THE BLUE FLOWER.

The bine flower haunted my dieams, and I longed With a wild young heart and a bounding pulse, that mystle flower to gain; But the years rolled by in a hopeless quest, till at

length, grown wan and old, In a painted hand I clasped the flower to a heart

that was still and cold. -Wilson K. Weish in Lippincott's Magazine.

THE STAINED OPAL.

It lay on a bed of white velvet in a tiny morocco case-a strangely beautiful stone of shimmering moonlight gray, set in a dull gold ring of antique workmanship. But instead of the sunlit gleams which are characteristic of opals there was a vivid dash of scarlet in its heart like a

stein of fresh blood. Ethel Lynn turned the case round and round in her white fingers.

"I never saw anything so beautiful!" she murmured, her golden hazel eyes reflecting the spackle of the jewel. "It is quite the lovellest ring I ever saw in my life! I wonder if it would fit me."

She slipped it out of the case and over her finger. As she did so a yellow slip of paper fluttered down and lay unnoticed wonder why Aunt Ellen never

ablewed it to me, "she musad, as she ad mired her new ornament. "And whose could it have been? Perhaps the name is

tiles tried to draw the ring from her finger, but it refused to come. Ethel smiled. "How easily it went on! And I suppose

I shall have to use soap and water to get But the ring resisted even the influences

of soap and water. Pretty Ethel gazed at it in comic dismay.
"This is a fix!" she said, aloud.

"What, my dear?" said a quiet voice And Aunt Ellen, who had entered un observed, came to her niece's side and gave till came to an exclamation of horror at sight of Ethel's hand, on which shone

the opal ring, dripping with soapsuds.
"Lithell The cursed opal! How came it on your finger, child?"
"Cursed!" repeated Ethel. "This beau tiful ring? Oh, Aunt Ellen!"

Yes, my dear-cursed! Take it off at once, Ethell 'Mut. anntie, it won't come off," said the girl, despairingly. "I've been trying -and even toap won't budge it a single

Miss Lynn turned pale.
"Oh, Ethel, Ethel," she grouned,"what evil genius prompted you to slip the fated thing on your finger? Did you run such a risk after reading the prophecy?

Stooping she picked up the faded, time stained slip of paper, and held it toward ber with a shaking hand.

"Read it again, my dear," she said. Why, I never saw it before!" answered Ethel, wonderingly, as she unfolded the slip and read its contents aloud:

"Life for life for Morton's sin, Hards whall be the doors of Lyan a resident of the there. 'sar of heart and fair of face, From the burney, sections flood ries the fact of Deimaine's blood; Then the race of Lynn shall cease, And Zorah's soul repose in peace.

"What doggerelf" laughed Ethel. "What is it all about, Aunt Ellen? Who was this Zorah, and was this her ring?" "I never meant you to hear the story," said liber Lynn regretfully; "but since you hoov so much, you might as well

Delmaine was a gypsy girlvery brantiful in her wild, picturesque style. So, et least, thought Morton Lynn, your great-great-grandfather. He paid her a great deal of at ention-won her been in fact—and might have Leigh in fact-and might have married red upon the scene and ensuared | with bur sea blue eyes and yellow

the consequences were he forsook black ered, queenly Zorah, and married Amy in three months' time.

Zora Delmaine onet the bridal party at the church door after the ceremony, and pronounced a curse upon the House of laynn, to the effect that each of that name thould perish by drowning—Morton first, then his descendants in their turn. She threw the opal ring given her by her false lover at the feet of the pale young bride, saying:

Take it, and with it my curse!'
The belde was carried to her home in a deathly faint, but Morton laughed at the whole affair. Nevertheless, he was a the startled on picking up the ring to Child, cailed "Our Lady of Karyan," at the cathedral which is named after it. to food the Platte river when the current ram saift. He left one son, who grew up. magried and met the same fate. His son, your grandfather, was swept overboard in en on the Pacific ocean. Ethel, how dif your faltur die?

sais drowned," answered the girl, " hashed tones. "He fell from the totaler, and the current carried him rne, said Miss Lynn. "You and I and lesser ivers of our race, and you

was 'on young and fair.' What in-10 tod alraw!" all too horrible. But I do car Loren, Aunt Ellen?"

to appeared. Bark, Ethel! What

of rambling gound shook the earth

servery to the window. a ends distant the Platte river Like a wild benst it roared and washed against the bridge until the giant Structure trembled and tottered. Ethel watched it with fascinated eyes. Suddenly there came a crash and the centrat props gave way and were carried down stream by the angry current. The Irestlework fell with them and from the and die of the bridge to the great water tank on the village side the bridge was open, with only a narrow plank on either side connecting the broken fragments. Ethel glanced up at the clock. Hair

past 5 already, and the "flyer" due at the fittle station at 6 sharp. She turned a horrified look upon her

It stops for nothing," she said, in a

no one else near enough!"

