

PLANTS FOR THE SICKROOM

Oderiferous Flowers Said by a Physician to Be the Food of Consumption.

Flowers were advocated as a cure for consumption by Dr. Francis Bartlett in a paper which she read before the Botanical Society of Pennsylvania at the University of Pennsylvania recently, says the Philadelphia Press. 'Why send consumptives and sufferers to Colorado to benefit by the climate when we can bring that climate into their homes by the simple expedient of having growing plants in their rooms?'

BUTTON QUESTION OF FALL

There Will Be a Profusion on Many of the More Artistic Costumes.

For fall the button question presents many pretty features, one of the most pronounced of which is that of the pearl button. Just how so many pearl buttons can be used is a problem to the dressmaker, who gazes at the immense assortment and wonders what she will do with so wide a variety. That it is up to her to dispose of these buttons in an artistic way here is no doubt, says the Brooklyn Sage.

MIND RUINED BY FRIGHT.

Young Woman Victim of Her Brother's Joke Never Recovered Her Reason.

'Take my advice, and don't try to frighten a person,' said a well-known physician the other day, to a New-Orleans Times-Democrat man. 'I have seen some serious and oftentimes irremediable consequences follow these foolish antics. I couldn't better impress this fact on your than by relating a story which has cast a shadow over my whole life. You will have no reason to doubt me when I tell you that my only sister is today a mental wreck because of my youthful propensity for having fun at the expense of others. To use a hackneyed expression, I can truthfully say I frightened her out of her senses.'

RUN BUSINESS IN MEXICO.

Women Merchants and Capitalists Who Have Been Immensely Successful.

In far southern Mexico, in the real tropics, there are women who are looked up to by traders and merchants and whose will is law. Down on the lower gulf coast in an important port town lives 'la viuda de Perez,' a huge bulk of a woman, weighing perhaps 350 pounds, seated always in a vast armchair, apparently indolent, attended ever by her maids. She inherited a fortune from her husband, long dead, and has trebled her wealth, and it is related of her that, at one time, she lent a great revolutionary chieftain \$500,000 in good silver dollars, and in time got it back with substantial interest.

A BIT OF CHINESE HUMOR.

Illustrative of the Blyness of the Mongolian Under All Circumstances.

Here is a typical example of a Chinese funny story: A passenger boat full of people was on the point of pushing off from the shore when a man came running up in hot haste and asked to be taken on board. 'There's no room, we can't take you,' answered the boatman. But he was not to be put off so easily. 'If you will let me come,' he cried, 'I will tell you a tale.' The passengers began to discuss the situation. 'We have nothing to do,' they said to each other, 'and it's very tedious. If he were to tell us a story it would while away the time.' Accordingly regulations as to the number of passengers being by no means strict in the flowery land the applicant was allowed to come on board.

FEATURES OF MANCHURIA.

Roads in Rainy Season Are Impassable—Bank Growth of Sorghum.

The valleys of the Liao and the Yalu are separated by the great backbone ridge of mountains, known by a variety of names, which stretch from near Kiating to the neighborhood of Vladivostok, the highest points within the area of the present military operations not exceeding 4,000 feet. Just as in the Alps, says a London paper, we find short valleys and abrupt descents on the side of Italy and easier gradient with long and divergent valleys on that of France, so in these Manchurian mountains, although the distinction is much less marked, the northern slopes are steeper than the southern and often fall in precipitous descents. These hills are for the most part wooded, the forest zone extending from near Kiating all along the watershed to the Long White mountain and northeastern Corea. The southern slopes are more cultivated than those of the north and are covered with the debris of disintegrated granite rock, mica and schist washed down into the valleys by the rains.

TOO MUCH FOR HER, EVEN.

It Is Wonderful What the Average Stomach Can Stand Before It Rebels.

On a certain voyage there sat, across the table from us, a pleasant English lady. I noted her daring experiments with admiration mixed with terror, relates a writer in the San Francisco Argonaut. On the bill the English chef gave us such American delicacies as bluefish, pompano and red-snapper, I am extremely fond of all three, but not so far from their native waters; I do not care for fish as it is being carried around the globe in various stages of decomposition.

