

SCIENCE and INVENTION

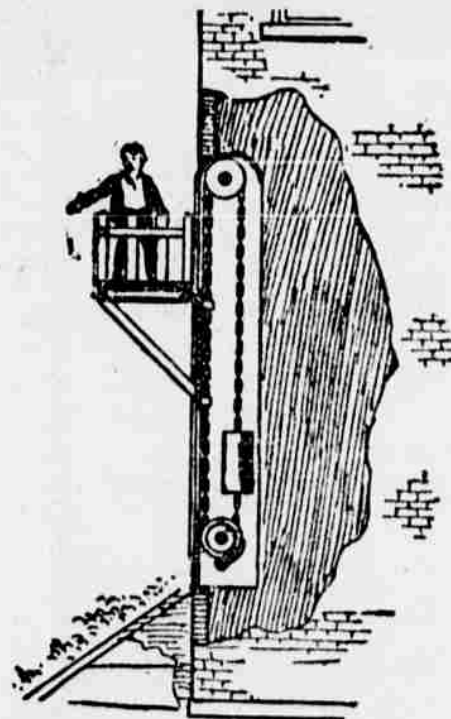
The Tactile Sense.

In a series of experiments on the topography of the tactile sensibility, made on children and adults, M. N. Vaschide has been able to show clearly the relation which exists between the circulation of the blood and the tactile sense, reports Cosmos. From these experiments it appears that there exists a close relation between the determination of the measure of the sense of touch and blood circulation. Tactile sensibility varies under the influence of a decreasing blood pressure, caused by compression or change of position, or of congestion, the delicacy or torpidity of the tactile sense being immediately dependent on the circulation. Between the variations of the normal state which represents the conditions of habitual determinations, and the different states of the circulation there seems to be a strict relation, these states ranging from an extreme delicacy when the blood circulates freely and constantly to a condition of hyperexcitability in states bordering on congestion.

Novel Fire Escape.

Everybody is more or less familiar with fire escapes and their uses, but it has been demonstrated that fire escapes are absolutely useless in case of panic. Tower fireproof fire escapes are supposed to be entirely safe, but when a crowd striving to get out of a burning building lose their heads, a panic follows and many lives are lost by persons being knocked down and trampled on. Rope and chain fire escapes are useful to a certain extent as are also outside frame steps.

A novel improvement in fire escapes, the invention of a South Dako-



ta man, is shown here. It comprises a car in the form of a veranda, which is held normally in a position to be entered from a window of a building. This car slides on uprights, so that when a sufficient weight is placed on the car it descends, being operated by counterbalance weights attached on a sprocket chain. The weights can be so made as to not only overbalance the car or balcony, but also the weight of a man thereon, so that when the car is in a lowered position a fireman may enter it and when released it will ascend with a single passenger. When two or more passengers are on the car it will descend and after its load has been removed it will ascend again. By the introduction of a brake mechanism the car can be arrested at any point.

Silas J. Gilmore and William S. Perry of Buckmore, S. D., are the patentees.

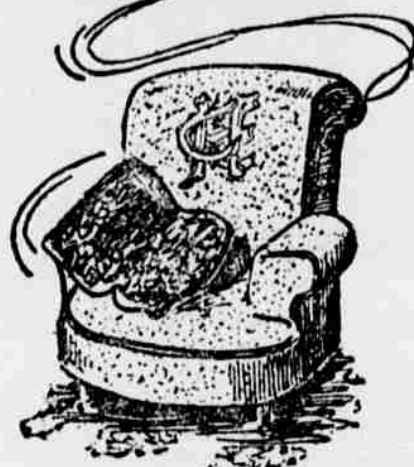
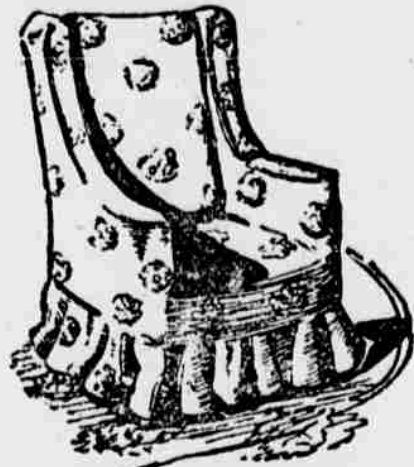
Production of Steel.

It has been computed that for every 100 tons of pig iron consumed for all purposes the quantity of steel produced is approximately in Great Britain 68 tons; in Germany, 75 tons; in America, 80 tons.

Good Ideas for the House Beautiful

New Slip Covers.

The slip covers so popular in the reign of Louis XIV are being more and more used in these days of soft coal and dirt; and the beautifully upholstered furniture, covered with its tufted damasks and brocatelles, is generally covered with "house-frocks" except on special occasions. The old-fashioned idea of leaving the summer slips of striped linen or appalling cretonnes on has passed. The cretonnes used are selected with care and suitability to the other decorations of the apartment. Some people make the great mistake of choosing large flowered designs for the furniture when the carpet and paper are also figured. One of the three at least, either the wall pa-



per, the carpet or the furniture covers, should be a plain color if the beholder does not wish to grow dizzy from too much pattern!

If fancy covers are chosen they should correspond as exactly as possible with the figure and colors in the wall paper. This effect is very pleasing in the boudoir or bedroom, provided that the carpet is plain or has a plain ground with sparsely scattered sprays or flowered border.

