



OUR MARY LOUISA.

Our Mary Louisa is "most nearly seven,"
And there are things she would like to know.
"How do folks wind folks right round little fingers?
And what has become of the snow?"
"Can they mend mother's head if it splits with a headache?
And where do the doughnut holes go?
And why is it better to eat bread than candy?
And where do the peanut-trees grow?"
"And once in how often is 'once in so often?'
And why won't the old bellows blow?
And who makes small pitchers with big ears to listen?
And why is it best to speak low?"
These things and "perhaps just a very few others"—
A couple of hundred or so—
Our Mary Louisa, who's "most nearly seven,"
Is really quite anxious to know.
—Elizabeth L. Gould, in Youth's Companion.

AN ESSAY ON LIONS.

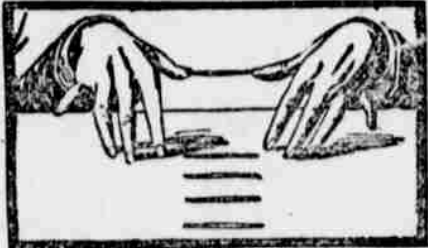
Written by a Bright Eleven-Year-Old Lad After a Visit to the Zoological Garden.

The boy's teacher had taken him to the zoological garden with his classmates. Upon their return the teacher asked that each should write an essay on some one of the animals he had seen. Here is a sample from a bright-minded 11-year-old:
"Lions always walk except when they eat and then they growl. Their roar is most terrifying to men and other beasts when heard in the forest, but when they are in cages it sounds like they are sorry about something. Their tails are not so long as the monkey's according to their size, but keep switching all the time, and the seals can make just as loud a noise and have more fun in the water. They are cats no matter what you think and their size has nothing to do with it, and they think without talking. Once a donkey stole a lion's skin and went around bragging about it, but the other donkeys got onto him because he talked so much. That showed he was a donkey. Keep still when you are thinking."

GAME WITH TOOTHPICKS.

Try It, and Get Your Friends to Try It, Before You Pronounce It Mere Child's Play.

How often do we sit down to a table d'hote and find that we have a good long wait before the first course appears. Sometimes we are entirely out of material for a conversation, and begin to break up the toothpicks. Just at such times a little vexing game



THE TOOTHPICK GAME.

with these small sticks may come in handy.

Let your friends try to pick up five toothpicks from the table by first raising the two thumbs, then the two index fingers, and so on until the last toothpick is off the table. Try it yourself and don't blame us for the suggestion.—Chicago Record-Herald.

Boy Frightened to Death.

Recently at Lewisham, England, an inquest was held on the body of Sidney Harry Smith, aged 12 years. He was playing with a roller towel and placed his head through it. In some way he must have got the towel twisted, for when the servant found him five minutes afterward he was dead. A physician said death was due not to strangulation, but to the fright caused by the lad finding he could not get his head loose.

Industrious New York Hen.

A peculiar hen was at one time possessed by William Fanning, of Cornwall, N. Y. Each of its eggs invariably had two yolks. Twelve of these he put under a setting hen, and the result was that one of the eggs failed to hatch, while the remaining 11 each produced two chicks.

Its Chief Use.

A little boy, writing a composition on the zebra the other day, was requested to describe the animal and to mention what it is useful for. After deep reflection he wrote: "The zebra is like a horse, only striped. It is chiefly used to illustrate the letter Z."—American Homes.

Has Electric Lighted Nest.

The bayu bird of India spends its spare time catching mammoth fireflies, which he fastens to the side of his nest with moist clay. On a dark night the bayu's nest looks like an electric street lamp.

REAL BABY ELEPHANT.

Lili is the Name of the Remarkable Little Creature Whose Picture is Here Given.

The dwarf elephant shown in the accompanying illustration is a remarkable little creature called Lili, and claims the honor of being the smallest of its kind in the world. She is an intelligent little creature and is, moreover, a great favorite with the children and adults, who pet this tiny quadruped.



LILI, ELEPHANT MIDGET.

Lili is an important unit of a traveling show, and in addition to being the world's smallest elephant she has, perhaps, traversed more miles than any other animal in existence.

HERMIT CRAB'S HOME.

Nature Has Not Provided Him with One, So He Hides Himself Away in Snail Shells.

