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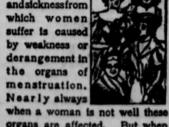


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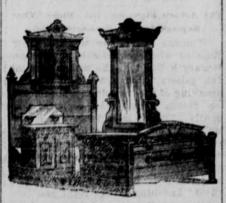
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CANNY INSECT WORKERS.

A correspondent writes: "The theory of the origin of flowers by the selection of insects is one which has attracted free the great Sunday State Journal, cles and from the general public. Set three months to any person sending in forth by Darwin in the 'Origin of Species,' it has been largely developed in a series of interesting publications by Sir John Lubbock and Mr. Grant Allen. Some fresh and interesting light has now been thrown on it by a series of experiments recently carried out by Professor Plateau of the University of Ghent. Professor Plateau has arrived at the conclusion that insects are indifferent to the colors of the flowers they visit, and that they are guided to them in a very subordinate way by sight. The experiments on which the Belgian professor bases his farreaching conclusions are briefly these: Having covered the brightly colored flowers of single dahlias in his garden with bits of green leaf, he found that they were still visited by insects. This seemed so much at variance with the generally received view that insects are attracted to flow ers chiefly by their color that Professor State Journal is one of the best news Plateau instituted a prolonged series of experiments and observations to put the matter still further to the proof. The result has been to confirm and strengthen the conclusions drawn from the first experiments. Cutting off the brightly colored corollas of such flowers as lobelia, evening primrose, foxglove, etc., he found the remaining green parts were still visited. Again there are some brightly colored flowers which are seldom or never visited by insects owing to their lack of honey. Notable among

> "Other conspicuous flowers were tried in a similar way with like results. The experiment of removing the honey bearing parts of a flower and leaving the brightly colored part, which was supposed to be attractive, was also tried with the single dahlia. Its inner florets were removed, leaving the conspicuous outer ones, a piece of yellow leaf being placed in the center. No insects went to these honeyless flowers. But as soon as a drop of nectar was placed on them they visited them as freely as before. Again, Professor Plateau made artificial flowers with pieces of green leaf, each furnished with a little honey. These were freely visited by insects. But artificial flowers made of colored material were neglected, even when supplied with honey.

these is the scarlet geranium of our gar-

den. But when a little honey was placed

on geranium flowers bees came to them

at once, those blossoms which had not received honey being passed over.

"In further support of his views Professor Plateau is able to bring forward the following facts as to the habits of insects in visiting flowers: They will pass freely and with apparent indifference from one color to another of varieties of the same species growing together in our gardens; they visit a great number of green and greenish colored flowers; there are many small and inconspicuous flowers which are also freely visited. Such is a brief outline of Professor Platean's observations and experiments, from which he believes himself justified in drawing the conclusion that sight plays a very subordinate part in attracting insects to flowers. Their bearing on the theory of the insect origin of flowers is obvious."—London Times.

## The Old Man Was Cured.

"Talk about curing people of bad habits, one of the funniest cases I ever the best thing on the market." The 25 knew occurred on the south side some and 50 cent sizes for sale by Odendahl years ago," said Detective Thomas Mc-Quaide. "There was an old fellow over there who would insist on fussing with his wife, who would invariably give him the worst of it. Then he would run up stairs and hang out of the second story window, holding to the ledge, shouting like wildfire that he was going to drop and kill himself. Of course the wife would relent and set up a noise that would bring out the neighbors for blocks, and the man would be pulled in the window by friends.

"This got to be coming too frequently, and some of the boys who lived near, and who had loosened several joints in their spines at different times pulling him in, decided to stop it. One fine day it came again. The old fellow hung out of the window, shouting that he would surely jump and end it all; the wife came rushing into the street in hysterics, and the neighbors ran as before to pull him up. The first man who got there bit the man's fingers with a stick, making him loosen his hold, and, to the horror of all, he dropped to the hard pavement with a howl that was pitiful. He was not badly hurt, but it cured him of that bad habit."—Pittsburg Dispatch.

## Queen Wilhelmina's Oath.

The coronation of the young queen of Holland will take place, according to a recently published decree, on Sept. 6. On that day the young woman, with right hand raised, in the presence of the states general, will pledge herself to the following formula, which is a strange contrast to the oaths administered to the Russian and German em-

"I swear to the people of the Nether lands to observe and always maintain the fundamental law. I pledge myself to defend and to preserve with all my power the independence of the kingdom, to protect public and private liberty and the rights of all my subjects and to employ for the preservation and advancement of individual and general prosperity all the means which the laws place at my disposal as the due of an upright queen. And may God aid me in my work."

Still They Tramp.

