

SOME RUSTIC INDUSTRIES.

The Money Value of Nature's Bounty and Woman's Work in England.

In one respect at least, harvest time brings back very forcibly to the minds of the sturdy in agricultural districts the fact that since their day rustic industries have undergone immense changes. The local conditions of rural life as regards the agricultural and cottage laborers have doubtless been apparently improved during the last 50 years, says the London Mail. Wages have increased and much physical exertion has been modified by the use of mechanical and labor-saving contrivances. It is the women, however, of the cottage homes who are the greatest gainers by the changes in rural conditions. Fifty years ago they took their share of the field work with the men, and summer or winter alike the wife or daughter was as much a field hand as the husband or father.

But now it is only upon special occasions that the cottage housewife is to be met with working in the fields, or on the land at all, unless it is in her own cottage garden. There is one characteristic of "rural industry" which has been handed down from long antecedent times, and which has always seemed to have been the woman's work, and yet, during the last few years it, too, has ceased to find its wonted votaries. Gleaning in the corn fields, as Ruth gleaned after the reapers in the fields of Boaz, has vanished forever. The reaper and self-binder leave little for the gleaner to pick up, and as the days of high-priced bread seem also to have passed the laborers who lived largely upon the brown bread ground from the corn of their own gleaning now eat the white bread the baker's cart leaves at their door. Thus there is no incentive to pursue this old world industry. It has gone the way of silk worm culture—a species of rural industry which James I. and succeeding monarchs made strenuous efforts to encourage. In connection with the silk worm, mulberry trees were planted in prodigious quantities 60 years or so ago for silk-raising purposes, but now the tree has all but disappeared from England and women have lost an occupation. Fruit gathering still keeps its place as one of the village industries in which women excel.

WHERE WOMAN IS SUPREME.

In Old Tehuantepec She Has Her Own Rights and Several of Man's.

I was greatly struck with the country of the isthmus between the two coasts. Eight or ten feet of soil is quite common and anything and everything seems to grow. On the Pacific slope the climate is dry, but on the gulf side it is wet. The isthmus, for a tropical climate, is considered healthy by reason of the fresh current of air always blowing from one ocean to the other. Entering the town of Tehuantepec, the railway runs through the chief streets. This town, to which the isthmus owes its name, is extremely picturesque. Strangers are almost unknown, and many quaint habits, customs, and costumes still remain.

Strange to say, however, in this very un-up-to-date, faraway spot, "women's rights" are undisputed. Ninety per cent. of the trade is done by women; a wife has to vouch for her husband before he can even get credit! Indeed, woman reigns supreme. The market place presents a curious spectacle; hardly a man is to be seen; in fact, cutlery seems to be the only trade he is allowed to ply. Not only do the women predominate in business, but they prove beyond all doubt that because a woman earns a livelihood it is not necessary for her to be ugly or misshapen. On the contrary, the women of Tehuantepec are remarkable for their beauty of face and form. Dark-skinned, with glorious soft eyes and masses of wavy black hair, they possess exquisite features and lovely teeth. They are the most beautiful women in Mexico, and their carriage at once attracts attention. Small in stature, says the Fortnightly Review, they are fine in limb; in fact, the girls of Tehuantepec seem born models for the artist's brush.

Furs in Millinery.

Indications of the furs that would come into practical use in the headwear for this winter have been apparent since early in the autumn. From month to month, as the season advanced, passing reference was had to them in our reviews of styles in millinery; for November information was more direct, while advice on the subject for December leaves no doubt as to the variety in furs of important consideration. As heretofore stated, in regard to the furs employed in the season's headwear, those which seem thus far of most and of chief importance are the Hudson Bay sable, the Canada mink and chinchilla. Russian sable will be indulged in by the fortunate of our American leaders of fashion, who can afford to wear the regal coat of this little animal of the Siberian steppes; ermine and miniver have recently put in appearance in millinery models, and black and gray Persian, or Persian lamb skin, will be seen probably in hats—to match their use in the making and trimming of cloaks—despite the reprobation in the minds of the merciful against the method by which they are obtained for the market.—Millinery Trade Review.

Oats as Baggage.

