## NATURAL HISTORY

----Spiders Eyesight.

How far away can a spider see a fly? After several years of ingenious experimenting Mr. and Mrs. Peckham, the naturalists, have concluded that the greatest average distance at which spiders are able to see objects distinctly is about one foot. Beyond that distance, then, we may assume that a fly caught in a splder's web would be safe from detection by its enemy, if its movements and struggles to get away did not betray it. The same observers think that spiders have the sense of color and of smell, but feebly developed.

Esquimaux Dogs.

Esquimaux dogs are a curious race. In appearance they are not unlike collies, but they carry their tails curled over their backs, and their bodies are more thick-set than that of the collie. The true Esquimaux dog has a curious wild look about him which is not seen in any other breed. Considering that the sledge dogs are generally badly used by their masters they are very quiet and good-tempered. They will gat almost anything, but their favorite riet is fish. They are extremely hardy and frequently do as much work in one way as would last an ordinary dog for a week. One of the peculiarities of the Esquimanz dog is his feet. He has no short hair between his toes. There is, a reason for this. If the dog's feet were hairy the snow would "ball" on them, and thus lame the dog.

The "Fighting Fish."

The "Fighting Fish" is a small fresh water fish, a native of the southeast of Asia, and particularly of Siam. It is pugnacious in the extreme, and the Siamese keep it for fighting purposes in the same manner as the Malays keep the game-cock. Special varieties of these fish are specially bred for fighting, and they are to be met with in every Siamese town. When a fight has been arranged, two fish are placed near each other in glass vessels; they soon become aroused, and rush about trying to get at one another. When sufficiently excited they are placed together, the result being attended with all the excitement of the prize-ring. The following account of the appearance of this fish is given by Dr. Cautor: "When the fish is in a state of quiet, with the fins at rest, the dull colors present nothing remarkable. But if two are brought within sight of each other, or if one sees its own image in a looking-glass, the little creature becomes suddenly excited, the raised fins and the whole body shine with metallic colors of dazzling beauty, while the protected gill membrane, waving like a black frill round the throat, adds something grotesque to the general appearance. In this state of irritation it makes repeated darts at its real or reflected antagonist. But the fish, when but of each other's sight, instantly become quiet. The Siamese are infatuated with the combats of these fishes, and "I've got him against the ropes," he ansometimes their liberty, and that of their families, is staked on the issue. The license to exhibit fish fights is farmed, and yields a considerable revenue to the Crown."

## CUT RATES FOR KNIGHTS.

New Plans Evolved to Rehabilitate the Declining Order.

The Knights of Labor have been in a bad way for some time for lack of a plan to increase their membership. The workingmen are beginning to look upon the old-time methods, consisting principally of mystery and cabalistic signs, as chestnuts of the worst kind. The membership has been falling away. and the moth-eaten manifestoes about fraternity and brotherly love have failed as drawing cards. John W. Hayes, the general secretary-treasurer of the order, has hit on an entirely new plan to add to the membership. He came out with a circular yesterday addressed to the workingmen, teiling them that the order has adopted an individual membership idea. If a man wants to become a Knight in a place where the ten men necessary to form a local assembly canno; be found, he can flock by himself and become an individual member. All he has to do is Ma apply for an individual card, pay his so common as to create no surprise. dues, and present the the card at any wishes to visit. He will then have all the "privileges" of the order. Cut rates | with Europe, are offered to get these individual members to join the order. They will be charged only half the regular initiation fee, and this will be kept up until enough members are found in any locality to form a local assembly.

Cut His Own Salary.

Cincinnati produces men of action but none has heretofore ever added to his fame by voluntarily reducing his own salary. Supt. Murray of the Chamber of Commerce, however, has done that very strange thing. In a recont report to the directory he recommended that he smuch as the income of the Chamber had been cut down by the unnual falling off of the total membership, he desired that the directors should make a reduction in his salary of ten per ceat, provided that the salagies of the remaining officials be atlased to remain at the old figure. This was the gist of Mr. Murray's communtration, and the recommendation that he made was at once acted upon tu the adoption of the report of the committee, cutting the asperintendent's | Martem Life. malary from \$4,000 to \$3,000.