But not only chintzes or cretonnes are used as slip covers, but taffeta is much in demand. Not too cheap a quality, but one that will stand the wear and tear usually given to furniture, and not fade or look shiny. Double width is the best for the purpose. Of cheaper materials, denim, gingham, linen, chirtz and cretonnes are all good. A large monogram is sometimes embroidered on the back of a plain cover.—Montreal Herald.

For Prospective Builders.

The best house for the least practicable cost can only be obtained by building the same on paper first, the price paid for a full set of plans, specification and details will be money well spent, and instead of the owner finding himself with an unsatisfactory house, he will have a home with each detail worked out.

One important feature which is too often overlooked is the size of windows. Windows should be wide, not only from the advantage in the outside appearance over narrow openings, but from the point of view of the inside. A sash in a two-light window that is wider than high always renders more pleasing results than where reverse conditions obtain.

Done Up.

Tourist—"Anything doing round here?"
Sad-Eyed Farmer—"None; not at present. Everybody's been done."



Intolerable Provocation.

"I admit that I hit the plaintiff," said Subbubs, "and I'd do it again if—"

"Come! Come!" interrupted the magistrate, "don't talk that way."

"Judge, I was down in my cellar last night, trying to coax the furnace to give out some heat. In the midst of my work the bell rang and I had to answer it. When I opened the door this man stepped in and tried to sell me a patent fire extinguisher!"

He'd Seen 'Em.

"What business is papa in, mama?" asked little Robbie.

"Why, he's in the hardware business, my boy."

"And does he sell cockroaches, mama?"

"Why, Robbie! What a question! Of course, he doesn't!"

"Well, he's got a sign on the store window which reads: 'We sell everything to be found in the kitchen.'"

Knew His Game.

Tom—I saw Slickley the other day, and he was looking exceedingly prosperous.

Dick—if you see him again tell him I'm out of town.

Tom—What for?

Dick—He once confided to me that the only time he ever pretended to be a swell dresser was when he was broke and out borrowing money.—Detroit Free Press.

As It Should Be.

He had just proposed, but his poverty was too much of a handicap.

"A man without money," she said, "might as well walk back and sit down."

"O, of course," he rejoined, "He naturally wouldn't be in a position to ride back."

Real Nerve.

Blinkers—Could you lend me your racing auto for the afternoon, old chap?

Tooter—Why—er—yes.

Blinkers—Thanks awfully. And say—er—could you lend me the price of a couple of fines or so?—Puck.

Dissenting Opinion.



Nurse—Little boy, you must not do that. It is not nice to kiss little girls.

Street Kid—Well, dat just shows what you know about de kissin' game.—Philadelphia Telegraph.

Now, What Did He Mean?

"It's terribly slow here," wrote the war correspondent to his wife; "I haven't actually seen any fighting since I left home."

Bright Woman.

Mr. Klose—"I'm glad to see some women have begun a crusade against the killing of birds for hat trimmings. It's certainly a cruel—"

Mrs. Klose—"It is so cruel, dear, and I just hate to wear my last winter's hat because it has a bird on it. I saw a lovely hat downtown to-day for \$40 that hasn't even a feather on it. Let me buy it to-morrow?"

Georgie Wanted More Pie.

"Gran'ma," says Georgie, "you gave me a awful little piece of pie!"

"Why, Georgie!" cries the dear old lady, "I gave you an extra large piece. I remember cutting an enormous piece for you."

"Gran'ma," the small boy ruminates a few minutes before speaking again. "Gran'ma, your glasses magnify a good deal, don't they?"

Male Moon Gazers, Beware.

"Ah!" sighed the sentimental maid, "I could sit and gaze at the moon for hours."

"Would that I were the man in it," said the callow youth who was helping her to hold down the rustic seat on the lawn.

"Same here," she replied, wearily. "Then you would be nearly 240,000 miles away."

Philosophy.



The Rejected One—Jilted, jilted, for a bloke wiv a penny cigar.

The Cynic—Wimmin, me dear Algernon, are all alike.—Half Holiday.

O! the Funny Man!

Klumsey—It always worries me to go into a china store. I'm always afraid of breaking something.

Jokeley—Me, too. I went into one the other day to buy a wedding present and broke something worth \$20.

Klumsey—You don't say so? What was it?

Jokeley—A twenty-dollar note.

Lacked Originality.

He (after the engagement)—And am I really and truly the only man you ever kissed?

She—Why, of course you are, you dear old lump of stupidity.

He—Why do you call me that?

She—Because you are not original. At least a dozen men have asked me the very same question.

Flew Astray.

"Flyleigh had hard luck with his airship."

"How was that?"

"It flew away."

"Built to fly, wasn't it?"

"Yes, but it wasn't built to fly into the barnyard of a farmer who made him pay half the thing was worth before he'd give it up."

Sizing Him Up.

"Very well, you may make a suit for me," said Slopay, "but how long will it take you?"

"About a week," replied the tailor.

"Positively? A friend of mine who recommended me here told me you seldom delivered suits on time."

"He was right. We only deliver them C. O. D."

The Same Old Reason.

"What was it that caused the downfall of the Trojans?" asked the man who has forgotten his classics.

"It was the same old story," said the man who was reading the sporting page. "They wouldn't let the horses alone."