"Some people bring funny things in their baggage," said the inspector on the dock, meditatively, "and it surprises us at times. There's Andrew Carnegie, for instance. The last time he arrived here among other things he declared was 400 pounds of oats from Scotland. What do you suppose he carried oats with him for?"—N. Y. Commercial Advertiser.

PERSONAL AND IMPERSONAL.

The name of Gizella Wragovick appears in the new directory of Topeka, Kan.

Marquis Ho is credited with having said that he had never in all his life ridden free on a railroad in Japan.

Archbishop Whately was one day asked if he rose early. He replied that once he did, but he was so proud all the morning and so sleepy all the afternoon that he determined never to do it again.

The federal judicial officer who probably has the largest territorial jurisdiction is Andrew J. Ballett, United States court commissioner at Rampart precinct, Alaska. He covers over 150,000 square miles in his district.

The young queen of Holland, like the late Queen Victoria, absolutely refuses to sign any paper which she does not understand. If she cannot make out the meaning of it herself she sends for the minister from whose department it comes or some other competent official and asks him to explain it to her.

Habitual gamblers are perhaps the most superstitious persons in the world. They invariably carry little portable mascots in their pockets, and it would be impossible to persuade them to enter into a game of chance if, by some inadvertence, their mascots were not with them. Lumps of lead, coins, snake rattles, locks of hair, cauls, bits of bone, hairpins, are some of these charms.

No one in the house is a better authority on fish than Representative Minor, of Wisconsin. He is a disciple of Isaac Walton, and during the summer spends much of his time with rod and line. Mr. Minor is said to be so expert with the rod that he can tell the difference between the bite of a black bass and a brook trout. Before coming to congress Mr. Minor was engaged in the shipping business.

In reply to the query: "What kind of a woman is the present queen of England?" the Minneapolis House-keeper says her reputation is of the highest, intelligent, industrious and abundant in deeds of kindness. Recently she wrote these words in her daughter's album: "I dislike all those women who talk about a thing being 'awfully jolly' who think it 'good fun' to smoke cigarettes; who generally have something secret to tell you."

WOMEN DOCTORS IN PARIS.

Jewesses from Russia Predominate in Practice and in the Various Schools.

Mention was made the other day in this correspondence of the number of lady doctors practicing in Paris. It is a curious fact that the majority are Russian Jewesses, just as are the greater number of the women medical students. At a rough calculation there are 300 ladies pursuing medical studies at the various schools, and working side by side with the men students, writes a Paris correspondent of London Pall Mall Gazette.

The reason of the invasion of the Jewess is, of course, the disabilities that exist in Russia for those of the faith of Israel—disabilities that are hardly lessened in Germany. Moreover, there exists, I believe, only one university for women in Russia, and that is in St. Petersburg. Some of the women who graduate in medicine do extremely well afterward in practice. One Jewess, who is greatly in vogue in the highest society in Paris, is reputed to make 60,000 francs (\$2,400) a year. The lady doctor, who is also a Russian subject, has likewise found a field for her energies in China, where Russian influence is so dominant at the present moment. It may be worth noting that the only lady barrister other than Miss Chauvin—Mme. Petit—is also Russian. She has married a Frenchman.

The French newspapers always show the greatest interest in the progress of women. This was amusingly exemplified in the case of the American lady architect, Miss Julia Morgan, who was reported to have carried away honors from the Ecole des Beaux Arts. The lively imagination of the writers pictured Miss Morgan running up ladders and scampering over scaffolding, no doubt in a costume suited to the requirements of the profession, but, of course, all this is the merest fiction. To begin with, Miss Morgan, as she informed me herself, has not finished her studies, though she has gained some successes, and her work in practice, like that of other women architects in America, will be largely confined to the office and the preparation of plans. Miss Morgan has been annoyed and embarrassed by the popular interest of which she has been the object here.

Peanut Meal.

Recent experiments by dietetic experts have shown that one pound of peanut meal contains nearly as much nutriment as three pounds of beef. The meal, which is obtained by grinding the "cake," costs four cents a pound in bulk, and the Germans have prepared from it several agreeable articles of diet—such as "peanut grits" and "peanut flour," this latter being ground and bolted like ordinary flour. Palatable crackers have also been made from this crude by-product of the oil mill.—Science.