Time of the Belauare. The tide in the Delaware river rises

JEWELS MATCH THE EYES. The Latest Fad of Fashionable Womer of European Society.

The very latest fad among the rich women on the other side of the Atlantic is to select their jewels so that they will match the color of their eyes. The result is that the great jewelers of London and Paris have at ready devoted much tasteful ingenuity to the subject, and almost every color that is to met in the human iris seems to have been provided for. If the eye is of light blue, it must be matched by the turquoise, with the pearly white of its surrounding cornea represented by a setting of pearls For the "Irish eye," on the other hand, the darkly, deeply, exquisitely blue eye, there is the sapphire, and to match the dark lashes which veil its beauty, some arrangement in jet. Jet, however, is not what is used to match eyes that are "as black as sloes." As there is no black jewel, fashion has decreed that dusky orbs are most effectively set off by diamonds.

Hazel eyes are hard to match, but with these goes the somewhat undistinguished and not highly esteemed topaz. Gray fares a little better, for with them should be worn the ruby, or even the carbuncle. Green has raised a rather delicate question. It is undoubtedly a color which occurs in varied but unmistakable shades in the human eye, and is sometimes not without a certain beauty of its own. But it is not fashionable, at any rate under that name, and so this new fad has not caused an appreciable increase in the demand for emeralds and cat's-eyes.

Remarkable Instinct of Birds. Dr. Williams, an English naturalist, tells of two interesting cases of birds profiting by experience. One of his neighbors, whose fruit suffered from the raids of blackbirds and thrushes planned and executed a number of raids on their nests in an adjoining woods. After the birds had been disturbed a few times they built their nests on the ground instead of in the bushes and small fir trees, as had been their custom. The other case was of some sandpipers that were nesting near Dr. Williams' house. These birds, after their nests had twice been destroved by water, continued for three seasons to build their nests on high ground, inaccessible to the water. Their usual custom is to build their nest near the water on the gravel and sand washed up by the river.

Her Word of Praise.

"Miss Cayenne complimented you very highly after you told that story at the dinner table," remarked one young man. "She liked that story, did she?" 'No but she thought it illustrated a very admirable trait in your character. It showed that you never went back on an old friend."-Washington Star.

"John," called his wife, "are you putting the baby to sleep?" The pugilist laughed bitterly in the darkness. swered, for there was yet hope.-Detroit Tribune.

Profit in Gull Feathers. Gull shooting is a popular sport at Eastport, Me., just at present. The gulls are shot for their feathers, which bring 30 cents a pound.

## WORTH KNOWING.

Jeweled Christmas cards are a London novelty. In Terra del Fuego rain or snow falls

almost constantly.

The first street lighting in America was in New York in 1697.

During 1895 fires burned over 225,000 acres of Pennsylvania forest land.

That periodical vagary of stationery, brilliant red note paper is again seen. English sportsmen predict a hard winter because so many wild fowls have gone south.

in the trade of carrying onions from Egypt to England.

rister, has an income of \$100,000 a year from his law practice, The game of golf on Sundays on the

Sir Edward Clarke, the English bar-

courses round London has now become

British postal correspondence with meeting of a local assembly which he | the United States last year was 41,000,-600 letters, etc., against only 65,000,000 In England 233 families live in houses

> which pay more than \$5,000 a year rent, while 3.625,000 pay less than \$100 a year for their houses. If it is not convenient to fill flannel bags for the sick-room with sand, bran

> will answer the purposes very well, and will retain the heat for a long time. There was an auction sale at Christiania the other day at which almost

everything movable in Nausen's vessel, the Fram, was sold to curtosity hunters; Wilcox (Arfzona) tramps, who thought it would be safe in that territory to eatch chickens on batted fishhooks, have been in jail since Thanksgiving.

Cremation is more extensively practiced in Italy than in any country. The first crematorium was established in Milan in 1876, and there are now fifty in operation in Italian territory.