TOO MUCH RESIGNATION.

Humble Philosopher Who Learned That the Wisest Cannot Avoid Their Fate.

Bishop Cortland Whitehead, of Pennsylvania, was talking about resignation, says the New York Tribune. 'This attitude of mind,' he said, 'can hardly be carried too far. I rather think, though, that in the case of a certain philosophic farm hand an alarm clock would have served better than the excessive resignation which he manifested. 'He was a great philosopher, and he slept in the barn with the stable boy, five-thirty-one winter morning, overslept themselves, and the farmer, very angry, came with a pair of ice water to get them up. The philosopher lay on the outside, nearest the door, and he it was who received the full contents of the pail.'

FIRST BOOKS TO BE MADE.

Every Civilized Nation from Its Earliest History Knew the Art of Writing.

The oldest books in existence, are, doubtless, those of the Babylonians, but the great permanency of these is explained by the material of which they are composed, and it does not necessarily follow that they were the first books to be made, says Harper's Magazine. We know that the Egyptians employed a papyrus roll from the earliest historical periods, and that the Hindus made their palm-leaf books at a very early day. In short, every civilized nation is discovered at the very dawn of its history in full possession of a system of bookmaking. It is impossible to decide the question as to whether one nation borrowed from another in developing the idea of bookmaking.

POLITICIANS OF POMPEII.

There Were Candidates in Those Days Run by Factions as in Our Times.

Recently Joseph Offord read a paper before the Society for the Encouragement of the Fine Arts in which he described what must have been a municipal election in Pompeii shortly before 79 A. D. The ashes and lava of Vesuvius overwhelped it and Hieropolitum. It is the claims of candidates, says the Boston Transcript, that we read in these strange and long undecipherable inscriptions on the walls. It is the Pompeian way of announcing 'For mayor, Michael J. Gracibus, the friend of labor.' Some of these placards are rudely done. Some are set forth with skill and with embellishments. One of them contains a bit of street car health food verse—'all painted in red. No less than our own candidates of today, those of the year 79 were put forward by parties of supporters. There were the trades interests. There was the money power to be stipulated on the stump. The spellbinder addressed as 'Friends and fellow citizens of Pompeii,' the woodcutters' union, the fishers, the performers and dyers, the barbers and porters. He explained to them what were the more rights of man and what were their more glorious privileges as free and united advocates of the six-hour day.

AN OLD SMOKER'S DREAMS.

He Had to Give Up His Pipe and Cigar, But Still Enjoyed Them.

'It has been 18 years since I was told to break loose from tobacco, as over-indulgence in smoking was about to knock me out,' said S. J. Mason, of Chicago, reports a local exchange. 'From that day, though so dear a lover of the weed, I haven't put a cigar or pipe between my lips, and yet, strange as it may sound, on numerous occasions I find myself puffing out huge clouds of smoke drawn from the most fragrant Havanas that ever were given to smoke mankind. 'These smokes, let it be understood, come in my dreams, but the enjoyment they confer is as solid and substantial as in the old days when the indulgence was a reality. Curiously enough, too, the visions always present a group of friends. I catch them puffing away vigorously. I catch the aroma they blow forth; I hear their conversation as in the old days, and the whole atmosphere is of tobacco. Yet, despite these vivid pictures, awakening brings no desire to resume the ancient habit, and so I expect to continue dreaming of smoking to the end of the chapter without ever putting it in practice.'

A JAPANESE PORCH PARTY.

Pleasant Form of Entertainment for a Summer's Evening Easily Arranged.

