

THE ODD CORNER

The Weaver.

When silver bells ring out the old,
And play the new year in,
A spirit in the winter woods
Softly begins to spin;
No mortal eye has seen her face,
Or watched her labors there,
But crocus buds are in her breast,
And blossoms in her hair.

She weaves, upon her magic loom,
The snowdrop's silver sheen,
The tender tint of April boughs,
The meadow's velvet green;
The lilac and the daffodil
Beneath her fingers grow,
And as she toils from day to day,
About her melts the snow.

So, what if clouds are dark with storm,
And windows white with frost,
And voices of the running brooks
In icy vales are lost;
What if the wondrous northern lights
Their crimson banners fling—
Still Nature in her woodland weaves
The bridal robe of Spring.
—The Smart Set.

The Brooch of Lorn.

In 1306 there took place a battle at Dalry, near Tyndrum, between Robert the Bruce and the MacDougalls of Lorn. The king was very hard pressed, and had to save his life at the cost of his mantle, which, along with the silver brooch that fastened it, was torn from him by the furious pursuers. For generations the brooch was kept by the MacDougalls, both as a trophy gained in fight and as an interesting historical relic. But in the seventeenth century during a raid upon Dunolly Castle, the MacDougalls' stronghold, which was besieged and burned, the brooch was seized with the spoil by Campbell of Bargleann, in whose family it was preserved for two centuries. Then it was acquired by Gen. Campbell of Lochnell, who presented it in 1824 to his friend, Sir John MacDougall. Thus it returned to the custody of the chief of the clan whose ancestors had won it from the Bruce. Now it is safe in the mansion of the MacDougalls, adjoining the time-worn, picturesquely situated castle of Dunolly.

Heating With Ice.

If any one should say to you: "I use ice to keep me warm," you would laugh at the idea; but the big packers who ship so much beef prove every winter that ice is a great help in keeping out the cold. Refrigerator cars are kept cool by having ice and salt packed in each end, but in the winter when these same cars pass through parts of the country where the weather is away below zero, then that same ice and salt are used to keep the car warm. This is because ice is normally about 32 degrees cold, or just at freezing, and it resists getting colder so strongly that in zero weather it acts as a stove that keeps the contents of the refrigerator car from freezing. The shippers apply the same principle by turning the hose on a car when the weather is at zero. The water freezes quickly and gives the car a novel overcoat of ice, through which zero cannot penetrate. Meantime the air inside that is a little above freezing is kept so.

Smallest Book in the World.

The smallest book in the world is Schloss's "English Bijou Almanac for 1839." Diminutive as it is, there are illustrations in it. On its pages are portraits of Princess Victoria, her royal highness the Duchess of Kent, Lady Blessington, Wellington, Sir Thomas Lawrence, Pasta, and Beethoven. To each picture is appended a short poem. Then follows the calendar. Inside the cover is the inscription, "Anna East: Her Book." The small proportions of the volume will be realized when it is seen side by side with a thimble, as



In the illustration. It is three-eighths of an inch wide by one-half an inch high.

A Nonpuncturable Tire.

There has been a growing demand from all owners and operators of non-puncturable tire. Solid tires have been used to some extent, but they have never shown the desirable resilient qualities. Now comes a French company claiming to have automobiles and motor cars for a solved the problem with a tire, a cross section of which is shown in the illustration. The advantages claimed for it are: Nonliability to puncture, great cushion ability owing to its hollow construction, nonliability to side-slip owing to its flat tread, absolute security, as it can not be twisted out of the rim. English motorists are now giving it a trial along the country roads in their island.



Nonpuncturable Motor Tire.

Novelty in Advertising.

A novel way of introducing a new article has been discovered in London. A number of men who suggest by their apparel that they are grooms valets or servants of some kind are sent about the shops to buy the article which is being boomed. They insist upon having this particular article and no other, rejecting any substitute which may be offered them.

In many cases the tradesman has not the article in question, but is sure to lay in a stock when a few days later a drummer waits upon him with the article in question. As the men are selected with a view to give the impression that their employers are wealthy, the shopkeeper naturally thinks that the article will bring him the patronage of a class he is anxious to please.

Crabs That Eat Cocoanuts.

Crabs which live upon cocoanuts which they pick for themselves are found in the Coral islands. Nature has provided this crustacean with claws and nippers of enormous strength, and it is supposed that the crab climbs the cocoa palms and detaches the nuts. It reaches the mat of the fruit by picking and rapping with its claws at the end of the nut where the three small holes are to be found till a slight breach is made. Then the nippers are brought into use for the rough fibers which surround the shell. These he shreds with his nippers and conveys to his burrows, where they form a comfortable bed for the crab while he is changing his coat. Some of these crabs attain a length of over two feet, and live in holes which they have made in the earth at the roots of tropical trees.

Find Worth Having.

Lewis Shoro, of Forestdale, Vt., recently purchased an old building belonging to the estate of Arthur Gibson, near Brandon. Mr. Shoro had it torn down, and in building a barn with the lumber a plank that had been carelessly used for staging attracted Mr. Shoro's attention and he discovered that a hole in the end of it contained a tin box which was found to contain \$1,200 in government bonds, besides all of Mr. Gibson's valuable papers. Some of the papers were dated 1880 and it is thought that they have been there since that year.