Ohtboy Say, plumber, you are a very improvident man, leaving those pieces of lead, auts and screws lying about. They'll surely be lost. Loudly Oh. no. sir. You'll dud 'em all in the bill!-

Hricks made of sawdust combined with pulverized minoral material are new used as a basis for concrete instead of stone in several Prussian and falls about five feet each tweive | tor, is. They are fireproof and impervious to dampness



round the ancient city of Santa Fe? This relic of early civilization in this country was founded by the Spaniards in 1598 under the name of Santa Fe, on the site of Tigeux or Tigua, one of the celebrated "Seven Cities" at the founding of the Aztec Confederacy, in

Its streets, museums, and private colections of curios absolutely teem with relics and records of a stirring history, and include famous pictures of saint or shrine, painted on elk and puma skins, sabre thrusts where they had been used as banners during the march of Coronado in 1541, others with arrow holes from attacks by Indians on the line of march up the valley of the Rio Grande.

There are quaint maps in Latin and French, showing three cities of note on the continent, and giving California as an island of the Pacific, curious for their careful execution and grotesque inaccuracy. There are bronze stirrups of strange shape and weight, inlaid with pure gold; horse cloths, with jangling metal fringe; sacred images, curiously wrought and inlaid with gold of cunning workmanship, brought from Spain with the expedition to insure victory and establish the faith, and with them can be seen rawhide trunks, with ponderous locks and sterling frames, brought to contain records, jewelry and other valuables.

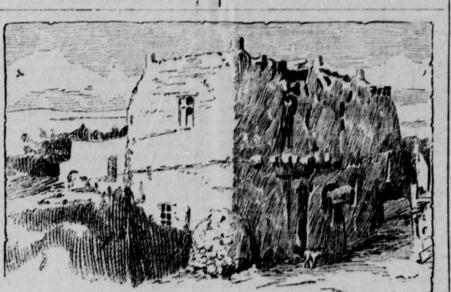
The palace has become the home of Spanish pictures in the southwest, and of the city. For 300 years it has been the home of its rulers, seventy-six Mexican and Spanish and seventeen American governors having held sway within its walls. -In its early days it lay under the shadow of the dread inquisition, and within its walls, in later times, "Ben Hur" first saw the light under the pen of General Lew Wal-

How many of those who yearly travel [ and here, also, surrounded by loving to that Mecca of wealthy Americans, memories and fond regrets, amid beau-California, realize the beauty, romance | tiful foliage, is a monument to the and antiquarian interest lingering soldiers who fell at duty's call at Valverde and Apache Canyon.

In Santa Fe are the military headquarters for New Mexico, it being also the oldest military establishment in America, created by the Spaniards in 1602, and in almost continuous occupation ever since. Here, too, is the oldest house in the United States, in which Coronado is said to have lodged in 1540, and, perhaps, even more interesting, here is the oldest church, San Miguel, built about 1543, partially destroyed in 1680, wholly restored in 1710, the restorers leaving intact all that was possible of the old roof, hewn by Indians under the guidance of the fathers.

In this church is the great bell, almost solid, cast in 1356, and having an inscription in Spanish round it as a band, the letters and figures being still well raised in the solid casting. This bell was brought over from Spain and hung in the tower, but finally, being thought too heavy for the tower, it was removed to a substantial timber support in the entrance to the church. In the cathedral and other churches are remarkable reredoses, paintings and vestments, many of them of considerable antiquity, all inviting the visitor to linger in this home of the past.

But the city is also a city of the present, and a very pleasant present it is. An equable climate and delightful the choicest collection of Mexican and sunshine hover over streets in which the houses have enough of the sanctity in its historical rooms are priceless of age to infuse a restful spirit in the treasurez of record or relic. Around air. These houses are often from one it, too, lingers much of the romance to two centuries old, usually of one story, with thick adobe (sundried brick) walls, deep embrasures to the plain doors and windows abutting on the sidewalk under a piazza, and giving not the slightest hint of the wealth of cosey comfort and elegance to be found inside. The rooms are usually large and numerous, arranged around a placita or Moorish court, generallly from fifty to seventy-five feet square.