The body of the crab has a famous armor to cover it. His legs are increased in armor, and furnished with claws so that he is able to take good care of himself. But there is a family of crabs that nature seems to have neglected. The fore part of the body is armed and has claws. But the hind part has no covering at all. It ends in a soft tail.

This poor creature cannot swim, like the rest of his tribe, and he cannot run, so that he is very helpless indeed. He seems to know that he is helpless, for he looks about to find some place of shelter. There are a great many shells on the beach. He picks out one that will do and thrusts his tail into it. This serves him for armor.

At first he takes empty shells, but as he grows older he gets more daring. If he sees a shell to his mind he will not care whether it is empty or not. Indeed, he wishes for food as well as shelter.

As he prowls about he will catch sight of a snail that has just put out its feelers.

It draws them back in a hurry the moment it sees a crab, and tries to get into its house again. But the crab seizes it with its sharp claws and drags it out and eats it. Then he marches into the snail-house and takes it for his own. When the crab outgrows his house he casts it aside and sets about looking for another. He is called the hermit crab.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

FLANNEL SUIT ON A HEN.

Lost All Her Feathers in Cold Weather and Was Provided with Novel Covering.

An old hen belonging to Mrs. M. A. Stormont began laying late in the fall, and was so persistent that she laid 26 eggs before she concluded to stop. During all this time she had neglected her moulting, and when she finally got ready to shed her feathers it was in the middle of winter, but the old ones had lost their life and were dry and harsh, consequently there was no other way but to make the change. In a short time she was almost bare and suffering from the cold, relates the Kirkwood (Ill.) Leader.

The Misses Stormont, seeing her predicament and appreciating the value of her service rendered, determined to come to her rescue. They accordingly took the old hen into the house, took her measurements, made her a suit of flannels to fit, and then released her. Her ladyship took the matter very philosophically, and hustled off to her companions, apparently very comfortable in her new suit.

Mistake of the Young.

The most foolish of all errors is that clever young heads think that they lose their originality when they recognize the truth that has already been recognized by others.

He Thought He Knew Better.

Johnny—I don't think our teacher knows much.
Mamma—Why not?
Johnny—Well, she says a kid is a young goat.—Brooklyn Life.

An Unfair Proposition.

Bill—I'll bet you haven't got a dollar will lend me until to-morrow?
Jill—Now, here; it's not fair to bet on a certainty, you know.—Yonkers Statesman.



CONGRESS OF MICROBES.

Room in a London Scientific Institution Contains Enough Bacilli to Kill Everybody.

Carefully guarded and tended in one room in London there are enough microbes to kill every man, woman and child in the world. The room is in the Institute of Preventive Medicine building, situated in one of the most densely populated districts of the big city.

The microbes are there in thousands, millions, and even billions, and they are just yearning to be at their fell work upon human beings. They represent almost every known disease and are classified and kept in bottles, fed and developed, and surrounded by an atmosphere best suited to them, and they are nursed with as much care and tenderness as is given to the fairest and rarest of flowers.

The microbe establishment is maintained for the purpose of enabling medical men to become familiar with these "mighty atoms" of destruction. Here they have every opportunity to make a close study of the precise character, appearance and disposition of the different bacilli; to discover, in fact, everything that can be discovered with a view to the prevention and cure of diseases that are caused by microbes. And one can easily conceive what a fascinating study bacilli afford.

An uninformed stranger might walk through the incubator room of the institute without dreaming for a moment that he was in a hot bed of disease. He would more probably imagine that he was in a novel kind of bakery, where small bottles of variously colored fluids were stored to be in an even temperature, for around the room are arranged numerous ovenlike incubators, with glass doors, through which one can perceive the long glass tubes containing the bacilli, whose way of egress from the tubes is barred by nothing more impenetrable than small wads of cotton. There, quietly, almost invisibly, reposes a power great enough to sweep the earth of human life.

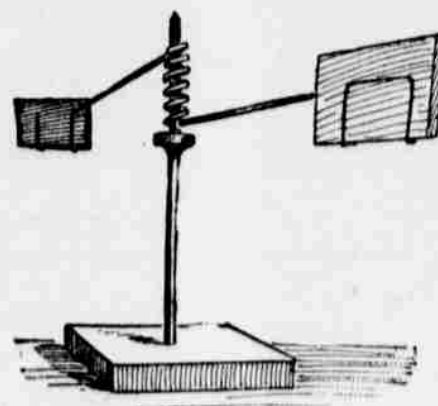
And the bacilli demand the greatest attention, the most delicate feeding. Almost every different kind of microbe has particular likes and dislikes, which have to be carefully studied. One kind of bacilli likes to dine off horses' blood, another of broth, while a third will touch nothing but a peculiar kind of jelly, and so on right through the list of diseases represented, though, luckily for the catering department of the establishment, a few agree in having very similar tastes.—Chicago American.

