

# OUR FRIEND, THE COD.

IF HIS POSSIBILITIES WERE FULLY DEVELOPED.

He Would Cover the Whole Earth—A Useful Fish, to Which Thousands Are Entitled for a Livelihood—He Is Philosophic.



(Special Letter.) HOSE who are only acquainted with the cod when he presents himself on the dinner-table or lies mournfully on the fish-monger's slab, his head seeming quite out of proportion to his body, have little idea what a handsome, vigorous fish he is when in his native element. Yet the true merit of the cod lies not in his beauty; he is not one of the aristocrats of the age—indeed, there is something indubitably plebeian even in his good looks. It is upon his utility that he prides himself. Indeed, it is possible that the cod is more valuable to us than all the other fish put together. Certainly, if you reckon with him "his sisters and his cousins and his uncles," among whom are the haddock, whiting, coal-fish, pollack, hake, ling, and rookling, he represents the most important family of the sea.

It is difficult to enumerate all the services of the cod to us. Of course, his flesh, particularly on the head and shoulders, is most valuable boiled, fried, or in the humble "twice laid;" it is also dried everywhere. Next, his roe is delightful; when smoked it is almost equal to caviare. By its swimming bladder it again competes with the sturgeon, since it furnishes an isinglass little inferior to that of the great ray fish. Nor should we overlook the fact that the cod gives great sport to the angler. Of course, a greater service is that of maintaining the thousands of families whose men spend their lives, and lose them, too, in catching the codfish.

Another great service of the cod is done by its liver. Cod-liver oil has probably saved the lives of many people. In it you find digestible forms of animal fats, acid and saline bodies of oleic origin, phosphates, salts, and traces of phosphorus, iodine, and bromine. One wonders whether the cod

# MAN IS CONDENSED AIR.

What Liebig, the Greatest Chemist of the Century Wrote.

Liebig, the greatest chemist of the century, writes: "Science has demonstrated the fact that man, the being which performs the great wonders, is formed of condensed air and solidified and liquid gases, that he lives upon condensed air, as well as upon uncondensed air, and that by means of the same mysterious agent he moves, or ceases to be moved, the heaviest weights with the velocity of the wind. But the strangest part of the matter is that thousands and millions of these tabernacles of condensed air are going on two legs, destroying other forms of condensed air which they may need to build up their own wasted tissues, or for shelter or clothing, or, on account of their egotism and fancied power, destroying each other in pitched battles, using implements which are but other forms of condensed air, the material of which they themselves are formed or composed. Chemistry supplies the clearest proof that, so far as concerns this, the ultimate and most minute composition and structure, some of which are so infinitesimal as to be beyond the comprehension of our senses, man is, to all appearances, at least, composed of materials identified with those which compose the structural being of the ox or the dog, or even the lowest animals in the scale of creation." Solomon seems to have entertained the same idea. See Ecclesiastes iii, 19: "For that which befalleth the sons of men, befalleth beasts; as the one dieth, so dieth the other; yea, they have all one breath, so that a man hath no pre-eminence above a beast." Copyright, 1898, by the Bachelor Syndicate.

**The Better Way.** There are some men who believe that honesty in every-day business matters is incompatible with success. They think that in order to get along they must practice a certain degree of trickery and deception. They argue that the up-and-down honest man, who will not swerve from the path of rectitude, is sure to fail in whatever he undertakes; and hence they justify themselves in practicing petty as well as wholesale fraud, and in taking advantage of the veracity of customers under the plea that custom and necessity compel them to adopt this course. The man who possesses the requisite business qualifications can succeed better by pursuing an honest, straightforward course, than if he were to

# NOTES OF THE WHEEL.

MATTERS OF INTEREST TO DEVOTEES OF THE BICYCLE.

New Game on the Wheel—Requires Nine Players on Each Side—Carpenter the Australian Racer—A Wonderful Trick Rider.



NEW bicycle game or rather game which can be played on wheels has lately been evolved by a cycling genius in England. It is called the royal game and requires a court or field divided into alleys.