THE OLDEST HOUSE IN THE UNITED STATES.

the same plaza witnessed the triumphal an ideal home. elevated the Stars and Stripes in 1846, I ress of the present day.

From its windows could be heard the | This court is laid out as a garden, and ring of steel and the din of warriors entered from the street by a wooden in the plaza when Onate set up his gate, let into the wall of the house in camp in 1662, and when the Pueblo line with the doors and windows. This Indians conquered the city in 1680, gate at once shuts out intruders and burning the archives and sacred ves- the gaze of the outside world, while

which again placed the city under once a monument to the spirit of the Enquirer. Spanish rule. Here General Kearney past and the activity, beauty and prog-

ONE TYPE OF ENGLISHMEN.

and Very Uninteresting.

of the prospect, sat a young English- hooked. man, gracefully idle, and wearing with a becoming indifference a most trying head-overing at that time fashionable and still known at Cambridge as a beast" hat. He was watching the appreach of a countrywoman-young. wholesome, sunburned and energeticwho had just emerged from the door of the hotel. The Englishman was startlingly clean, with thin soft hate carefully brushed back from a bland a prominent nose, suggesting the frequent use of soap and water. The to get in. I got in when I hast paticountenance was expressive of one tenances are if studied with under- quittal. the desire to be instantly and persist- | was 'the built of Little Etk Creek ently agreeable. Ladies given to the When we ended I was. He volunteered exercise of that species of hospitality to bring in a verdict of guilty before the hope that some of them may elect popular there? My calm, firm admireto remain together till death do them istration of the law touched them." release invariably secured Algernon Augustus Passavant. Algernon, it ap-

peared, made things go. Some very young girls thought him stupid and did Startlingly Clean, Persistently Agreeable not always understand his humor. They thought that he lacked poetry The Grand hotel at Zell-am-Zee has, and was uninteresting. His hair, in as many know, a garden bordered by fact, was too thin and too short. The the lakes where in the very necessary more elderly sirens engaged in the purshade of filac trees contemplative Auss suit of eligible junior attaches, kept trians sit at small tables and consume | an eye upon Passavant as a sheep dog the deep-colored beer, so called, of keeps an eye upon the shepherd. A Munich, says McClure's. Among these, few mistaken mammas set little traps. and within sound of their sober exela- for him, and he made himself invariamations of wonderment at the beauty | bly agreeable to the bait, without being

A Judge's Experience. Mr. James Reilly, an early frontier judge, tells the following tale of his first experience at the court of justice; I had just been elected judge when a fellow up for horse stealing consented to be tried by six jurors. Most of the men were off gold digging. Well, I summed up. The jury retired. forchead. His face was narrow, with waited a long time outside. The jury waited longer inside. The sheriff tried ence. Five were for conviction. dominant quality, as nearly all com- sixth, a friend of the prisoner, for ac-He was a desperate chap. I standing, and that nothing less than tackled him. When we commenced he which has for its aim the bringing to- let him up. I lost two of my fingers gether of young people and for its and by bowie-knife amoutation. I was very

The devil changes his coat every day.

BESIEGED BY NUNS.

The Curious Tale of a Monastery in the It Promises to Be More Destructive That Canary Islands.

