they belonged to the brotherhood of man, or were responsible to humanity for humaneness, would exhibit an entirely refined code of slaying. The "ethics of warfare"-after all, that is a rather paradoxical phrase, is it not?

The Direct Road to Heaven, "Out in my district," says Representative Riedler, of Ohio, "there is a very clever preacher. One day a man who does not think much of religion thought he would stump the preacher. " 'Parson,' he said, 'what is the best way to heaven?'

"'Turn to the right and then keep straight ahead,' replied the preacher without an instant's hesitation.-Washington Post

## GIRLS ARE OVEREDUCATED.

Complaints from Many Parts That Women Know Everything But What They Ought To.

In the advanced American view woman's education is diametrically opposed to the view held by European educators. A German woman of extreme culture is almost unknown. The high-bred French woman is born to what her sisters on either continent can by no training aspire, says the Chicago Record-Herald.

"Without casting reflections," said a French woman of American blood on the mother's side, "on the splendid educational work done and doing by such institutions as Vassar, Bryn Maur, Wellesley and Wells, or Girton in England, I must say that I fail to find in my second visit here since my marriage an added tone to that attractive feature of American womanhood which a generation ago individualized

"I call it a case of too much education. I mean by that education to a knowledge of useless or for her comparatively unimportant subjects. Show me the girl of 18 in the junior class of any of these colleges who, unless entered for a special course in biological study, knows those things which a girl of her age in any near by village knows and has come to know by gradual absorption, without shock and without horror."

A professor in Columbia college, New York said recently:

"Yea, it is possible that a boy or girl may be over rather than under educated. I mean by that an education of inherent traits at the wrong time and at the hands of ignorant educators. Education means really what its Latin root means-that is, to educe, to bringout and make to sprout and so bear fruit.

"It isn't the facts you imprint in a boy's brains that makes him a useful citizen. Some of the best generals graduated from West Point have been very poor in mathematics, the test of ability there.

"To educate really-that is, to bring to the surface the potential ability of any one person, man, woman or child -you must know the individual, the individual's power or lack of it. Fancy cultivating a love for the classics in a youth who is congenitally inclined to the making of soap! What the boy really needs is a course in bookkeeping.

#### ANALYSIS OF VOLCANIC DUST.

That from Mont Pelce Found to Be Wholly Lacking in Pertilizing Properties.

It has been a matter of curious speculation since the terrible volcanic eruptions covering the islands adjacent to Martinique with millions of tons of dust as to what effect this enormous deposit would have upon the fertility of the soil. There is a tradition that the similar dispersion of volcanic dust in the errption of 1812 was wonderfully beneficial as a fertilizer, says the Philadelphia Rec-

A correspondent incloses the result of an analysis made at the government laboratory in Barbados, showing the complete material contained

36-4-4	Wr:
Moisture	
Loss in ignition	
Alumina	21
Titanium oxide	
iron oxide	
Lime	
Magnezia	🖠
Soca	<b></b>
Potash	
Phosphoric anhydride	
Bulphuric anhyoride	
Silica (by difference)	<b>D</b> i

By comparison with a sample of the dust ejected in 1812 obtained from the Barbados laboratory museum it was shown that a striking difference existed. The dust of 1812 was much nfler, and composed almost wholly of volcanic glass. The finding of larger particles of mineral matter at Barbados, 90 miles from Martinique, is significant of the violence of the latter explosion and of the prodigious height to which the elected material must have been lifted.

It is evident from the composition of the dust that it is nearly entirely deficient in fertilizing value.

Tries Suicide Once a Year. In Sharenton, France, lives a woman who on April 30, 1894, was left a widow. Her grief for her dear departed was so strong and it has continued unabated to such an extent that every year, when the anniversary of her husband's death comes round, she attempts to commit suicide. Seven times had she done so and seven times had she been prevented from carrying out her object. This year she lit her chafing dish for the eighth time, and again the neighbors rushed into the room in time to prevent the rash act. When restored to consciousness the woman exclaimed: "My darling, you won't lose anything by waiting. Wait until next year."--London Mail.

An Idiotic Practice.

The tipping habit oversteps the limit when a man growls all through a meal at the inattention of the waiter, and then "turns to" and fees him as a reward for his abominable service. The tipping system should at least have the extenuating excuse of being reformatory, by making a fee dependent upon good service .--From "Vest Pocket Confidences," in Four-Track News.

