A Secrer. A man who had purchased a finelooking horse soon discovered that the

animal was blind, and after several weeks he succeeded in dispesing of her. as the defect did not seem to lessen her speed nor detract from her general appearance. The next day the new owner of the horse appeared.

"Say, you know that mare you sold me?" he began. "She's stone-blind." "I know it," replied her past owner,

with an easy air. "You didn't say anything to me about

it." said the purchaser, his face red with anger. "Well, you see," replied the other "that fellow who sold her to me didn't

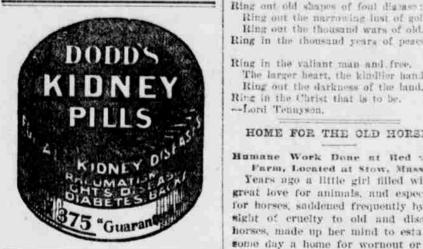
tell me about it, and I just concluded that he didn't want it known."

#### Lights Out!

An irascible sergeant, going his hightly round of the barracks in order to make sure that all lights had been extinguished, noticed that a window was illuminated. He roused the occupants of the room. "Put out that light," he ordered, "and be quick about ft !"

"But it's moonlight," explained a private

"I don't care what it is," roared the sergeant; "put it out!"-London Graphle,



#### Pic.

The old kady who distinguished her pies by marking them with a "T," signifying "'tis mince" and "'tain't mince," has been outdone by the culinary expert of a little hotel among the Green Mountains. The chance guest had finished the serious part of a wholesome dinner, when the cook, who was also waitress and landlady, asked him if he didn't want some ple.

"What sort of ple have you?" he asked, expectantly, "Well, we've got three kinds," said the hostess, "open-faced, cross-barred and kivered-all apple."-Woman's Home Companion.

#### How's This?

We offer One Hundred Dollars Reward for BDy case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by Hall's Catarrh Cure. F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, O.

F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, O. We, the undersigned, have known F. J. Choney for the last 15 years, and believe him perfectly honorable in all business trans-actions and financially able to carry out any obligations made by his firm. WaldING, KINMAN & MARVIN, Wholesale Druggists, Toledo, O. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. Testimonials sent free. Price 75 cents per bottle. Sold by all Druggists. all Dr

l Druggists. Take Hall's Family Pills for constipation.

#### 0333973333333333333333333333333 FABLE OF THE TWO FLEAS.

**Old Favorites** 

New Year's Eve.

Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,

The figing cloud, the frosty light:

Ring out, wild bells, and let him die,

Ring, happy bells, across the snow;

The year is dying in the night;

Ring out the old, ring in the new,

The year is going, let him go ;

Ring in redress to all munkind.

Ring out a slowly dring cause

But ring the fuller minstrel in.

Ring out the false, ring in the true,

Ring out the grief that says the mind,

For those that here we see no more : Ring out the feud of rich and poor,

And ancient forms of party strife:

Ring in the nobler modes of life,

With swepter manners, purer laws,

Ring out the want. the care, the sin.

The faithless coldness of the times:

Ring out false pride in place and blood.

Ring in the love of truth and right.

Ring out the narrowing lust of gold;

Ring out the thousand wars of old.

The larger heart, the kindlier hand;

Ring out the darkness of the land.

HOME FOR THE OLD HORSE.

Humane Work Done at Red Mere

Farm, Located at Stow, Mass.

great love for animals, and especially

for horses, suddened frequently by the

sight of cruelty to old and disabled

horses, made up her mind to establish

some day a home for wornout or sick

horses where they could be treated

with kindness and consideration and

where they could spend their last

years in peace and comfort. A beauti-

ful thought for a child to origiante

and remarkably realized in the new

The history of the establishing of

the place and its subsequent develop-

ment, as told by Miss Harriet J. Bird.

the originator and founder of the

plan, who with her mother lives there

and personally superintends the work,

is so full of tender interest that her

Boston audience the other day was

frequently moved to tears. The life of

the average horse is a tragedy toward

the last. How little we realize what

the downfall process means until the

end is reached and the willing feet

How many owners of a horse when

can travel no more.

famous Red Acre farm at Stow.

Years ago a little girl filled with a

Ring in the thousand years of perce.

Ring in the valiant map and free,

Rive in the Christ that is to be.

-ford Tennyson.

The civic shander and the spite;

Ring in the common love of good.