Mammoth Organ in Maine Church.

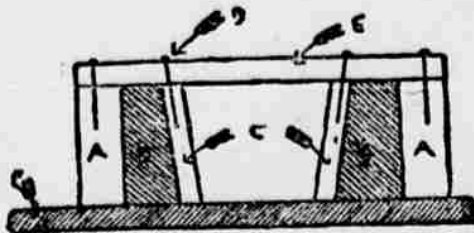
The Universalist church at Portland, Me., has a mammoth organ. In it are over 5,000 pipes, the smallest, a piccolo, being half an inch long, and the largest a double open diapason, or 32-foot C pipe. The vox humana stop alone, having 61 pipes, cost \$600. The four pipe rooms are each as large as an ordinary bed chamber. The organ was voiced by J. H. Brown, who voiced the organ at Westminster abbey. The organ is blown by a three horse power electric motor.

HOG TROUGH OF CONCRETE.

Simple Rules for the Building of Valuable Utensil.

G. M.—Please describe how to construct a cement hog trough. What is the best size and shape?

In making a concrete hog trough first lay the concrete floor, this answers for the bottom of a trough. Make a box out of 2 by 6 inch plank 14 inches wide, inside measurement, and the length required. This box has no bottom. Place it where the trough is required. Make another box out of 1 by 6 inch boards to form the core. This should be 1½ inches narrower at the bottom; place this in the outer box, leaving a space of 2 inches between the two boxes at the top for concrete. Place small blocks between the boards to keep them from springing in and nail a strip on the top of the molds to keep them in their



Cross Section of Concrete Hog Trough and Mold.

A, 2 by 6 in. plank; B, concrete; C, 1 by 6 in. boards; D, ball to hold form in place; E, one-inch strip; F, concrete floor.

places. The concrete should be one part of Portland cement to 2½ parts of fine gravel. In filling the molds with concrete never put in over an inch at a time and ram it well. When finishing the top leave the edges rounded off. In a couple of hours the core can be lifted out and then the outer box removed. Give the trough a wash of pure cement. In warm weather, after the trough is built ten or twelve hours, it should have a pail or two of water put into it and left for several days.

Fertilizing Land.

A. B.—I wish to seed down a piece of land that grew barley last year and was not plowed last fall. I cannot get yard manure but could purchase nitrate of soda. How much of this should be applied? What quantity of oats, also timothy and clover seed should be applied per acre?

It would be well to plow the ground, then apply twenty-five to thirty bushels of wood ashes and harrow them in well before sowing the grain and grass seeds. Then sow oats at the rate of seven pecks per acre, and a mixture of five pounds timothy and eight pounds clover per acre. The oats should be sown with a drill and the grass and clover broadcast and harrowed in. When the grain is about four inches high, apply broadcast about 100 pounds nitrate of soda per acre. This will dissolve with the dew or rain and feed the young plants. When harvesting the oats a long stubble should be left, and no stock should be allowed on the field in the fall.

Spotted Chickens.

P. H. H.—White Plymouth Rock hens were dusted with insect powder, which gave them a dirty appearance; when their eggs hatched some of the chicks were spotted; what was the cause?

There has been some other cause than the lice killer. The effect of the lice killer on either sitters, or newly hatched chicks would only be temporary. If put on the parent stock there could be no such thing as spotted chicks. If the hens which laid the eggs are quite white the chickens have probably been thrown back to a weak spot in their ancestry. Pure bred White Rock stock do not give spotted or dark colored chickens, and blemishes on plumage from lice killers are as a rule only temporary.

Neighborly sympathy, as a rule, turns out to be about nine-tenths curi-osity.



Burdensome Responsibility.

The new office boy stood beside his employer's desk, waiting for orders. The employer, who was new to the office boys, turned with a smile of kindly discipline.

"My lad, remember that a first-rate office boy should be diligent, modest, unobtrusive, accurate and attentive."

The boy looked scornful. "Say, mister, have I got to do all dat for \$2 a week?"—Youth's Companion.

A Pleasant Doctrine.



Fargone—What is reciprocity? Why, suppose I kissed you and you kissed me in return; why, that would be reciprocity.

Miss Willin—Why, that isn't bad at all, and I always thought it was something dreadful.

The Better Man.

"The last time I passed through here" said the drummer, "your editor and the Rev. Bill Gunning were having quite a religious discussion. I guess the editor, after all, was just as good a man as the minister."

"Yes wrong thar, stranger," replied Alkali Ike.

"How do you know?"

"I jest come from the editor's funeral."

Proper Thing.

"In society," said the young bud, "the gentleman is always presented to the lady, is he not?"

"Yes," sighed the heiress who was doing her second season, "unless he happens to have a title, then one must pay for him, I suppose."

Hint.



The Lady—"Mercy on us! Why are you sitting there making that queer noise?"

The Bum—"Aw, I'm a-imitatin' er robin, lady, thinkin' dat mebbe youse'd come to de window and throw me a few crumbs, missus!"

Hard Work.

Bagley—Deering tells me that when he gets angry with his wife he always counts ten before replying.

Simpson—I wondered what he was getting that mechanical adding machine for when I saw him the other day.