Two teams of nine riders each take part, and the field is divided into a right and left field, with the courses chalked out plainly. An alleyway constructed of ropes or cables extends from the upper to the lower field on the division line between right and left field. Cables also from two upright sides between the playwheel rolls, and is driven backward or forward by the riders in passing at any point between the lower and upper field. The playwheel is a single bicycle rim, having a four and one-half inch pneumatic tire. The idea of the game is to drive this playwheel from the center field, through attacks of opponents, to a goal ahead, the riders using sticks especially made for the game. The ends of the alleyways are the goals for the respective teams. Players ride in single file and always circle to the left. Thus the two teams are constantly meeting and passing each other in opposite directions on the upper sides of the alleyways. Royal is a game requiring swift riding and much skill, and a novice would scarcely venture to form one of a team.

Bicycle improvement has been gradually modifying all manner of vehicle construction. The use of expensive material, such as tubing and finely machined forgings, in cycles has proved that adequate strength is not necessarily dependent upon weight. The bicycle is the only vehicle in the world that carries ten times its own weight. The lesson taught by cycles has been taken to heart by carriage builders and is now instructing railway engineers how to lighten and yet strengthen railway carriage trucks by abandoning the use of cheap castings, which are excessively costly because of the frequency with which they have to be renewed. The universal adoption of pneumatic tires for trotting sulks and of solid rubber tires for coupes are notable examples of bicycle innovation. At Berlin, Leipzig and Dresden the public cabs have cyclometers attached so that passengers can check the exact distance traveled and pay fare accordingly. So much has been said about the mischief caused by the bicycle that it is worth while now and then to pause and reflect upon such facts as the foregoing, not to mention the road improvement it has inspired.

English manufacturers have taken a step that will do much toward providing riders with accurate, well-wearing chains. All the makers have united in an agreement to use a certain "template" or "templet," which is a pattern gauge. They have selected what they believe to be the best one, and henceforth all English chains will be of uniform "pitch," no matter what the design. This is an advantage to bicycle builders also, inasmuch as it enables them to use any make of chain. If a similar move were made in America chain-driven cycles would be much improved.

John Carpenter is the Australian cyclist who won the great \$1,200 purse in the big event of the country last month.



JOHN CARPENTER.

The event was run under the auspices of the Australian Wheel club and for a distance of two miles. The race was one of the greatest in the history of the event by reason of the presence of so many English cracks, including J. Platt-Betts, Platt-Betts and Hadden, another English crack, rode from scratch. Carpenter had an eighty-five-yard handicap. The race recalls to the minds of many wheelmen H. H. Lambton, who was the only man to ever twice capture the prize, and who died in Chicago in 1894. He won the event in 1887, with a 210-yard handicap of two miles, and again in 1892, with a 90-yard start.

The practice of spending the summer months in touring through Europe has gained many advocates, and informa-

tion relating to roads and accommodations is eagerly sought after. The L. A. W. has been considering the matter for some time. The General Council of the Cyclists' Touring Club of England has accepted the proposition of the governing organization here, looking to an interchange of benefits. Contracts are now being prepared which provide that an L. A. W. member may join the C. T. C. when about to tour abroad, and receive his membership ticket, foreign tour books, maps and hotel lists before sailing. This arrangement will enable him not only to lay out the details of his trip before reaching Europe, but will insure to him the benefits of discount rates at hundreds of hotels in all the popular cycling districts.

The heads of the different State Boards in the L. A. W. have discovered the need of some changes in division racing regulations. A. D. Waite, chairman of the New York Division Board, expresses his belief that the state should be divided into five districts, the members of the board be increased from three to five, and each member to assume charge of a proportionate portion of the work. He also advocates that the sanction fee for state circuit meets be increased from \$5 to \$10, one-half of which should be devoted to the conduct of the division racing affairs. Such a change would make state boards self-supporting.

The youngest trick rider in the world is said to be Master Arthur Czekowski, a 6-year-old Berlin boy, who has already given exhibitions in the German theaters.