A curious tale of a besieged and conquered monastery belongs to the early history of the Canary Islands and is retold by Charles Edwardes in his description of the isles, says the London Globe. In the early part of the eighteenth century there existed in Orotava, on the island of Tenerife, a convent of Dominican nuns, who, after some years of ease, had the misfortune to be burned out of house and home. They went into temporary quarters for a year, but became dissatisfied with such unconventional walls and began looking about for a permanent abidingplace. At that time there was in Orotava a house of Jesuits, which had lost its former importance and, though commodious and healthful, gave lodging to but two men-the rector of the house and his assistant. On this mansion the nuns cast covetous eyes and soon resolved to appropriate it. One morning about forty of them advanced upon it, by strategy induced the Jesuit brother to open the outer door and then, trooping into the court yard, fell on their knees, thanking God for this preliminary success. In vain did the two men reason with them on their scandalous conduct. They merely held their ground, exclaiming: "Father Andrew, this is a large cage for so few birds," Some of the more reasonable members of the sisterhood explained that they were really in need of a dwelling as spacious as this and that they did not propose leaving it. The rector in despair fled into the sacristy, from which retreat he exhorted his colleague to be of good cheer. "Patience, brother," cried he, "and do your best to extricate yourself from these ladies." That, however, was more easily said than done, especially as the nuns were becoming so excited that they might momentarily have been expected to resort to the argument of nails. The slege lasted for three or four hours. News of it flew about the town and bands of young men, scrupulously neutral, watched proceedings from the bars of the outer gate. Eventually the Jesuits yielded and the nuns occupied the house until a new convent, entirely to their taste, was erected for them.

## PLEASANT DREAMS.

The Nervous Young Minister's Night of Peace.

A nervous young minister in visiting a remote viilage had an unpleasant experience, says the Boston Traveler. The old lady at whose house he stayed, in showing him to his room, said: "It ain't everybody I'd put in this room. This here room is full of sacred associations to me," she went on. "My first husband died in that bed, with his head on these pillows, and poor Mr. Jenks died sitting in that corner, Sometimes when I come into the room in the dark I think I see aim sitting there still. My own father died lyin' right on that lounge right under the window there. Poor pa, he was a spiritualist, and he allus said he'd appear in this room after he died, and sometimes I am foolish enough to look for him. If you should see anything of him to-night you'd better not tell me. It'd be a sign to me that there was something in spiritualism, and I'd hate to think that. My son by my first man fell dead from heart disease right where you stand. He was a doctor, and there's two skeletons in that closet there belongs to him, and half a dozen skulls in that lower drawer. If you are up early and want something to amuse yourself with before breakfast, just open that cupboard there and you will find lots of dead men's bones. My poor boy thought a lot of them. Well, good night and pleasant dreams."

They Are Wise.

"Those bicycle riders are nothing but a set of cranks," said the man who does not ride. "Well," admitted the other man who does not ride, "you must give sels, while twelve years later, in 1692, the house and gardens together form them credit for having some little sense at least. You haven't yet heard of one Four lines of steamships are engaged entry of Diego de Vargas, after his Fruitful orchards and fertile lands of them starting out to discover the vow and the victory which followed it, lie round about the city, which is at | north pole on his wheel."-Cincinnati

New Kansas Freak.

The assistant professor in the Iola High School of Kansas, Miss Donica, has refused a \$140 increase of salary. giving as a reason the remark attributed to Agassiz that she "couldn't afford to waste time in making money."

NEWSY TRIFLES.

The salaries of the queen's household amounts to £131,260. Metz has a larger garrison than any

other town in Europe,

Drunkenness decreases nearly 3 per cent per annum in London. Birmingham, Ala., is shipping pigiron to Birmingham, England,

England has 85 per cent of the wealth of the United Kingdom. This year's mustard crop in California amounts to 16,000,000 pounds.

Sixty pounds was the weight of a beaver trapped at West Branch, Mich. It is stated in a fashionable journal | secured by Mr. McElray, It reads as that 1,000,000 bonnets were sold in follows: London during one week recently.

The speed of the fastest Atlantic steamer is now greater than that of the express trains on Rallan railways, Professor Huxley says that an oyster

is a far more complicated piece of machinery than the finest liwing watch. The greatest tax-payer is tobacco. In the fast twenty-seven years this product has paid a tribute of \$1,000,000,000

to Uncle Sam alone. By washing clothes at the undertak er's the second wife of a Hangue (Ma.) man is paying off the bill for the burtal of her presincement.

MAXIM'S NEW CUN.