"Ethel, you shall not!" gasped Miss
Lyng, starting forward as her niece caught up a shawl and fied toward the ground was filled with roots. "Remember the curse of Lynn!

not until she reached the bridge and the great brown water tank loomed up before

Clinging dizzily to the iron railing she SOME EXPLANATIONS GIVEN BY felt her way across the narrow plank, not daring to glance down at the whirling flood beneath, lest she should lose her balance and full.

As she reached the other side, faint and giddy, the whistle of the incoming train broke upon the roar of the angry river. With the sound new life entered Ethel's veins Snatching the scarlet shawl from

her head, she ran along the bridge, wav-ing it frantically, as the fast express swept round the curve. She saw that her signal was observed The speed of the train was slackened, and with a sound as of roaring waters in her

ears alse fell senseless across the track. "And to think," said pretty Mrs. Dacre. some six months later, "that you should prove to be the last of Delmaine's blood. Royce, dear, and in saving you that as ful day I lifted the curse from Lynn Bow little I knew I should meet my fate in one of the passengers on that train I sig

naled! Wasn't it strange?" "Very strange," assented Royce Dacre. regarding his beautiful wife, quizzically "When I picked you up as you lay in a dead faint across the ties. I knew I had dead faint across the ties. I knew I had of this detestably vitiated atmosphere, met my fate. Eut. Ethel darling. I have and I cannot wonder that the people of no faith in 'the curse of Lynn.' It is moon shine, my dear. It is not in the power of any mortal to pronounce a lasting curse God only can do that, and his mercy le infinite. Banish the thought, my little

Ethel's fair face grew thoughtful "Yet how well it all fits in," she said. reflectively. "The opal ring was gone! from my finger when I came back to con sciousness, and no trace of it has been found It must have dropped into the river. Then Aunt Ellen marrying that dear old Maj. Carrington, your best friend. and my marriage with you, brought the fulfillment of the prophecy. For the race of Lynn has virtually ceased, or is at least merged in that of Carrington and Dacre.

More coincidence, Ethel. "Well," said his wife, with the very prettiest pout in the world, if it was only a coincidence, you provoking old skeptic you must admit it was a very singular one."-Saturday Night.

The Principle of Life.

"I have studied," said Mr. James Bell for years to come to some settled belief. and I think I have reached it at last, so fur, at least, as discovering the principle of life. Electricity, I have no longer a nothing more nor less than electricity and I believe that within five years all men will acknowledge this to be a fact After studying all theories I have come to that conclusion."

"You think that as men become better acquainted with the nature of electricity they will find it to be the vital principle?

"Why, then, if that be the case, would it not be possible by the infusion of electricity into a dead body to restore life? "Because I do not think it would be possible to restore to its normal condition ! a tanchine which is, if not wholly, at least in some of its parts, worn out. I do know this, I was in Parls during the cholers plague, when hundreds of people were

dying about me each day. The only precaution that I used was to wear silk underclothes and double soled silk stockings, thus making myself a non-conductor and keeping my natural electricity imprisoned. Thus guarded I went everywhere with perfect impunity, supremely confident that I could not enten the disease." "Do you not think that your imagina-

tion may have had something to do with it?

"I believe that the effect of the imagin ation upon the physical system is some times powerful enough to counteract the effects of disease, but I am confident that Eagle.

Russia's Most Famous Ikons. I have spoken of the ikons, or pictures of saints, which abound in the churches, but it is not only there that such are found. In the bouse of every good Rus sian there is a place consecrated to ikons; in the dining room of the hotel and the counting room of the bank you will see in one corner a picture of some saint set up. and often with a candle burning before it. In the streets are little chapels or shrines, erected to contain such objects. The two most famous igons in St. Petersburg are a head of the Saviour upon a banner which was carried with Peter the Great at Poltova and to which he ascribed his victories, and a picture of the Virgin and the cathedral which is a copy of a miraculous image be the cathedral which is named after it. longing in the city of Karyan, which was discovered uninjured among the ashes of a conflagration in 1879 and which is still atmosphere in such neighborhoods. worshiped there. This copy was in Moscow in 1613, and is believed to have been

> Francisco Chronista. Suggestion to Benevolent Millionaires.

