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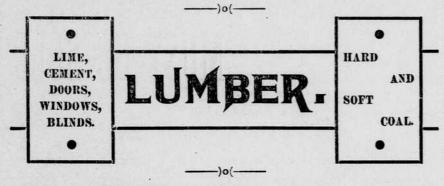
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THINGS INTERESTING TO YOUNG PEOPLE.

How Polly and Peter Keep House Grandmother's Troublesome Boy--Wagner's Shipwreck-An Indoor Bird's Nest -Little Folk's Laughs.

Grandmother's Story.

Three apples fell off a big tree. Three small boys hid behind a hedge. An old gentleman who owned the orchard and was walking about under the trees heard the apples fall and poked about for them with his cane. Six small feet twinkled over the grass. Presto! No magician ever made apples disappear more wonderfully, more quickly or more completely. In a second more six bright, laughing eyes peeped down from the tree where the old gentleman was still poking away in the grass.

"Peste!" said the old man. "I must have been mistaken. At any rate it is dinner time, and one cannot spend one's day looking for apples. Besides, my eyes are bad, my ears not so keen as they used, and I don't feel like a boy any longer. I will send a servant for them."

Then the old gentleman hobbled out of the orchard toward his house. In a twinkling three small boys, brown as berries, were at the foot of the tree, each with a great apple. One look, a laugh, and they were off over the meadows.

"Ha! ha! papa!" they cried as they rushed pellmell into the family dining room. "We have teased the old man at the corners to his fill and for once we'll have a feast on the old miser's apples that I believe nobody but himself ever tasted before.

"How is this?" cried the father, furious. "You stole the old man's apples! You young rascals, wait until I thrash you thoroughly for this." "But we did it only to tease him," cried the children, "and to give him a lesson besides. He is so miserly." "You must be punished," said the

"No!" cried the grandmother, sit-ting in her chair. "It was a jest, William, and the children shall return the apples. But they shall not be

"You are too easy with the children, mother. They will turn out

The old lady smiled placidly. "Children," she said, "I once knew a little boy whose mother was very lenient with him. He had many troubles at school and he always came home to his mother and she soothed him. The boys about him said he had a jolly mother, and so they came, too, sometimes to be soothed. But this little boy kept getting into trouble continually. Once even he got into an orchard and robbed it. Once be took down a bird's nest with eggs in it-but then he was sorry when he saw how grieved the mother-bird was -and his mother knew there was much good in him because he grieved for the mother-bird. Yet he was always in trouble, and it took all his mother's tenderness to have patience with him. Once he was caught in an orchard, and then he had a hard time of it, for the dogs were set on him and ran after him with a pitchfork, and there would have been great trouble had he not reached his mother's arms before the dogs caught

The boy's father reddened and walked over to the window. The old lady's eyes followed and a tender light filled her face. The boys saw the situation at a glance.

"Ah ha! it was you, papa!" they cried, "you were grandma's culprit. It is you who must make confession now.

The grandmother smiled again and said: "The riddle is solved, and you see, boys, in spite of his mother's leniency, what a good man your father has turned out to be. And now, children, after dinner you will return the apples to the old man with an apology."

Then the old lady rose and walked over to her son and placed her hand lightly on his shoulder.

"We must be lenient with vouth. William, for it is the perfume of our old age. The children have the world to romp in when they are young-Time will give them no such lordship again."

Just then the father caught sight of the boys playing leapfrog below. He laughed and hallooed to them.

"Be off to the woods, boys, and be sure to bring home a birch switch for me to use on myself when I am forgetful. And don't forget the biggest and finest nosegay you can pick for grandmamma, to whom, next to God, we owe all the blessings we have in life."-N. Y. Advertiser.

Wonders of the Microphone.

One of the most curious instruments which the development of electrical science has brought into being is the microphone. It embraces within itself almost the whole principle of the modern telephone, and with it may be performed a series of experiments which, aside from being interesting, are wonderfully significant of what we may expect from its development in the near future. By its aid the footsteps of a fly walking on the stand on which it is placed is clearly heard, and give the sensation of a horse's tread, and even a fly's scream, especially at the moment of death, is easily audible. The rustling of a feather or a piece of dress goods on the board of the instrument, and completely inaudible under ordinary circumstances, are distinctly heard in the microphone. The ticking of a watch is rendered very loud at quite a distance from the receiver. A musical box placed in connection with the instrument transmits so much let the switch go it alone!"