Any Hitherto Invented. A new machine gun, which, it is con fidently expected, will cause more damage to life and property than any other quick-firing piece hitherto known to science, was introduced to public notice and its construction and capabilities explained by Mr. Hiram S. Maxim in a lecture at the Royal United Service Institution at London recently. A sample of the gun was on view in an anteroom of the institution. It was pointed out that this was the first fully automatic gun above 11/2 inches which had been an unqualified success. With this new terror a gunner who knows his business can deal out four nine-pound shots in a shade under three seconds without even so much as taking his eye off the object to be attended to or his finger off the trigger. The danger of death to the gunner by the explosion of a cartridge while the breech is open has been rendered impossible by the application of a simple device which prevents the gun being opened until the charge has been fired. This may seem a slight matter, but Mr. Maxim holds that nowadays, when the full mental pressure of the scientist is being brought to bear on the invention of new machines for the rapid annihilation of an enemy, the risk of accident to those who work the complicated mechanism is found to increase. Hence the emphasis laid by the lecturer upon the feature of the new gun. For the rest, the paper dealt with automatic guns from the date of the speaker's first attempt (and failure) up to the present era of perfected mechanism. Numerous illustrations served to render the lecture still more interesting.

BOOTH'S ESCAPE RECALLED .. Death of One of Those Who Concealed

Him After the Crime.

From the Washington Star .- The death of Franklin A. Rohey, which took place near Hill Top, in-Charles county, Md., Friday, removes the last white survivor of those who helped John Wilkes Booth and his companion Herold to escape from Maryland after the assassination of President Lincoln by Booth. It will be remembered that in jumping to the stage in Ford's Theatre, after firing the shot that killed the president, Booth broke his leg. Notwithstanding this accident, the assassin, accompanied by a companion named Herold, rode that night to the home of Dr. Samuel A. Mudd, who set his leg, and the day following sent him to the home of the late Col. Samuel Cox, ten or fifteen miles further on in the direction of the Potomac river, to which point the fleeing criminals were making in their efforts to get into Virginia. Mr. Robey was at that time an overseer on the plantation of Col. Cox, and he was directed to take the fugitives to a point two miles distant in a dense woods and hide them. This he did, and later piloted the late Thomas A, Jones to their hiding place. Mr. Jones fed them, and later, on a dark night, piloted them to the river and started them in a boat he furnished them to the Virginia shore. Mr. Robey never told that he was in any way connected with the escape of the assassin, and it became known only a few years ago through other persons.

HOW CLIMATES AFFECT US. Difference in Degrees of Heat and Cold

Said to Change Characters. The civil war is said to have been caused by a difference in climate, and the question is now being discussed whether a hot or cold climate has the greatest effect on national character. It has been widely believed that a severe climate produces the greater effect, because it compels effort and self-denial, and thus promotes energy and inventiveness. It would also seem that the influence of climate upon national character has been greatly exaggerated. Assyria, Babylonia, Egypt and Carthage, situated in hot latitudes, were among the most masterful nations of antiquity. Mohammed and his conquering legions issued from the burning wilderness of Arabia, and at a later period his successors were able to beat back the repeated attacks of the combined crusading nations from the north. The greatness of a nation depends mainly upon intellectual and moral qualities. and these have often been conspicuously developed among the inhabitants of hot climates. It is important, too, to remember that the same nation, occupying the same region, may be great and powerful in the one age and weak and contemptible in another. The difference between the ancient Greeks, Romans and Saracens, on the one hand, and their modern descendants on the other, cannot have been due to climate.-Cincinnati Commercial-Tribune.

A Missing Verse. Mr. W. L. McElray, of this city, is

the possessor of a rare literary treasure, it being none other than the third verse, or sequel, to Hurns' poem, "John Anderson, My Jo," It was the property of the late Judge Gilmore, of Columbus, written by a friend of his, and recently

John Anderson, my jo, John, We win' no min' that aleep; The grave, so cauld and still, John, Our spirits canna' keep. But we will wake in heaven. John, Where young again we'll graw, And ever live in bliseful luve,

John Apterson, my jo. -Cincinnati Enquirer,

Counter Human. "What is the funnies Wiggles: thing you know of?" Waggies: "The New England idea

of calling occupate 'help.' "---