It has become a matter of heredity for rich Americans to endow colleges. The habit was formed when the colonies were not fifty years old, and it has grown brings on a cold in some shape.

Tronger ever since. Hardly a college of prominence in the land is not just how planning the outlay of one or more legal dreading themselves. A man comes home cies. It is a magnificent way of being munificent; but it is questionable if much of the money is not wasted by being placed where it is handicapped by narrow epportunities and narrow purposes est of our smaller colleges are always ruggling for existence and absorb all the gifts they get without apparent benefit. Co-operative effort on the part of the benevolent wealthy is needed to imaggurate sanitary reform in our great cities Education is now so largely under gov erument patronage that it requires less individual sacrifice. The health and mor als of the masses is now the great force that counterbalances the advantages of widening culture. It is to be hoped American millionaires will turn their attention to the sanitary purification of our cities.—Globe-Democrat.

Reclaiming Waste Saline Scil.

Mr. Maries, superintendent of the gardens of the maharugh of Durbunga, India, has succeeded in reclaiming a tract of husky voice, and it goes like the wind. waste saline soil, in which not even weeds Auntie, I must give the signal; there is would grow, by digging down to the depth and to all appearances the salt had gone. When the trees were thinned out in 1887 But Films was already on the railroad the soil was found to be in good condition. Similar experiments have been successfully carried out in other places. Various kinds of trees were employed in the retress.

Onward she flow with breathless baste, unheeding the sharp stones which cut and bruised her feet at every step, pausing

CAUSES OF COLDS.

WELL KNOWN PHYSICIANS.

Violent Climatic Changes, Stenches of Cie Street and the Contemptible Cigarette More Or Less to Blame in the Matter. Other Causes.

"Do you think that the vilo smells emanating from the torn up streets have any thing to do with the prevalence of colds?"

asked the reporter of Dr. Lewis A. Savre "Most unquestionably I do. Those gases of which you speak are very poison ous They attack and weaken the system of any one that breathes them to such an extent that it becomes more easily affected, not only by climatic changes, but by all diseases The strong man may throw off disease, but the weak one has to go un der I consider it an outrage that the citizens of this city have to be subjected to the dangers resulting from breathing such an atmosphere In my daily rounds as a physician I pass through whole blocks the neighborhood are ill."

"Do you think that the smoking of cigarettes makes one more liable to contract cold?" "Yes The smoke from the stuff that

is put into cigarettes irritates the mucous membrane of the bronchial tubes until they become inflamed, and in that condition they are more susceptible to the attacks of cold But the subject of colds is such a wide one and so varied that it is impossible now to enter into a detailed discussion. I think that you may safely put down the remarkable prevalence of the many troubles that are classed as colds to the extraordinary climatic changes that we have recently experienced and to the foul stenches that beset us from the torn up streets.

"It is news to me that colds are so prevalent," said Dr. Anthony Ruppauer, the next physician visited. But I do find a prevalence of bronchial troubles which are often mistaken for colds, such as bronchial catarrh, bronchitis, tonsilitis, pharyngitis, laryngitis, and all such troubles that are commonly denominated colds. They are in reality the natural results of breathing the abominable gases that arise continually from our streets. The solid particles in these poisome vadoubt, is the vital principle. Life is pors continually strike on the mucous membrane, and finally cut it away. This produces violent inflammation, and in that condition one becomes thoroughly susceptible to climatic changes. I regard New York as the healthiest city in the world on account of its magnificent situation. It is washed on either side by a mighty river, and a pure ocean breeze blows over it continually. But if it were not for this splendid situation it would the municipal government seems to be doing all in its power to achieve that end. Why, the street here in front of my office. has been dug up and repayed four separate times in as many months, and each time we have been assailed by the same disgusting and poisonous odors. "Another thing that develops and ag-

gravates these throat troubles is smoking. so much as poor tobacco or the contemptible eigarette, but it is bad enough. Now you or any other gentleman can make an experiment for yourself. When you get up some morning sit before your mirror and look into your throat. You will find that it is the color of boiled salmon, which is natural. Then smoke a cigar for five minutes, and look again. You will find that the salmon color has given place to a deep red. Smoke for fifty minutes and you will find your throat has the appearin my case it was the silk."- Drooklyn ance of raw beef. In that condition it is susceptible to climatic changes. Therefore, az a health move, I would do away with both the vile gases of the streets and smoking, but especially with the former. Their existence is a menace to the