"Little Arthur," as he is called, fell into the trick-riding habit by accident,



YOUNGEST OF TRICK RIDERS.

so to speak. His father was an acrobat and juggler, but had no intention of having his son follow in his footsteps. One day, however, before the small boy was out of bibs and skirts he astonished his parents by his mimicry of his father's feats. He developed such an astonishing ability, both as a gymnast and a mimic, that it occurred to his father about a year ago to make him a trick cyclist. The youngster has succeeded so remarkably that all Berlin raves over his performances.

Do not neglect your tires. The luxury of easy riding is almost entirely dependent upon them. A tire that is continually amiss in some little details robs cycling of all its pleasure. A good tire is a thing to be prized. This is a fact that is not always recognized at its true value. How often does the average rider look after the tires. The nickel parts of a machine are kept free from dust, but the tires are often sadly neglected. It is impossible to ride upon roads, no matter how good they may be, without the tire becoming at times slightly out or grazed. A small, sharp stone may become embedded in it almost out of sight. Little by little it works its way in with each revolution of the wheel, and at length comes the puncture. Slight cuts get deeper and deeper, dirt and wet penetrate the rubber and almost before the rider is aware of it the whole fabric is beyond redemption. Tires should be carefully examined every few days. The bicycle should be turned upside down, being allowed to rest upon the handlebars and the saddle, and as each wheel is slowly revolved every inch of the tire should be carefully looked over. In order to extract a sharp stone any instrument with a cutting edge should be tabooed. A pair of small tweezers or the blade of an ivory or bone paper knife is all that is necessary. Cuts should be carefully cleaned out and a little solution pressed into them and allowed to dry if they are small. For larger ones a small piece of cotton, wool or lint should be saturated with solution and pressed firmly into position.

English manufacturers are exerting themselves with a view to furnishing a tire that will circumvent tacks, sharp stones, splinters, etc. They have partially succeeded, in so far as there are now on exhibition in England tires on which some mysterious compound is placed that seizes a puncture almost as quickly as it happens. Others are supported by rubber disks instead of compressed air, and still another tire, on which there are several chambers, three of which must be punctured before the inner tube will succumb.

Adjustable handle bars will be a feature of '98 models. They are made so that any shape of drop may be secured by loosening the screw and turning the bar until the desired shape is attained. Many '98 wheels will have adjustable stems, so that any height of handle bar can be had. The screw-head will be so arranged that there will be no slipping of the bar and no scratching of the nickeling by the wrench. Of the stationary handle bar it is said the medium drop will be the most popular next season.

# THEATRICAL GOSSIP.

INTERESTING NOTES ABOUT STAGE AND ITS PEOPLE.

Wilton Lackaye Fooled by a Pair of Innocent Looking Blue Eyes—Mascaigni's New Opera Being Written in Japan—Sardou's Pamela.



RECENTLY Wilton Lackaye was playing an engagement in Washington in his new play, "The Royal Secret," and his manager advertised for a number of snuff boys to be at the stage door of the theater Monday morning at 11. The boys appear as acolytes in a scene of the play. In making a selection of the most presentable among the lot Mr. Lackaye's eyes lit upon a little tot who was not more than 8 years of age. His face was beset with dirt, but there beamed from beneath this veneer of mother earth two soft blue eyes, and with a sweet and innocent expression of countenance and curly, but uncombed blonde hair and shaggy dress, he presented a picture of childish simplicity that would have been a work of art if put on canvas. Mr. Lackaye drew the little fellow to one side and as he did so the tears began to trickle down the boy's face. He was timid and abashed in the presence of the actor. Lackaye, with visions of a large family in a tenement-house, living in one room, the father dead, the mother taking in washing and possibly this lad grubbing about for sustenance, did not interrogate him as to his position, but told him to follow the other boys he had engaged and follow the directions of the stage manager. Incidentally Mr. Lackaye placed a \$5 bill in the boy's hand and said: "This is for your mother and the children at home." Tuesday night the boy did not turn up at the



ANNA ROBINSON.

theater and another boy was put in his place. Mr. Lackaye read in the Wednesday morning papers, something about "one of Lackaye's young actors." This angelic youth had been arrested for playing craps in the street and enticing boys of his own age to gamble. The newspaper account said he was incorrigible, an associate of bad boys and a constant worry to his parents, respectable people, in modest circumstances. He was taken home by his father after the judge had discharged him with a reprimand.