In the warm weather a Japanese porch party is a pleasant form of entertainment. On the verandas place tables and chairs for whatever game is to be played, and shield them from draughts with Japanese screens and curtains. On strong cords stretched from post to post or fastened on nails, hang as many Japanese lanterns as you have, and for further decoration use flowers, according to season, such as iris blossoms, azaleas or chrysanthemums. On the four corners paint sprays of cherry blossoms, Japanese lilies, etc. The umbrellas of fans. The prizes may be a pair of chopsticks, a pretty fan, a paper knife or an ivory watch chain. With the refreshments give the favors. Little boxes of preserved ginger and dried berries, on which are Japanese dolls. Ready-made ones are quite inexpensive, but they can be made at home. For each favor buy a small box, a Japanese doily, a fan and a fan. The health tonic sticks at various prices, and the fans come from about ten cents upward. On each box cover paste some cotton batting, and in this put the seed. Then about each figure drape a piece of silk, folded like a kimono. Sew a line of silk at the back and in the fold in front, to represent sleeves. Fasten the fan.

Blueberry Cake.

For a delicious blueberry cake, special suited for breakfast or luncheon, stir together a cup and a half of flour, a half cupful of fine cornmeal, two tablespoonfuls of baking powder and a half teaspoonful of salt. Beat to a cream a quarter of a cupful of butter and a half cupful of sugar. Stir in the well-beaten yolk of one egg, and the cupful of milk. Add the flour mixture, and beat well. Fold in the stiff beaten white of the egg and a cupful and a half of blueberries that have been soaked in flour. Bake one hour in a buttermilk tin in a shallow pan over a muffin ring. —Washington Star.

Canary Pudding.

The weight of three eggs in sugar and butter, and the weight of two in flour, the rind of one small lemon and three eggs. Melt butter, but do not allow it to boil. Stir in the sugar and finely minced lemon peel, and gradually sift in flour, keeping mixture well stirred. Whisk eggs, add these to the pudding. Beat all well together till thoroughly blended, and put in a buttermilk tin and boil two hours. Serve with sweet sauce. —Boston Globe.

Russian Embalming.

To preserve the features of the dead it is proposed by a Russian to embalm corpses by casting around them a solid mass of kiesel. The inventor of this process hopes that some day we will have a large museum filled with the perfectly preserved bodies of the great men of their time for future generations to gaze upon. Tobacco Ash Wasted. It has been calculated that 8,000 tons of tobacco ash is annually wasted in England. It would make an invaluable fertilizer for poor soil, considering that 75 per cent consists of calcium and potassium salts, and 15 per cent of magnesium and sodium salts, including nearly five per cent of the essential constituent to all plants—phosphoric acid.

Light and Winks.

A Russian ophthalmologist affirms that contrary to generally received opinion the electric light is less prejudicial to the sight than the other varieties of artificial light. He bases this affirmation on the fact that diseases and affections of the eye are directly proportional to the frequency of winking. Now he has shown that winking occurs with candlelight 60 times a minute, with gaslight 2.4 times, with sunlight 2.2 times, and only 1.3 times with the electric light.

Bees and Fruit Growing.

The beekeepers of a certain fruit-growing section of California once got into an altercation about pasturing for their bees, and as a result, beekeeping was abolished in that part of the state. During the next few years the fruit crops fell off fully one-half. The question was investigated by alarmed growers, and it was found that the decrease in fruit had been coincident with the giving up of beekeeping. The pollenation, for the most part, having been neglected by the bees. To remedy this loss were brought in large numbers, and in a year or so the fruit output went back to its normal capacity—a big argument why every fruit grower should keep at least a few colonies of bees. To insure the proper fertilization of his fruit blossoms.—Country Life in America. Pay of Lobster Fishers. A Rockland (Me.) lobster dealer, who ships extensively to the south and west, has kept a careful tabulation of the prices in the last four years and finds that the fishermen have been receiving a steady increase. In 1900 the smackmen, or middlemen, paid to the fishermen an average of 12.35 cents a lobster. In 1901 the price jumped to 13.12 cents. The next year it was 15.82 cents, and last year it was 17.16 cents. The minimum price paid during the period was about nine cents and the maximum price 25 cents. Making of a Soldier. 'So you're going to Europe. Do you think you'll be a soldier?' 'Not much.' 'I've swung around on the wraps of a crowded street car four times a day for years. I'm used to a rough voyage.' —Detroit Free Press.