Dr. T. S. Robertson was so ill with a cold that he could scarcely speak when the reporter called, but the subject pleased him and he talked on it with much freedom. He agreed fully with Dr. Savre and Dr. Ruppauer concerning the effect of the gases from the streets and the habit of cigarette smoking on producing colds and throat troubles. He said that two years ago when the streets were being opened he had twenty-seven cases of ulcerated sore throat at one time in the Broadway hotels between Twenty-third and Forty-second streets. He had observed since that the people along the line of any thoroughfare that was being disrupted were subject to throat troubles, coughs and colds, a condition that he attributed wholly to the miasmac condition of the

"But there are other influences that must be considered," he continued. "In the means of the delivery of that city the first place, we live here on an island from the Poles in that year.-Cor. San | and in a continually damp atmosphere. As a result, we are afflicted with catarrhal troubles. New York has 59 per cent. more cases of catarrh than any city in the world except Boston. Now this catarrhal condition is so susceptible to climatic influence that any little change in the weather

> from business at night, throws off a heavy suit of clothes, jumps into full dress. although the temperature has fallen 20 degs., and starts for the theatre. His wife rigs out in some fanciful costume that does not keep her half warm and accompanies him. They step in the lobby of the theatre and remove their wraps so that the audience may have a full yow of their splendor as they prom-enade down the alsle. Meantime, they are in a chilling draught. Petween the acts the man comes out and stands about smoking a cigarette or else he runs across the street to get a drink After the theatre it is a little supper at Delmonico's, where they have to wait in a draught half an hour for a table. Then they will probably sit by a half open window. The next morning they wonder how they could have caught cold and grumble at the doctor's fee. Half my patients caught cold in just that way, and in fact I must confess that my own severe houseness that cause.

"But colds are caught in a thousand ways, such as walking fast and stopping to talk a few minutes, everheated rooms, draughty cars and so oned infinitum. Most colds come from the open pores of the skin being suddenly closed and the blood being thus driven from a surface or skin circu letion to the lungs. In other words, cold letion to the lungs. In other words, cold is congestion. It is almost impossible to avoid this evil, and my individual experience shows that it has been increasing every year for the past three years. Seventy-five percent, of my patients have cutarrh trouble in one shape or another.

—New York Times Interviews.

A FEW HEALTH HINTS.

Wearing Night Clothes-Dressing the Neck.

Outer Wraps-Foot Coverings. It cannot be generally known that we practically breathe through the skin-in other words, that the skin has a function something like that of the lungs. It can not, of course, be active unless kept clean. But in other ways than by neglect of cleanliness can its usefulness be impaired. Tight clothing cripples it and keeps the poisons which should be thrown out at the surface locked up in the system, and also shuts out pure air which should reach the skin. In purchasing underelothing, therefore, it should be so large that, even after frequent washing and shrinking, it will still be loose and permit of a volume of air between it and the body. It naturally follows that the outer garments should also be comparatively large, and at least enough so to permit every movement to be made with as much ease when they are on as when they are off.

There is a habit which all, without exception, should practice, and yet it is safe to say that not one man in ten of our people do follow it. Reference is made to the removal of the undervest on retiring, and the substitution of one kept for night wear alone. The underclothing, during the day, becomes filled with emanations from the body, and must be well aired regularly every night, otherwise it be comes to a considerable extent poisonous, and the notions matters are again absorbed by the skin. This self poisoning is sure to go on unless the rule given is diserved. Safety from "colds" depends in no slight

degree upon how the neck is dressed Nothing should be wern about it wil interferes with its freedom of movement, nor should it be encumbered with handkerchiefs, which so many wear as much for appearance as for comfort. Let each one now choose a certain kind of collar, and wear no other style until spring comes. Even a very slight silk neckerchiefs-is an exceedingly bad one to get into, and as a rule, those who have it are frequent sufferers from threat troubles. Practically the collar and necktie will be sufficient protection for the throat. When the cold is intense, turning up the coat collar will be a sufficient additional protection, unless one is riding far in a strong wind.