Safe to Bet On.

Brown: Do you know that there are not enough pumpkins to meet the pumpkin-pie demand? Green: I did not know it; but how is the demand met? "By pumpkin pies made of an emulsion of squash and carrots." "But suppose the squashes and carrots give out, then what?" "By that time the squash-carrot pie will be a prime favorite, and it will be made of pumpkins."—Judge.

BEASTS BEHIND FOOTLIGHTS.

The Construction and Performances of Property Animals Interestingly Described.

Stage animals are very proud of the organs they can move. If they can roll an eye, they never cease to roll it so long as they think anyone is looking, and if they can switch a tail, they switch it. This weakness for showing off gets them into trouble sometimes, just as weaknesses in general get real animals into trouble. Hence, an elephant with a fine, freely moving tail, began to switch that tail with great vigor on its way to the front of the house.

Just as it was emerging from the side into the woolly end of the tail, in its abandoned flights, caught a gas jet, and at the same instant caught fire. The fire spread as rapidly as dry, gummy canvas and dry wicks could make it spread, and the elephant appeared in a blaze. Fortunately for the men inside, the flames were on the top, and the first intimation they received of the conflagration was a feeling as of something cold strike them on the back. It was water, and the water increased, and they were drenched and horrified, for they knew not whence it came, or what it meant, or what might come next, says London Penny Magazine.

One of the cleverest elephants is that made for a celebrated performer. It picks up biscuits with its trunk and puts them into its mouth. The secret of the prehensile power of the trunk lies in the pair of pinners with which it is fitted, and which are, of course, concealed. "Monsters of the deep" on the stage are usually meant as caricatures; red herrings, blasters or haddock run easily to four feet long, and though they have at been taken long enough ago from their natural element to be already cured and offered for sale in the market, unblushingly show every sign of life. Even the lobster, though it has been boiled, as its color shows—for it is red—never ceases to move its mandibles and antennae while before the public.

A swordfish is, no doubt, a very impressive creature on the stage, the sword naturally receiving great emphasis from the maker and special publicity from the man inside. It is thus a common thing for that sword to get into trouble, and for the poor fish in a stage procession to ask the harmless mussel or oyster to "take care of my sword!" A dragon 13 feet long and emitting flames makes us think that we must have got away from canvas, wicker work and paper, else the flames are certainly not real. The flames, however, are real enough, and a man inside ignites and fans the spirit-saturated cotton with his breath. It is out of a canvas mouth, too, that they come, but that mouth is fitted with asbestos cloth.

Stage rats introduce us to another method of locomotion on the part of inanimate straw and canvas. Rats are made big enough to admit small boys; in such cases, of course, the boys do the moving. But the common stage rat, which sells at 36 cts, is usually stuffed with straw. There is no man or boy or other animate thing inside. Power to move is imparted to them from without, by means of invisible wires attached to their noses, and manipulated from behind the scenes. Their movement consists of only a glide, and that is as nearly as possible the true movement of the real rat, it being the movement that creates the least disturbance, and is, therefore, the most suitable for a hunted animal. Stage rats may glide in a straight line, or they may zigzag and perform in more or less elaborate ways, according to the arrangements made on the stage. These arrangements comprise the fixing of pulleys on the floor or in the wall or elsewhere, and the laying of invisible wires over them. The more elaborate the arrangement of pulleys the more varied will be the lines of movement traced by the rats.

'GENE FIELD AS A COOK.

Did as His Wife Directed But the Meringue Was a Miserable Mess.

The recent marriage of Eugene Field's daughter recalled to an old school chum of Mrs. Field—that chum being now the wife of a prominent New York attorney—a hitherto unpublished story of the erratic western genius, says the New York Times.

There were visitors in prospect one afternoon in the Field household and a strike in the culinary department. Mischief was at flood tide, and Mrs. Field was vainly endeavoring to be everywhere at once, when the man of "Sharps and Flats" appeared in the kitchen doorway with a folio in his hand.