Whenever Sardou writes a new play several actors and managers in this country break their necks to get it. It looks as if his latest might make its American purchaser wish he had broken his neck before he got it. Curious rumors reach us from the Paris Vaudeville.



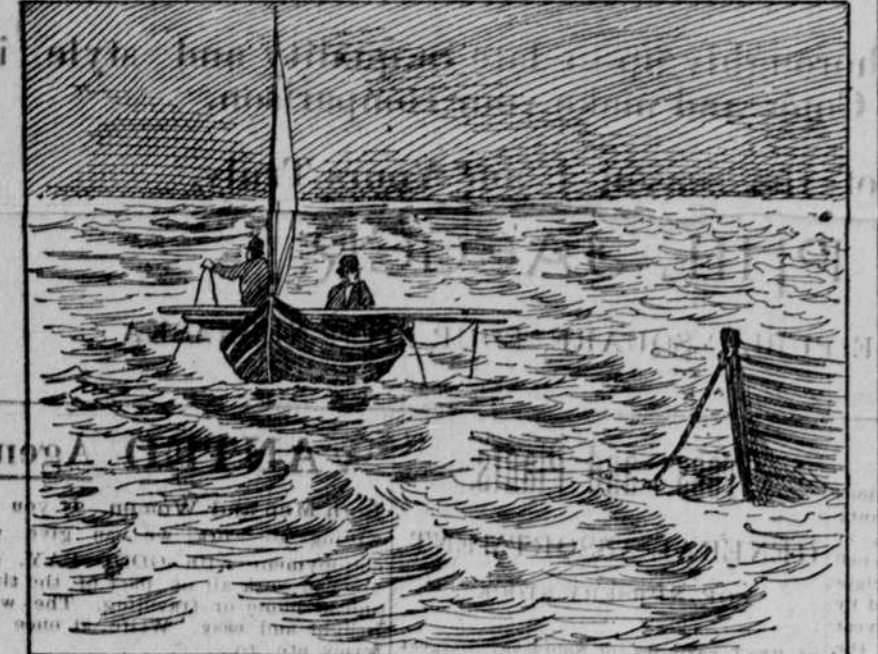
SARAH GRAND'S BICYCLE SUIT.

deville with respect to Mr. Sardou's new play, "Pamela," now in rehearsal there, a correspondent writes. We were told that when Mr. Sardou read the work that day he shed copious tears, some of the author's friends even improving upon this by stating that everybody wept with emotion. One of the artists who were present at the reading of the work now tells a different tale. "I have no right," he said, "to express an opinion on the piece nor to divulge the plot. But I may say that Mrs. Hejane is not pleased with it. Of course, she may be mistaken. "Pamela" may prove a success, but it

has always a depressing effect on the others when the principal artist sets to work in a half-hearted fashion. "Pamela," however, will be mounted in grand style. The dresses and scenery will be truly magnificent.

Mme. Sarah Grand has rested long enough from literary labors to design a bicycle costume for her own particular use. It is modeled on the Rosalind costume and is intended for winter wear, although it can be fashioned readily enough into an attractive summer rig for the athletic girl. It is made of white fur and follows the Rosalind idea very closely. Over the shoulders is thrown the heavy cloak of the "Rosalind" idea, which can be discarded at the option of the bicyclist but certainly adds to the smartness of the wearer's appearance. The hose and "doublet" are modified into tight-fitting knickerbockers of white fur and on a slender woman look extremely well.