Ring out, ring out my mouraful rayme

#### Moral Shows That Love of Lexury

May Lead to Fatal Results. Two fleas were once sitting on a dog who was wandering about the streets when one of them said : "Brother, what a degraded, half-starved lot is ours! Here we have chosen to unite ourselves to a common street cur who wanders from alley to alley. We see nothing but the most dismal sights, We hear no elevating conversation or delightful small talk. Surely there ought to be something better in store

for us than this." "You are right," said the second first. "Look, my brother, here is a carriage approaching. It is evidently some highborn lady bent on a charitable enteran effort to better ourselves." "Spleydid," said the first flea, "We nounced,

will live amid the most luxurious sur- Frederick Harrison's book entitled roundings. We will feed on the fat "The Philosophy of Common Sense"

in a clean bed." jumps as the carriage stopped they both landed simultaneously on the fuck of the terrier. In a short time they were driven to their new home. So delighted were they with their new life that the two fleas could retreely contain themselves for lov.

Their manifestations, however, were so unusual that the ferrier frantically scratched himself, which attracted the attention of his mistress, who immediately sent for a physician, who at once gave the dog such a radical treatment that the two fleas were slowly drowced in a horrible fluid that came like a flood and surprised them before

they were able to get away. "Alas! brother," said the first flea as he gave a dying gasp, "why could

we not have been satisfied with our humble lot?" Moral : Some folks never know when to let well enough alone.--Life.

## CARING FOR CAPTIVE FISHES.

Changes Required by the Seasons-

Screen for the Sea Cow. The seasons bring changes at the Aquarium in the manner of caring for the captive fishes just as they do, though in a different fashion, in men's ways of caring for themselves, says the New York Sun.

Here, for instance, in the fall warmed salt water is turned into the tanks containing the tropical fishes to make possible their existence through the winter, for these fishes could not live in water of the temperature of that hereabout at this season; and in the spring cooled fresh water is turned into the tanks containing salmon and trout, which could not live through the summer in water of the temperature to which the flow from the pipes then rises when such fishes in nature would

seek deeper and cooler waters, as in he reaches the stage where his pace cool springs. This year at the Aquarium the refrigis unsatisfactory or he begins to show signs of age think of sending him to erating plant for the cooling of the water for the fishes that require it an "old horses' home," where for a was started up about two weeks later triffing sum he can be boarded and than usual. It was a backward spring taken care of for the rest of his life and the natural flow of fresh water or from where he can be loaned to from the Croton pipes remained suffiresponsible people who will give him ciently cool much later than usual. enough light work to keep him well, Warming up later, the water contin-



#### 2 as Longfellow house at Portland, 242., has been closed for the winter with a registration of ; arly 10,000 visitors this year.

Major General C. C. Howard will contribute a series of true stories on "Famous Indian Chizfs" to St. Nichalus during 1905.

The title of Jack London's book dealprise. In her hap sits such a beautiful ing with his experiences as a tramp little terrier. Let us, therefore, make will be "The Rond" instead of "My Life in the Underworld," as previously an-

of the land. We will sleep at night, has just appeared. It seems to consist largely of critical essays dealing And so in a few bold but successful with the work of Spencer. Huxley, Lewes, Balfour and other contemporaries of Mr. Harrison. "The Philosophy of Common Sense" supplements "The Creed of a Layman."

> The press censor of the United States, working through the Postoffice Department, has berred from the mails Jugend, the German weekly renowned or its incomparable plain and colored Dustrations, and the Hamburger Nabrichten, the Bismarckian weekly. In he second case the lottery laws proteet the itching palm. It is not known whether the embargo is momentary or empliternal.

In a sult for 10 per cent royalty on for work, "The New Metropolis," one Mrs. Zelsloft forced D. Appleton & Co. to admit that many copies of the book were sold as Junk. The publishers very naturally decline to pay royalty on junk. But a heavy history must bring a fair sum bartered by the pound. Think of the gold mine in alling a German pedagogue's polysyllable treatise on mare's nests!

We learn that Miss May Sinclair, author of "The Helpmate," writes of Kate Douglas Wiggin's "New Chronicles of Rebecca :" "The new Rebacca book is even better than the first one. Grownup geniuses are hard to 'do,' but the thild genius is only 'done' by the grace of God, and that has certainly been with Mrs. Wiggin in the writing of hese stories." The grace of God is ienied by many to the author of "The (lelpmate." What, one wonders, does Mrs. Kate Douglas Wiggin think?