When leaving the cold air and entering warm rooms, remove the outer wraps at once. Ladies full to observe this rule oftener than do mon. When people have been long enough in warm rooms to become heated, they should not leave them and at once enter their carriage or a street car. Under those conditions they are chilled even by a short ride. Before attempting to ride they should walk a few blocks, until the body is accustomed to the change and circulation is active. be the unhealthiest city in the world, for After one has been exposed to intense cold and is even slightly chilled, a cup of hot tea or coffee is advisable to "warm up." Alcohol, so often taken for the perpose, is more active, but soldom better than the simple, harmless beverages mentioned. During prolonged exposure to rold, as on a long drive, hot drinks should be the rold. not be indulged in, for they render the

body yet more sensitive to cold. And it doesn't make any difference if the tobacco is the best, it has ill effects, not stockings, of course, should be worn by all. Wear now heavy shoes and delay to put on overshoes as long as possible; when once they are on, keep them in service until next spring. Car drivers, conductors and other men out all day in the cold will be by far there comfortable if they discard leather boots and shoes and wear cloth shoes inside their overshoes. Then their feet will be better ventilated, perspire less and hence keep much warmer -- Boston Herald.

> Took Her at Her Word. A queer episode in Connaught life was

the case of the king at the relation of Dennis Bodkin versus Patrick French The plaintiff and defendant were neigh-DOTS. The latter was of the would shtock," full of airs, and possessed of an intolerable temper. He and wife had conceived a deep dislike for Mr. Bodkin, who entertained an equal aversion to the Frenches. Bodkin had happened to offend the squire and lady. That evening they entertained a large company at dinner, when Mrs. French launched out in abuse of her enemy, concluding her wish "that somebody would cut off the fellow's ears, and that might quiet him." The subject was changed after a while, and all went on well till supper, at which time, when everybody was happy, the old butler, one Ned Regan, who, according to custom, had drunk enough, came in. Joy was in his eye, and, whispering some thing to his mistress which she did not comprehend, he put a large snuff box into

Fancying it was some whim of her old servant, she opened the box and shook out its contents, when lo! a pair of bloody ears dropped out on the table. The horror of the company was awakened, upon which old Ned exclaimed: "Sure, my lady, you wished that Dennis Bodkin's cars were cut off, so I told old Geoghegan, the gamekeeper, and he took a few handy boys with him, and brought back his ears, and there they are, and I hope you are pleased, my lady." The gamekeeper and the "boys" left the county. French and his wife were held in Leavy ball at the Galway assizes, but given, that it was a mistake on the part of the servant. They were acquitted. The "boys" and their leader never reappeared in the county until after the death of Bodkin, who lost his ears many years

The Maguificence of Civilization.

Talking about the early days in California, there was an old fellow down in the country who was the first sound in the the country who was the first senator to Fu to the legislature from his district. His district was a rural one, and there were no houses-only cabins there-rough wooden cabins, with nails for hat meks and a rope for a wardrope and a cracked looking giass for a dressing table. He went to Sacramento, and when he got went to Sacramento, and when to back the entire district came in to call upon him, and be gave them a wenderful upon him, and the magnificence of civilization in the capital of the state.

"Yas, boys; I had a china basin an' a cake o' soap scented by gosh; smelt like the flowers, an' there wor a little place in the wall with a row of big hooks in it, an' I said to the waiter. What's that I said to the waiter, 'What's that for?' 'To hang your clothes in,' says he, an'well, I didn't have any clothes to hang in it; but it wor splendid; but, boys, that wor nothin. What do you think I had? A real bureau, a real, carved bureau, with u looking glass bigger'n this window in it. It wer gorgeous, gorgeous."—"Under tones" in San Francisco Chronicia.

Death foreseen never came.-Italian

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One of our traveling salesmen who is now visiting the shoe retailers of the Pacific Coast and Bocky Mountain Region writes from there as follows:

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Now, kind reader, just stop and consider what the above signifies so far as you are concerned. It

Is the demand for them."

Now, kind reader, just stop and consider what the above signifies so far as you are concerned. It assures you that if you keep on buying shoes bearing no manufacturers' name or fixed retail price stamped on the soles, you cannot tell what you are getting and your retailer is probably making you pay double what your shoes have cost him. Now, can you afford to do this while we are protecting you by stamping our name and the fixed retail price upon the soles of our shoes before they leave our factory so that you cannot be made to pay more for your shoes than they are worth?

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