From all places under the sun news of Mascaigni's new opera comes from Japan. He is at work there upon a new opera to be called "Iris." The work will be purely Japanese in character, and Mascaigni in his new music has endeavored to reproduce the peculiar tone effects of Japanese instruments. He spends the entire day in the celebrated instrumental abolition of Baron Kraus. (The problem to present to the public a score containing music that would be acceptable to the European ear and lose nothing of the Japanese originality has proved a real physical torture to him. The plot is as follows: A simple, charming, sweet-tempered young girl (Iris) with an old blind father. The girl, appearing leading her parent into the garden, where he waters the flowers, a chorus of the Musumis greets the rising sun and then betakes itself to a gentle rivulet that meanders through the landscape. The prince of the neighborhood hears of the charms and purity of Iris, and by his orders Takomati abducts her from her home and con-



COD FISHING.

ever suffers from ill-health, seeing that he carries such a battery of drugs in himself. Where do all the cod come from? Why does not the sea grow bankrupt, so far as the common cod is concerned? Frank Buckland, in 1868, reckoned the number of eggs in a single roe; the total was actually 6,867,000 eggs! Nearly seven million eggs from one cod! If ten per cent of the eggs produced in a year by the cod were to grow to be fish, the waters of the sea, in volume some 322,000,000 cubic miles, or in weight 1,332,000,000,000,000,000 tons, would be pushed over on the earth, which would easily accommodate them. However, the enemies of the cod are countless, and one need not fear an invasion. Yet such masses of cod are found along the northern coasts that often the fish are caught by jigging with unbaited hooks, and it is said that sometimes the leads take a long time to get to the bottom, because they bump from fish to fish. Our friend the cod is easily caught, for he is deplorably greedy, and will take almost anything that comes in his way. The biggest cod on record was of the weight of 60 pounds.

Fortunately for the fisherman, and unfortunately for the angler, the cod is not a good fighting fish. Like a chub, he makes a big rush, but, when he finds himself well hooked, throws up the sponge.

**A Receipted Bill.** A day or two ago Mr. William Whitley, the "universal provider," observed that a young gentleman in the cash desk was much taken up with an interesting periodical, and he accordingly quietly woke him up by giving him a gentle pull by the ear. The youth, however, never suspecting that it was the hand of his employer, and believing that it was one of his juvenile friends, did not take the trouble to look up but dabbed his rubber stamp well on to the pad and came gently down on the universal provider's hand with the stamp, "Paid, William Whitley."—Draper's Record.

deaden his conscience and disregard all moral obligations. We frequently hear the expression made in reference to some good natured, inactive man, "Oh, he's too honest to get along." Now this is a false inference, for in nine cases out of ten the honest man's failure does not arise from the practice of an upright course, but from his unfitness for the business in which he is engaged. We do not by any means intend to convey the impression that honesty will cause a man who is not qualified for the business in which he engages to succeed. What we mean to assert, and the impression that we would leave on the minds of the readers of the Ledger is, that a man who is adapted to a certain pursuit will, and must necessarily succeed better by dealing honestly and uprightly than by cheating and defrauding. But in addition to the matter of success, how cheerful and pleasant is the condition of the man who knows and feels that he is doing an honest business—a business which his conscience approves!—New York Ledger.

**Von.** In Germany "von" implies nobility, and all persons who belong to the nobility prefix "von" to their family names without any exception. Persons who do not belong to the nobility cannot have the right to put "von" before their names. A man who is knighted for some reason, however, has the same right to put "von" before his family as a person of ancient nobility. For instance, when Alexander Humboldt was knighted he became Alexander von Humboldt. All his descendants, male and female, take the prefix.—Philadelphia Press.

**The Hating Passion.** "What do you mean by bringing that awful looking brute home?" asked the indignant wife of her young hoggish lord. "I'll have no such horrid dog about this place." "But I got him at half off, dear." "Oh, you old darling, what a manager you are. Bring the beauty into the parlor till I get acquainted with him."

**Stage Gossip.** Mrs. Carter contemplates appearing not only as "Camille," but in revivals of "A Winter's Tale" and "Much Ado About Nothing."

Wilton Lackaye has sent out neatly printed cards bearing his portrait and an original poem, "The Player's Christmas."

Adelaide and Leon Hegmann have received a flattering offer from Lucy Kiraly, director-general for the London exposition beginning in May.