Mrs. Elinor Glyn's remarks that American men are dears, that they are polite, that they are not superficial and that in intelligence they are millions of miles ahead of the Englishman has been repeated back to England. Also her surmise that the source of American energy is the buckwheat cake. A Londan dally says in comment that the American editorial columns strike a "universal note of joy." "The Amerlean men are satisfied that Mrs. Glyn has wonderful insight." Mrs. Glyn is surely mistaken in the matter of buckwheat cakes. Far from being the source of energy, they are the great sedative and soporific. America eats buckwheat cakes on the Sabbath to stay its gnawing conscience for the rest of the week. As for the rest-American minds and manners-Mrs. Glyn has exquisite perception. Mrs. Glyn is profound. Mrs. Glyn is a genius.

## Look Into Space

A young man whose eyes had been traubling him consulted a New York oculist, "What you want to do," said the specialist, "is to take a trip every day on the ferry or in New Jersey. Long Island-any place where you can see long distances. Look up and down the river, across fields or, if the worst comes to the worst, go on the top of a that point. The idea is to get distance. You uso your eyes a great deal and always at close rauge. You can't use them any other way in town. Even when not reading or writing the vision is limited by small rooms and narrow streets. No matter in what direction you look, there is a blank wall not far away to shut off sight."

## FIVE MONTHS IN HOSPITAL.

Discharged Scenuse Doctors Could Not Cure. Levi P. Brockway, S. Second avenue.

"After lying for Anoka, Minn., says: five months in a hospital, I was disan

charged as incurable, and given only 和他 你是 six months to live. My heart was af feeted, I had smothering spells and sometimes fell unconscious. I got so

I couldn't use my arms, my evesight was impaired and the kidney secretions were budly disordered. I was completely worn out it."-Philadelphia Press. and discouraged when I began using Doan's Kidney Pills, but they went

right to the cause of the trouble and did their work well. I have been feeling well ever since." Sold by all dealers. 50 cents a box.

Foster-Milburn Co., Euffalo, N. Y.

In Doubt About One Point. "But I have talked long enough, my riends," said the long-winded crator. "Refore I sit down, however, I am willing to answer any questions you would like to ask as to points I may have failed to cover in my discourse."

A brief pause followed. Then a timid looking man in the audi-

DUC FORM "Is a motion to adjourn in order?" he

asked .- Chicago Teihune. ELEVEN YEARS OF ECZEMA.

Hands Cracked and Bleeding-Nall

Came of of Finger-Cuticora Remedies Brought Prompt Relief. "I had eczema on my bands for about eleven years. The hands cracked open in many places and bled. One of my fingers was so bad that the nail came off. I had tried so many remedies, and they all had falled to cure me. I had seen three doctors, but got no relief. Finally I got a cake of Cuticura Soap, a box of Caticura Ointment and two bottles of Cutleura Resolvent Pills, Of course I keep Cuticura Soap all the time for my hands, but the one cake of Soap and half a box of Cuticura Ointment cured them. I recommend the Caticura Remedies to all suffering with eczema. Mrs. Eliza A. Wiley, R. F. D. No. 2, Liscomb, Ia. Oct. 18, 1906."

When Matches Were a Luxury. The people of to-day cannot realize the difference in comfort and convenience now and sixty years ago just because of the manufacture and cheapness of matches. I can remember

Scaled Orders. The custom of having warships sail under sealed orders arose from the desire of maritime powers to prevent the plans from becoming known to the enemy. In the American navy such orders come from the President and are delivered to a commander of a ship or squadron by a confidential messenger who knows nothing of their contents. skyscraper and scan the horizon from | Sometimes they are in cipher, but they are always sealed with the official seal of the Navy Department and the package cannot be opened until the time marked on it, which is usually several hours after the hour of leaving port. By this precaution the newspapers are prevented from disclosing prematurely the movements which may be of the greatest importance, and the sples of the enemy are rendered useless so far as their ability to discover the secret of such movements is concerned. Salling under sealed orders is now the common naval practice in time of war.

These instructions are found in the packet of scaled orders, which is opened when well out at sea.

"Says boss," began the beggar, "gimme de price of a square meal, won't yer? I don't want booze. I'll go right in ter dis restaurant-" "Haven't got any money for you.

PILES CURED IN 6 TO 14 DAYS.

Next to Nothing.

thing about dill pickles?