All but four states in the Union have tramp laws. England sends the tramp to the workhouse. France makes him do convict labor. Germany and Belgium put him on penal farms. But in all countries and in all states the tramp goes marching on .-- Boston Globe.

### SHE WON BEAUTIFULLY.

It Cost Him the Better Part of a Cigar to

They boarded an east bound Market street car at Forty-first street. It was after 1 o'clock in the morning, and he wanted to smoke, having probably just dined or supped at a ball which was being given in the neighborhood. She didn't want to smoke and she didn't want to be separated from him.

"Come on inside the car," she plead-

"No," he answered. "I am going to smoke. Go inside yourself, and when I have finished my cigar I will join you.' But this didn't suit her.

"If you stay out here to smoke," she retorted, "I'll stay right with you."

He looked at her a moment, and then evidently concluded that she was bluffing. Pulling out a big cigar, he lighted it, and, settling himself comfortably against the dashboard of the car, he began to pull away as if his life depended upon it. Nothing daunted, she took a place alongside of him and calmly folding her arms started up a lively conversation.

The spectacle was an odd one, and attracted the attention of every passenger in the car as well as of those who got on at various corners. He tried to urge her inside the car a number of times, but she refused to go. In this fashion the two rode across the bridge and half way to city hall before he weakened. The anticipated jeers of the people he knew would be on Market street in the center of the city were too much for him, and, throwing away the biggest end of his cigar, he sullenly said, "Well, if you won't go inside without me I suppose I'll have to trot along." Then he took a seat away up in the front end, and she settled herself beside him. Meanwhile the whole car smiled audibly.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

#### WHAT IT COSTS TO SMOKE.

A Library Which Materialised From Ta

booed Five Cent Cigars "How can you afford all these books?" asked a young man, calling upon a friend. "I can't seem to find spare change for even the leading magazines." "Oh, that library is only my 'one

cigar a day,' " was the reply. "What do you mean," inquired the

"Mean? Just this: When you advised me to indulge in an occasional cigar several years ago, I had been reading about a young fellow who bought books with money that others would have burned in cigars, and I thought I would try to do the same. You may remember that I said I should allow myself one cigar a day?"

"Yes, I recall the conversation, but don't quite see the connection."

"Well, I never smoked, but I put by the price of a 5 cent cigar every day, and as the money accumulated I bought books—the very books you see." "You don't mean to say that your books cost no more than that! Why,

there are dellars' worth of them." "Yes, I know there are. I had six years more of my apprenticeship to serve when you advised me 'to be a man.' I put by the money, which, at 5 cents a day, amounted to \$18.25 a year, or \$109.50 in six years. I keep those books by themselves as a result of my apprenticeship eigar money, and if you'd done as I did you would by this time have saved many, many more dollars than I have and would have been better off in health and self respect be-

## sides."-Success.

The Alpine Good Night. Among the lofty mountains and elevated valleys of Switzerland the Alpine born has another use besides that of sounding the farfamed "Ranz des Vaches," or cow song, and this is of a

very solemn and impressive nature. When the sun has set in the valley and the snowy summits of the mountains gleam with golden light, the herdsman who dwells upon the highest hab-itable spot takes his horn and pronounces clearly and loudly through it. as through a speaking trumpet, "Praise the Lord God." As soon as the sound is heard by the neighboring herdsmen they issue from their huts, take their Alpine horns and repeat the same words.

This frequently lasts a quarter of an hour, and the call resounds from all the mountains and rocky cliffs around. When silence again reigns, the herdsmen kneel and pray with uncovered heads. Meantime it has become quite dark. "Good night!" at last calls the highest herdsman through his horn. The words resound from all the mountains, the horns of the herdsmen and the cliffs, and the mountaineers then re-tire to their dwellings.—Pittsburg Dis-

Thrifty George Curson.

The Hon. George Curzon, who married beautiful Miss Leiter, is decidedly canny. He recently rented a country mansion furnished, but without the family plate, and so was compelled to provide candlesticks for the house. He tried to exact from the landlord's agent a pledge that at the expiration of the lease he would take these candlesticks off his hands at two-thirds of what they cost. The agent demurred at first, but when he discovered that they were 1 in number, of japanned tin and cost 40 cents each, he solemnly agreed to pay \$4 for the lot when Curzon leaves.

Maternal Trials "Edie," cried the mother from the hall below, "what's all that noise up

stairs? It's shocking." "Oh, it's these two dolls of mine, mamma. I'm going to put them right to bed and see if we can't have a little peace. "-Detroit Free Press.

The principal varieties of the opal are the precious (or noble), the giras the cachelong the hyalite, the hydephane, the asteria and a kind exhibit to dendsitis markings, generally called the moss. When the colors are broken is small masses, it is sometimes called the