"Oh, won't you watch those pies for me while I run upstairs an instant?" his wife exclaimed. "Be sure not to let the meringue scorch—it would ruin them—you'd better give me that book or they'll be burned to a crisp." With mock meekness Mr. Field allowed her to carry off his treasure. On returning she was horrified to find the oven door wide open and the rich, fluffy meringue flat, tough and leatherlike. "They're ruined," she exclaimed in dismay. "Why didn't you keep the oven door shut?" "Mr. Field reported in the very genuine amazement. "Why, you told me to watch them every instant, and I'd like to know how I could do that with the oven door shut!"

The Artist's Enthusiasm.

"Have you done anything with that mystery yet?" asked the friend. "Yes," answered the detective, "we have found several clues that make it more mysterious than ever, which fact you will of course understand very materially enhances our artistic enjoyment."—Washington Star.

ENGLISHMEN MARVEL

Rapid American Building Methods Prove an Eye-Opener.

Manager from United States, by His Skill in Handling British Workmen, Accomplishes in Year What Others Wanted Five For.

Employers and members of trades unions in England alike are marveling over the accomplishment of the Westinghouse Electric company in erecting vast works at Manchester. Buildings which cost \$7,000,000 have been constructed in less than a year. English builders estimated that this work would require five years. The work has been done by British workmen under American supervision, but instead of the 450 bricks per nine hours a day, which is the trade union average, each man laid an average of 1,800 bricks, with 2,500 on the plain work.

J. C. Stewart, of St. Louis, acted as manager. One day Mr. Stewart had 20 policemen on hand in case of emergency. The next day found him presenting the foreman with a ten-guinea suit of clothes for his expeditious achievement.

The manager's representative said that Mr. Stewart had started in by initiating a system of daily reports of the progress from each of the 75 foremen or subforemen.

The first two weeks showed no particular record except that a great deal too much money was spent for the work done. This representative said: "After that we got to 900 bricks for a man and by a continuous progress of elimination, guided by the daily reports of progress, we reached an average of 1,800."

"Yes, trouble was threatened by trade unions at times, but we met the delegates and defined our position plainly. We were willing to work with union men, and according to union rules, and we gave 11 pence per hour, instead of ten pence, which is the rate stipulated by the union."

"We made it as clear as spring water, however, that we were going to have those bricks laid, that we intended to be masters of our own work, that we were going to let the slowest man on a job set the pace, that each man would have to do his utmost, and that we should have men to see that this idea was carried out. Either we were to run the job or the unions would be disregarded and other men employed."

MAN GROWS STRONGER.

Prof. Krause, of Germany, Says That the Human Race Is Not Degrading Physically.

Prof. Krause, an eminent German authority, has come to the conclusion that, despite the general fears, the human race is not degenerating physically. The professor says that the Egyptian mummies, after allowing for all possible shrinkage, were no larger in body when alive than are the present dwellers on the banks of the Nile.

Ancient Roman writers give the height of the soldiers of the pretorian guard as 67 inches. No European nation with a guard would think of so low a standard. Skeletons of the ancient Germanic tribes found in the valley of the Rhine bear witness to the conclusion that the old Germans were much beneath the present generation in stature.

Dr. Krause bases his view chiefly on the irrefutable evidence of the recruiting statistics of all European countries. These show that even in France, since 1815, there has been a growing improvement in the physical capacity of the recruits.

HAS A LESSON TO LEARN.

Britain Realizing That Trade with Her Colonies Is Far Too Small.

The London Standard, referring to the statistical abstract of the trade of the British colonies which has just been issued, says: "The main lesson of the return is only too plain, and it is that the business done by England with her colonies is too often smaller than it should be. In regard to Canada, it is only natural that her chief customer should be her close neighbor; nor is it surprising that the United States runs Great Britain very close in Newfoundland and the West Indies. It is, however, disappointing to see that we are excelled in Australia, and so, too, it is to find confirmation of the rather disquieting fact that Canada has difficulty in attracting settlers, and that her territories remain empty in spite of her improved means of communication and the offers made to colonists."

King to Go Abroad in March.

There is no truth in the report that the king and queen are to go into residence at Windsor in February. They will stay at Sandringham, off and on, till the opening of parliament, when they will come up to Marlborough house for a little time. Early in March the king will go abroad, probably to the Riviera. The queen will then go to Sandringham, there to remain till she starts for Copenhagen early in April. Their majesties will entertain Prince Nicholas of Greece at Marlborough house in February.