Mistreas-Malvina, do you know any-

come out, "but I'll give you a tip. If you do get the price don't go in there for a square meal, for you won't get

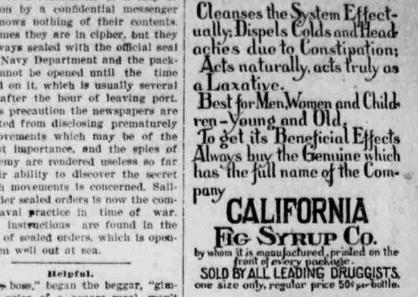
"Gentlemen of the jury," he said in part, "in arriving at a verdict in this PAZØ OINTMENT is guaranteed to cure any case of ltching, Blind, Bleeding or Protrud-ing Piles in 6 to 14 days or money refunded. case you must take the testimony of the witnesses for the defense into consideration and give them full weight."

#### At the words "fuil weight" one of the jurymen fainted. He was a coal dealer .- Milwaukee Sentinel.

New Girl-I think I met him at a MENTION THIS PAPER when warned to ANYARTIME dance once, ma'am, but I haven't any ne-S. C. N. U. - - No. 1-1908. quaintance with him .--- Chicago Tribune.



Soap clogs the porcs-Borax removes the soap and freshens the skin-Try it. All dealers. Sample, Booklet and Parlor Card Game, roc. PACIFIC COAST BORAX CO., Chicago, BA

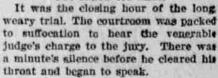


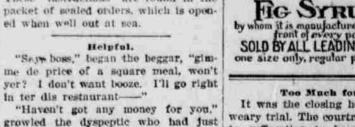
CALIFORNIA

Fig Syrup Co. by whom it is manufactured, printed on the front of every package. SOLD BY ALL LEADING DRUGGISTS. one size only, regular price 50° per bottle

Syrup&Figs ondElixir&Senna

#### Too Much for Him.





#### The Refort Susanic.

Susan B. Anthony had addressed the New York Constitutional Convention in Albany in 1867, and offered to answer questions.

"You know the bullet and the ballot go together." drawled Mr. Greeley. "If you vote are you ready to fight?" "Yes, Mr. Greeley," she replied, "Just as you fought in the late warat the end of a goose-quill."

Only One "BROMO QUININE" That is LAXATIVE BROMO QUININE. Loc. for the signature of E. W. GROVE. Used the World over to Cure a Cold in One day.

#### Taken by Surprise. "How many children have you?" asked

the census taker. "Well," said the father of the large

family, studying a moment, "there's John, Julia, Hiram and Samuel-them's twins -Lucy, James, William----"I'm not asking their names. I only

want to know how many there are in the family."

"Drat it !" irritably rejoined the father, "you-ask me so kind o' sudden like that I disremember. I jist got to name 'em, mister, 'fore I can tell ye how many there is."

Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup for Children teething, softens the guns, reduces in famination, allays pain, cures wind cold 25c a bottle.

#### Charence Knew.

"I don't take any stock in the professions of these politicians," the visitor was remarking. "They've all got some selfish scheme to put through. You never can tell what a man has up his sleeve. "I can, Mr. Jymes," said little Clar-

ence, butting into the conversation. "You've got a dirty cuff up yours, I an see it."

#### Hides, Pelts and Wool.

To get full value, ship to the old re-liable N. W. Hide & Fur Co., Minneapolis, Minn.

#### Diplomacy.

"I suppose, Henry, you are going to be initiated into the order of the Antelopes to-night. Anything to spend an evening away from home!

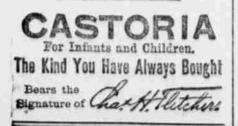
'No, dear; I have decided to withdraw my application. A friend of mine who belongs to it has told me I would be sure to be blackballed.'

"The ideal Do they think you're not good enough for them? Henry, you go right off and join the Gazelles! Show those cheap skates you can get into a good deal better secret society than theirs !"

### Not Worth While,

Austere Person-1 can't tip you, young man, unless you have change for a ten-

Walter (sizing him up)-Reep your dime, sir; I haven't a nickel about me.



t attlicted with Thompson's Eye Water

to be returned to the home when his usefulness is over?

That is what Red Acre farm represents-a home for old horses. There are a few faithful and honored pensioners at Red Acre, notably among whom is a horse from the Boston fire department, remarkably intelligent and much beloved. But the most pitiful tales were those of the rescued-horses bought from peddlers for \$1 or more, found in the most abject misery, beaten, starved, emaciated, almost at the end of their endurance-these are the ones that Red Acre ministers and delights in reclaiming. Those that are hopeless are mercifully killed, but

many recover marvelously .-- Boston Transcript. WATCH IN COW KEEPS TIME.