OUR BOYS AND GIRLS, sound as to render it impossible to distinguish individual notes. A current of air blown sharply on the instrument sounds like a distant trickle of water. And the rumbling of a carriage outside the house is transformed into a very intense crackling noise, not unlike the sound of the burning of pine logs.

The instrument in appearance assumes various shapes, inasmuch as the very simplicity of its principle admits of its being made of various substances and in almost any form. All that is necessary for its simple working is in having what is known, technically, as "loose contact"-that is, an electric circuit whose continuity at some point is capable of being varied. As an instance, then, three nails make one of the best of microphones. Two of the nails are laid on a board parallel to each other, and latter being meantime connected to a battery cell and a telephone receiver. If a fly, for instance, be confined in a small box, and the latter placed on the board on which the nails are laid, the slightest vibration caused by the movement of the feet will render the unstable contact of the nails still more unsteady, and by thus altering the force or amount of the electricity which passes, will reproduce in the telephone receiver an exact but much magnified fac-si nile of what is taking place in the box.-Harper's Young People.

A Long-Legged Chap.

Every animal and bird has its own way of seeking its food. Some are hunters and some fishers. Some secure their prey by stratagem and some by force. Each one works according to his nature and to the means which have been given him.

The heron is a bird who gets his dinner by patience and watching. He is fondest of fish, although he does not despise an occasional frog, or even a mouse or a rat if he is very hungry. So he wades out a little distance in the water, for he has good, long legs, has this heron.

Then he stands in the water-sometimes on both his legs, sometimes on one-and waits for an hour or two, or perhaps longer, until some foolish or daring little fish comes close enough for him to snap at it with his long bill. And when he makes a snap at a fish Mr. Heron is so good a snap-shot that the fish has become the heron's dinner before he has time to think about it.

Some herons build their nests in the tops of trees. The nests are large and are clumsily built of sticks and twigs. But they are so high up that Mr. Heron fears no danger from adventurous small boys, who might otherwise want to

add herons' eggs to their collections. There are many kinds of herons. The common variety is the grray heron, and the most beautiful is the white heron, whose long silky white feathers are much used for hat trimming. Mr. White Heron is hunted for his beautiful feathers, while his common gray brother is suffered to live in peace, because he isn't pretty enough to be killed.

How Polly and Peter Keep House. My uncle is threshin; with Freddy;

My mother has gone to the fair I've vowed to be steady as steady.

And baby, she's t ed in her chair.

I must brush up the hearth to look neater. And put all the teacups away

There's no one to help me but Peter, And Peter-why Peter's at play

Just hear how the turkeys are cryin; And the calf is as hun rv as two! I'll see if the cherries are dryin;

And then there's the churning to do; In summer we churn in the cellar So baby can come there to stay— I must think of a story to tell her While Peter-but Peter's at play.

It is time that the chicken was over. And my mendin; is scarcely begun— Here's Peter come up from the clover,

And we never have dinner till one! I'll make this sauce a bit sweeter And bring out some cakes on a tray-He must be well treated, poor Peter, He does work so hard at his play!

-Dora Read Goodale, in St. Nicholas

An Indoor Bird's Nest.

One of the queerest places for a

bird's nest was discovered last spring. Between two carved roses at the top of a marble column in the millinery department of a large store a cosy nest was built. Tiny threads of silk and cotton were gathered by the tiny housebuilders from the floors, and crumbs picked up from places where ladies had nibbled cakes and

The birds darted here and there, seemingly as happy among laces and ribbons and artificial flowers as are their mates in field and forest, being not one whit abashed by the throngs of shoppers coming and going constantly.

A Little Boy's Faith.

A boy of 6 knelt by the bed of his mother, who was ill, and prayed. Arising he exclaimed with a bright

"Now, mother, I know you will soon be well" "Do you really believe God will

eure mother when you ask him?" "Of course I do; if I didn't why should I ask him?"

Rather Mixed.

A paper in India, on the day of its birth, came out with two blank pages, and in one of its columns announced with unconscious simplicity that some "specially interesting matter" had been held over "for want of space." Another journal printed this brief announcement: "Our next paper day falling on Christmas day, the next issue of this journal will not appear."

Two to One.

"Mother, do you know that when you whip me there is always two to one?" said Harry.

"How is that, my son?" "You and the switch; you ought to

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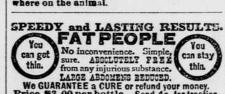
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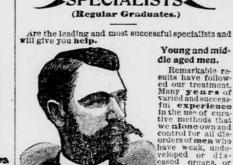
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