If at First You Don't Succeed.

If, after looking back over the promises of the last year and comparing them with the fulfillments, says the Chicago Inter Ocean, the average man wishes to try the thing all over again, nobody should discourage him.

HEALTH TALKS FOR WOMEN.

Improper Breathing from Corset Constriction—Impaired Circulation from Tight Shoes.

A teacher of physical culture recently asserted that "not more than one woman in a hundred breathes properly," and ascribed the fact to the general wearing of corsets. He characterizes chest breathing as abnormal and hurtful, and suggests that any woman may learn the correct mode of taking breath by watching a little child how it inhales and exhales when undressed. With every inhalation the body will expand at the waist line and return when the air is exhaled.

The difficulty with chest breathing is that it uses only a part of the lungs, whereas full, deep breaths that go down to the furthest extremities are necessary to keep them in health when the lungs are thus misused, as it fails to receive the supply of oxygen that is essential to its well-being. Oxygen must be present in sufficient quantity to purify the blood or disease will attack the internal organs, says the New York Tribune.

The digestive organs are especially affected by improper breathing as caused by corset wearing. The wearer may be careful regarding her diet and the ventilation of her rooms. She may even take physical exercise at stated times, but while she breathes with the lungs compressed by corsets she need not hope to escape the evils resulting from the unnatural method.

To regain the lost art of breathing the physical culturist directs: "Every morning, before putting the corsets on, take the correct standing position in which a line dropped from the lips would touch chin, chest and toes. Put the hands on the sides, just above the hips and breathe slowly and deeply so that the sides are forced out against the hands. Repeat this five or six times. Place the hands on the front of the body below the waistline and inhale deeply so that the inhalation is felt against the hands. Repeat five or six times. Clasp the hands behind the head and breathe deeply five or six times, expanding at the waistline with each inhalation. Go through the same process every night before retiring, and you will not only gradually acquire the habit of breathing properly, but will sleep better."

"In this connection you must expect to find your waist measure growing larger, but that should not trouble you, as the upper part of the body will expand in proportion and give finer curves to the figure than it ever possessed."

The same authority recommends ball playing as a splendid exercise for the shoulders, and skating is credited with many virtues.

It must be remembered, however, that to adopt any of these varied means of body training to the exclusion of others is to invite overdevelopment of some parts, with resulting loss of symmetry. The young woman who is fond of sports must engage in the different kinds without partiality if she would preserve an harmonious development.

The authority quoted lays special emphasis upon the necessity for wearing shoes large enough to permit free circulation of the blood through the extremities.

"There are many women whose shoes are nothing but feet corsets," he declares, "and although the same organs are not directly affected, the entire body is indirectly injured by the interference with circulation. Shoes should be large enough and soft enough to allow free movement of every muscle in the foot."

TO CARE FOR A WET COAT.

A Simple Way of Drying the Garment So That It Will Not Wrinkle.

"Let a coat get soaking wet," said a tailor, "and it will dry more or less wrinkled or out of shape, unless proper care is taken in hanging it up. This calls for a little bit of labor, but if a man has a limited number of coats he couldn't spend the extra time required to better advantage, says the New York Sun.

"The thing to do is to dry the coat in the form in which it is worn. It would be very easy to do this if one had a wire form of just the right size, over which he could simply button the wet coat when he took it off, but a man may not want a wire skeleton around or he may not have room to keep it. So what he does is simply this:

"He puts the wet coat on an ordinary hanger which he suspends where there will be room all around so that the coat will hang clear of everything. Then he buttons the coat up and gets it into its proper shape and hang, and then he stuffs it out into form with newspapers. The newspaper is opened out and pages or double pages are crumpled up loosely into great open spongy masses, and with these the buttoned-up coat is gently stuffed out into the form in which it would be on your own body. Then you give it, if necessary, a final smoothing to get it true and right everywhere and then you leave it to dry.

"When it is dry you will find the coat in its proper original shape, free from drawings or wrinklings and looking all right and you are sure not to regret the little extra labor bestowed in keeping it so."

Do Good Work.