#### Bossy's Respiration Winds Up the Timeplece.

Axel Axelrud, a prominent North Dakota farmer, tells a remarkable story of the recovery of a valuable timepiece lost many years ago. He says that about seven years ago he was at work in his barnyard, and the day being warm, he removed his coat and vest. hanging them on the fence. In the pocket of the west was his gold watch. A calf chewed out the pocket of the vest and swallowed the watch, although he did not suspect that this was the case at the time he missed his timeplece.

Last week Axelrud slaughtered the calf, which had become a staid old milch cow. In cutting it up he found the watch imbedded in its lungs. The strangest part of the story is his statement that the watch was still running He accounts for this fact by saying that the position of the watch was such that the process of respiration, the closing and filling of the lungs, kopt the watch, which was a stem-winder. wound up.

Axelrud says that the watch had lost only four minutes in the entire seven years .- Pioncer Press.

#### Public Spirits.

Landlord-" 'Ope you won't 'ave any objection, sir, to my putting a subscription list up in the ber for the benefit of the widow of Giles, the wagoner, as died Inst Saturday? Rector-Certainly, if you wish to,

Landlord-Thank ye, sir. "E was a ann as ought to be encoursed. 'Condderate to his losses; is always sho ped fere to rest fem on the way up the 'ill.-Punch:

#### Cancessary Delay. "Was pape really mad?" asked the

girl "Mad? Well, I should say?" replied

er lover. "I came to the point right way and told him we datended to be married in the fall." "And what alld he say?"

"He said, 'What! Why not at once?" -Philadelphia Ledger.

If the wife dies first, her husband all the way to his grave is burdened with the wonder of what she intended to do with the remnants he found in the bureau drawers.

ued warm later this year than usual and so the refrigerating plant was this year kept going ten days later than ordinarily, until the water had got down to a temperature in which the fishes could live. And now the plant for supplying

warmed salt water has been started up for the comfort and well-being of the tropical fishes.

Another winter preparation here is seen lu the sercen or curtain that at this season is set up around the sea cow's pool for its better protection through the winter; the sea cow comes from a warmer clime, Florida, This screen is so rigged that it can be kept snugly furled through the day; it is let down at night to protect the sea cow

> from cold and drafts. NEARLY EATEN ALIVE

#### Savage Squirrels Swarmed Over Man And Bit Him.

Jem Britton, of Fairfield, N. J., was nearly eaten alive by squirrels, according to the New York World, Jem is all over squirrel tooth marks to prove it. Jem is a great hand for chestnuts, He didn't use to care about shooting rabbits and squirrels and things, because he much to believe the small creatures have as good a right to live as he. He's changed his mind now as to squirrels. Jem took his chestnut basket and a

couple of chestnut bags yesterday and went over to Farley's woods, near Fairfield, and started to gather chestnuts. A whole army of squirrels fled at his approach, and as he started to gather unts he could hear them chattering in the boughs over his head. It seemed to Jem that the chattering was a peevish kind of chattering, but he didn't pay much attention to it until a squirrel dropped down on the back of his neck and bit his ear.

Jem cussed and knocked the squirrel off, but just then another squirrel ran up Jem's leg and bit his knee. More in surprise than anger Jem aimed a kick at the squirrel with his other foot. and in doing so fell to the ground.

When Jem got up again there were sputrrels hanging to him all over, and biting him like everything. Jem says he never saw so many squirrels and that by gosh he's going to kill a squirrel a day for the rest of his natural life so help him. He ran away from there

and got a club, but when he returned to the squirrels they set upon him just the same and bit him so much worse than the first time that he had to run for his life, with squirrels dropping off

him all the way home. Juin's own mother didn't know himwhen he got home, but she believed every word he told her.

A Crossel is Not Company, But little do, men perceive what solltude is and how fur it extendeth, for a epawd is not company, and faces are but a gallery of pictures, and talk but a tinkling cymbal where there is no

love.-Bacon's Essay on "Friendship." Bad weather is abused almost as much as a married man.