Easy Diagnosis. Mrs. Fondma-Sorry to disturb you at this hour, doctor, but we can't

imagine what ails the child. Doctor-Cold, perhaps. Did you have him out to-day? Mrs. Fondma-Yes, but only to his

grandmother's. Doctor-Ab! Overfed, that's all .--Philadelphia Press.

#### WOMEN AND MACHINERY.

More Than a Few Feminine Minds in This Country Mave & Bent for Mechanics.

Looking at a small engine in a window of a downtown machinery establishment was a woman; and seemingly she was regarding the engine not with a merely idle curiosity, but with an intelligent interest, relates the New York Sun. -

It seemed odd to see a woman thus. looking over a piece of machinery; but a man who ought to know whether women are interested in mechanical things or not said in response to an inquiry on the subject that undoubtedly they were.

Mechanics, he said, were born, not made, and there were some women who nad a mechanical bent or inclination, and took to maglines kindly and naturally, and easily learned to run them.

He had known, for instance, of a 2 woman who could run an automobile with case and skill and bring it in. always in perfect condition, while her husband could never run the same ! machine without getting something out of kilter about it. Evidently here the woman was the better mechanic of the two.

He had known likewise the wife of ? a man owning a power launch to be able to handle the boat better than her husband. In America, at least, in or less mechanical talent. in this country, whatever mechan-

ical instinct women might have was fostered by the presence in almost every household of labor-saving mechanical contrivances of some sort or other, perhaps of many sorts. There is is the sewing machine, for one thing,t to be found in every home; and there are washing machines.

Women beat eggs in these days 2 with machines and so on; so that in this country, at least, wamen bave a long been familiar with machinery in some form, and they are by no means so ignorant of it, or so helf less in the face of it as might be imagined, and they might even come to have a handiness with tools. This? men knew of no resson why they could not be trained in that way. a So far, indeed, he said, as the i

household kit of tools was concerned, w it might be that the implements in it would be brought to use by the women of the household as often as by the man. It would be she who would take up the slack of the sew a ing machine belt, for instance, or de whatever minof tinkering needed to be done about the machine.

And she would keep the earpet sweeper in order;" and there are many households in which the woman looks after the clocks, and keeps a them going. And he would venture to say that there was at least one household which would instantly suggest itself to the mind in which it was the mother and not the father who always got the nails out of the a children's shoes; an operation easy as it might seem till tried, involving no mean skill in the use of tools.

But leaving out of view these simpler, narrower, domestic channels, in which however, she might nevertheless get more or less training, there were other and wider fields in which the woman of mechanical best could exercise her talent or skill; as in these days in the operating of powerdriven vehicles or boats. And to that engine in the window, it might be that that was a motor engine Ma some sort, of a kind with which she was familiar; this one showing some nevel teature or some improvement that had fixed her attention.

But whatever there was about it a that had caught her eye, it was altogether probable that she was looking this engine over precisely as she seemed to be, not with a mere idle curiosity, but with the eyes of one in having an intelligent interest in such things.

Odd Wedding Cnatome.

Giving wedding presents Is an old custom, but it differs in various countries. Scotland's penny wedcalled penny affairs, but the invited d guests contributed a shilling and oc- a casionally a half crown, and out of se this sum thus collected the expenses " of the wedding feast were paid. Germany has a pay wedding at which the bride receives her guesta with a basin before her, in which each person entering deposits a jewel, . silver spoon or a piece of money. In some parts of Germany the rule is that the expenses of the marriage feast shall be met by each guest pay- it ing for what he eats or drinks. The " prices paid for viands and drinks are high, and the young couple often ' make a handsome profit out of their wedding, often realizing a sum quite k sufficient to start them nicely in life. Often as many as 300 guests are present at such a wedding .- Chicago Record-Herald.

Only Thing He Rad Red. An unlettered immigrant applied to the Philadelphia court of natural-

ization the other day, when he was asked: "Have you read the declaration of independence?" "No, sir," was the reply.

"Have you read the constitution of the United States?" "No, sir."

"Have you read the history of the United States?"

"No, sir," he repeated. "No," exclaimed the judge, in diegust; "well, what have you read?" "Red hair on me head, your honor," was the innocent reply.—Stray Stories.

A Question of Time. A man never gets so old that he does g not think if he had just had a little more time he could have got well off. -Washington (la.) Democrata