HANDY CONTRIVANCE.

Simple Apparatus for the Collection of Atmospheric Dust for Microscopic Examination.

In the accompanying illustration a simple and inexpensive apparatus for collecting atmospheric dust is shown, which will probably be of some interest both to bacteriologists and amateur microscopists.

The apparatus consists essentially of a wire, the middle portion of which is coiled into a spiral to fit over and turn on a vertical support.



ATMOSPHERIC DUST COLLECTOR.

One end of the wire is bent so as to hold a strip of glass, and the other end is bent so as to clamp a piece of cardboard, serving the purpose of keeping the plane of the glass at right angles to the direction of the wind. The support comprises a ten-penny nail driven into a block of lead. Soldered upon the head of the driven nail is the head of a second nail. The heads thus placed in juxtaposition serve as a shoulder upon which the coil of wire rests.

The glass plate is smeared with glycerine upon which the dust adheres. The apparatus can be set in any convenient place where the wind blows, and the plate examined from time to time.—Thomas R. Baker, in Scientific American.

Loud-Voiced Phonograph.

A phonograph that shouts so loudly that every word can be heard at a distance of ten miles has been tested at Brighton.

HYPNOTIZING FROGS.

Experiments of Great Scientific Value Conducted by a Belgian Woman Investigator.

It is regrettable that in the study of psychological phenomena, and more particularly of those manifestations, real or imagined, that are known under the general name of hypnotism, that experimentation has not been carried on more extensively with animals. For, though results obtained with them would necessarily fall far short of those reached with human beings, they would nevertheless be free from any possible conscious or unconscious collusion between the patient and the operator.

At the fifth international congress of psychology, which met in Turin, Miss M. Stefanowski, of Brussels, delivered an address in which she related her experience in hypnotizing frogs. According to this lady, frogs, which have lived in an aquarium through the winter, and have become very much emaciated by spring, as a result of long fasting, are particularly well adapted for experiments of this kind. It appears it is only neces-



FROGS UNDER HYPNOTIC SPELL.

sary then to turn them on their backs to have them at once fall into the hypnotic state and shortly into the cataleptic, in which condition the sense organs suspend operation, that of feeling, including sensibility to pain, becoming dulled, while the pupils of the eyes contract, the action of the heart slackens and the respiratory movements become barely perceptible, this state lasting for a half hour or longer.

Other experiments referred to by Miss Stefanowski showed that when they were deprived of water—that is, kept in a comparatively dry place, they were also susceptible to hypnotic influences, and that frogs freshly received in the spring had the same tendency, but were more resistant, though gradually losing this quality with the prolongation of fasting. She also found that from this profound hypnotic condition they could be revived immediately with the vapor of ether, chloroform or alcohol, and that the sudden or progressive elevation of temperature interrupted the hypnotic state, while on the contrary the lowering of the temperature seemed favorable to it.

In commenting on Miss Stefanowski's address, Prof. N. Vaschidi remarks, referring to the accompanying illustrations, that in looking at them, it is impossible to resist comparing their positions with those taken by hysterical persons when in the hypnotic state and noticing their similarity. He then goes on to give some experiments of his own in hypnotizing frogs, in which he repeated those of Miss Stefanowski, obtaining substantially the same results, but in addition he tried what he could do with well-fed frogs, in perfect condition, by simply fixing their gaze with his own. This was somewhat difficult to accomplish, but by holding them in his hand on their backs he succeeded in a number of instances in putting them to sleep, and though his success was uneven, he expresses himself as being satisfied that they can be hypnotized by the eye as effectually as human beings. He next experimented with frogs in their natural condition by placing them in a basin or bowl of water on a table where he could fix himself in an easy position. He describes these attempts as very arduous, and states that he had to gaze at them for a long time, but that eventually he succeeded, as was abundantly shown by the attitude of attention and ecstasy assumed by the frogs, together with the fact that there was no reaction when they were touched with a feather or red-hot wire. From this condition, however, though profound, he says, they revived very quickly and frequently with a jump. We have here, he remarks in conclusion, a condition which makes us wonder at the nature of this mysterious force that proceeds from the windows of our psycho-organic life, affecting in a truly anaesthetic manner both men and animals.