## ART OF THE ETRUSCANS.

Mysterious People Who Left Traces of a Remarkable Civilization. Why did the Etruscans devote their whole lives to the incessant making of pottery until it accumulated in such quantities that they were compelled to bury it in order to keep room for themselves in their streets and houses? Then, again, there is the mystery of the Etruscan Inscriptions, These inscriptions are fairly numerous, but hitherto they have proved to be utterly undecipherable. The Etruscan is the only dead language that has defied investigation. Considered as a language, nothing could seem more improbable than the hierogiphics of the Egyptians, but Egyptologists can read them with such ease that almost any given series of hieroglyphics can be read in three or four ways by an equal number of rival Egyptologists, Any language more utterly impossible at first glance than the Assyrian arrowhended language could not well be imagined, but there are many learned men who can read, write and speak arrowhead with facility. And yet no man can make the least sense of the

characters. All that we know of the Etruscans seems unreasonable and preposterous. Naturally this makes them fascinating to every one who delights in mystery and the solution of puzzles.-Putnam's Magazine.

#### How Not to Sleep.

Don't sleep on your left side, for it auses too great a pressure on the heart.

Don't sleep on your right side, for it interferes with the respiration of that hmg:

Don't sleep on your stomach, for that interferes with the respiration of both lungs and makes breathing difficult. Don't sleep on your back, for this method of getting test is buil for the

nervous system. Don't sloop sitting in a chalf; for your body fails into an unnatural podrian and you edund get the necessary

Den't alcep standing up, for you may opple over and crack your skull. Don't ideole.

diners.

.

"Well," pointered die new answersaccorrespondents whiter, "I wonder how to number this. Here's a subscriber who wants to hnow what's a good thing. to take hik stulus out of white flannel." "That's easy," replied the sporting silitor, "a putr of subserve"

Teach about it is that it pays no romain to He awake nights to listen to what her husband may say in his steep

when matches were a luxury only enjoyed by the wealthy, says a writer in a contemporary publication, when very few country people's houses were supplied with this luxury. The reason was that the matches five cents will now buy would then have cost 30 or 40 cents, and at that time five cents was harder and more difficult to get than 30 or 40 cents is now. In those times when the fire went out, which it frequently did in most homes where only the open fireplace was used, a filmt and a piece of punk was the resort. If the flint and punk were lacking, as was generally the case, a boy hiked out to the nearest neighbor's to borrow a few live coals.

The writer remembers that on more than one occasion he was wakened in the early morning by his father's voice calling: "Get up, Adam, and run over to Smith's and get some fire."

#### Has Its Compensations.

"You're about 11 years old, aren't you Frank?" said his employer. "No, sir," answered the office boy. "I'm

"You don't look it, by four or five years. Isn't it a bit mortifying to be taken always for a little boy?" "Naw! It's a good t'ing. I gits t'ree



Sent Free Address Dr. Earl S. Sloan, Boston, Mass. U. S.A

Cascaret

# MILLION **BOXES A YEAR** 21-202 expectations there would not today, after five years on the market, be a sale of

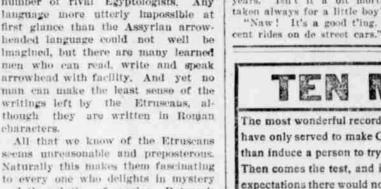
nearly a million boxes a month. This great success has been made by the kind words of our friends. No one who has ever tried CASCARETS fails to be pleased and talk nicely about them. CASCARETS are not only easiest to buy, to carry, to take, to give, but are also the best

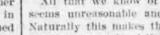
medicine for the bowels ever discovered. Files full of voluntary

testimonials

CANDY CATHARTIC THEY WORK WHILE YOU SUEEP are a perfect cure for Constipation, Appendicitis, Billous ness, Sour Stomach, Sick Headache, Insomnia, Palpitation of the Heart, Bad Breath, Bad Blood, Pimples, Piles, Worms and all bowel diseases of childhood and old age. They make mother's milk mildly purgative. Mama takes a CASCARET, baby gets the benefit. Children like to take them. They are the one perfect, unequaled family AT A STATE remedy. Nothing more can be said. Everybody should carry a box in the pocket and have anothe, in the house. Don't forget "they work while you sleep," and "a CASCARET at ight makes you feel all right - in the morning." The genuine tablet octagonal, stamped CCC, put up in

light blue enameled metal boxes, and never sold in bulk. Sold by all druggists, 10c, 25c, 50c. **GREATEST SALE IN THE WORLD** 







The most wonderful record in all history - merit made it. The great sums of money spent in advertising have only served to make CASCARETS known, but the greatest advertisement ever printed could do no more than induce a person to try CASCARETS once - a free sample, or at most, a 10 cent box. Then comes the test, and if CASCARETS had not proved their merit beyond the highest