Be ashamed of nothing on earth except poor work, which is a thing to be ashamed of. Select whatever you are best fitted for and train yourself to thoroughness in that line.—Ladies' Home Journal.

ON THE DEFENSIVE.

Women Doctors Uphold Their Sex in That Profession.

Declare as Ridiculous Reason Given by Northwestern University for Proposed Abolishing of Women's Medical Department.

Philadelphia women physicians and surgeons unhesitatingly ridicule the trustees of the Northwestern university at Evanston, Ill., for their recent determination to abolish the women's medical department of that institution, on the ground that women are not as successful as doctors. One woman doctor said:

"The action of the university authorities in question borders on the ludicrous. It is a mistake to say that women cannot grasp chemical laboratory work or the intricacies of surgery. It is true that we are still young in the profession, but it can safely be said that we are steadily growing and improving."

"Some of the most difficult operations performed in Philadelphia within the last year have been accomplished by women, and if this fact can be taken as a criterion there is every reason to believe that they will soon equal their brother surgeons in skill."

Another woman doctor spoke of the great advance made by doctors of her sex in the medical literary field.

"In the ten years following 1870," she said, "there were only 49 articles written by the alumnae of the institution with which I am connected, while in the same length of time 30 years later, or following 1890, there were 498. To imply that women have not kept up with the advance pace set by their brothers in the profession is an absurdity."

TO BE BELLE OF PROMENADE.

Miss Alice Roosevelt to Attend Junior Event at Yale by Special Invitation.

Alice Roosevelt will be the belle of the junior promenade at Yale on January 21, says a special to the press from New Haven, Conn. She has accepted an invitation to attend as the guest of Clive Du Val. Miss Roosevelt will be chaperoned by her mother. It is expected that her aunt, Mrs. William Sheffield Cowles, will also be present. While there they will live in the New Haven house. Miss Roosevelt will arrive on Saturday, January 18, will attend the college chapel on Sunday, the Glee club concert and the junior german on Monday, and the junior promenade and a half dozen teas on Tuesday. This will be the first occasion that a daughter of a president has graced the Yale junior promenade. Clive Du Val, the Yale man whose invitation Miss Roosevelt accepted, is a member of the junior class and of the junior promenade committee. His father is secretary to Chauncey M. Depew, and it is said that Senator Depew will probably bring his bride here to attend the junior promenade as guest of Mr. Du Val. Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt, with her youngest daughter, may also attend the promenade. Mrs. Vanderbilt's youngest son, Reginald, is a member of the senior class in Yale, and the family wish to be present at one junior promenade before he leaves the university.

CRITICISE AMERICAN GIRL.

Young Englishmen Reply to the Charge of Selfishness Made by Mrs. Alice Tweedie.

Mrs. Alice Tweedie wrote an article for the Daily Mail about a week ago on the selfishness of modern Englishmen, quoting an American girl as saying that English bachelors never returned women's hospitality and were otherwise remiss. By indorsing and emphasizing this view Mrs. Tweedie started a stream of correspondence and elicited several amusing replies from English young men. These retort that no English girl would ever expect men to take her to tea, the theater, for a drive in the park, or to give her candy or flowers, and that the American girl, by her willingness to accept such attentions, comes in for considerable criticism.

Mrs. Tweedie also represented the American girl as saying she would not waste hospitality over those who would not return it. This commercialism has been greeted with jeers from various club men who have taken up the cudgel for their sex.

New Test in Hypnotism.

Judge Davis, president of the board of children's guardians, has given his consent for a Mr. Henry, of a Chicago school of hypnotism, to experiment with the children in the home maintained by the board, at Terre Haute, Ind. It is Henry's theory that he can start a train of thought in the minds of the children for better things. Children who have been taken from vicious parents will be experimented with. Judge Davis says he does not believe that do the children harm and possibly will have good results. According to Judge Davis, Henry came to him recently and explained the theory. It was agreed that the experiments should be made, and Mr. Henry is to return soon. Judge Davis says he does not know his Chicago address.

Similar But Not the Same.

There is a Clark Champin Hiawatha, Kan., who must not be confounded with the Champ Clark, of Missouri. On the contrary, says the Chicago Tribune, he is quite the reverse.