Diseases of Motormen.

The Berlin electric tramway conductors, or "waitmen," as they are called on the continent, are subject to special ailments. One is an ophthalmia, caused by the air current; another is an inflammation of the knee, due to ringing the alarm bell, and a summer disease is a kind of sunburn with blisters on the hands, owing to their exposure to the sun in controlling the car.

SCHOOL AND CHURCH.

The new ameer of Afghanistan has declared against the admission of missionaries to his country.

Dr. A. P. Camphor, of Liberia, places Mohammedanism, superstition and polygamy as the three hardest problems in Africa. Mohammedanism is to-day a missionary religion, very aggressive and successful.

Uganda is to build a cathedral. For a foundation stone the gravestone of Rev. Mr. Pilkington, who was killed by the Baganda some years ago, has been used. He was a graduate of Cambridge, where he distinguished himself as an athlete.

Two scholarships have been established in the woman's law class at New York university. They are entitled the 1903 and the Mrs. Russell Sage scholarships. They are intended to encourage young women who work in lawyer's offices and would like to become lawyers.

There is not an Indian tribe in the United States which is entirely without missionaries. The work has been aided in recent years by the efforts of many native Indian preachers, who have the advantage of a thorough knowledge of the language and customs of the people among whom they work.

The new \$50,000 endowment for Oberlin college will give an annual income of \$20,000 at the average percentage of the college's invested money. The yearly deficit has been \$10,000, so that \$10,000 will be left for expenditure in new ways. This money is for the college department alone, and will be used for its needs exclusively.

The old gymnasium at Harvard will be used as a German museum, having been given up by the corporation for the purpose. Prof. Francke is selecting objects for it abroad, and the building is being thoroughly remodeled for the purposes. The third floor has been taken out altogether and the partitions removed in the first two floors, thus giving large and well-lighted exhibition rooms. The German emperor is said to be much interested in the museum.

NEW USES FOR NEW FURS.

Russian Pony and White Calf-Skins Are Sent to London for Motorists' Suits.

Russia is sending us a couple of very novel pelts, the skins of ponies and of calves for making motor-car dresses and coats, and for the Russian blouses wealthy women are wearing so much this winter, says the London Mail.

The skins of the ponies are not very large and are forwarded, manes and all, to the furriers, but so far the manes have not been made useful. Perhaps the toy trade will eventually profit by them, and the fiery nursery steeds of the rocking-horse and Gray Dobbin persuasion be equipped with the long silky hair of these creatures.

Anyone who has traveled in Russia will know the pale, tawny shade of the native pony, almost lion-like in color. It is also the commonest hue of the little Scandinavian horses driven in Norway almost exclusively, and much seen, too, in Sweden and Finland. The skin dyes brown and a lovely jet black most successfully, and is so strong that it is uncommonly suitable for rough-wear wraps.

Nor is it outrageously expensive. A Russian blouse made of it comes to 8½ guineas. Motorists in the feminine world are wearing enormous coats still, but newer than these are short, jaunty fur skirts and pouched boleros to match.

Russian pony suits are certain to please them, and fur caps of the pelt are sent out with the toilette, so that the whole picture is complete.

The Russian calf makes very pretty snow-white coats, tufted with black, and charming revers, cuffs, ties and muffs for cloth redingotes. To some eyes this pelt will resemble miniver, but there is a huge monetary difference between it and ermine as well as a visible one, especially as miniver—which is really ermine tufted with the black tips of the tails only, instead of the tails themselves—is daily going up in price in view of the coronation and its requirements.

Mental Effect of Clothes.

Ajax defying the lightning is not in it with the woman who knows her gown suits her absolutely, and is so perfect it may be safely criticised by her dearest enemy in any light and from any point of view. A sense of superiority and well-being makes her love the whole world, and she is amiable and sweet even to the people she dislikes most cordially. While for those she likes she is a companion no adjectives can adequately qualify.—London Country Monthly.

Fellow Feeling.

Mrs. Meeks—How do you know that stranger you were talking to is a married man? Did he say he was?

Meeker—No; but he looked sort of sympathetic when I told him I was.—Chicago Daily News.