

BOYS AND GIRLS

Languages.

I have a little neighbor whom I very often meet.
He wears a coat of Reddish fur at home and on the street.
We often stop to have a chat on sunny winter days.
His manner's very pleasant—but I can't tell what he says.

I think he talks about the woods, and how the beechnuts taste.
And how he loves the bread-crusts that I'm rather apt to waste,
And how he wishes spring would come—there! I must confess
I cannot understand a word, and so I have to guess.

My sister studies German and my brother studies Greek,
But those are not the languages that I should care to speak.
For none of all their lexicons can make it clear to me
Just what the little squirrel means by "Chki" and "Chir-r-ri" and "Chee!"
—Hannah G. Fernald, in Youth's Companion.

Some Well-Known Expressions.

The expression "me, too," means "I will do as you have done." It was first used by or about United States Senator Thomas C. Platt. Because President Garfield would not appoint his man collector of the port of New York, United States Senator Roscoe Conkling resigned. His colleague, Senator Platt, also resigned because Conkling had done so, hence he was called "Me Too Platt."

"To go on a wild goose chase" means "to go after something you cannot get." "Sour grapes" is used when we accuse a person of not liking a thing which he cannot have. It is derived from the fable of "The Fox and the Grapes." The fox wanted to get the grapes, but they were out of his reach, and he said, "O, I do not care for them, anyway."

The expression "Wolf! Wolf!" is used whenever any one keeps continually warning us that some fate is to befall us. It is based on the fable of the boy who frequently notified the shepherd that a wolf was after his sheep. The boy did it for fun, just to fool the shepherd, as the sheep were not troubled by the wolf. At last when the wolves did come for the sheep and the boy notified the shepherd, the shepherd would not pay any attention to him. The result was the shepherd lost his sheep.

Eye Errors and Ghosts.

A few experiments with the eyes will be found very interesting, and, to the uninitiated, very queer. If you will hold up your forefinger about a foot from your face, and look at a tree beyond it or at any tall object, you will see your finger double. Then look directly at your finger and you will see the tree double.

The explanation is that each eye



The First Experiment.

sees separately, and when both are looking at the finger the right eye sees the tree on the right side of the finger and the left eye sees it on the left. When, however, you look at the tree directly with both eyes, each eye sees the finger apparently in a different place. If you will cover one eye and look with the other you cannot see either the tree or the finger

double, which is the proof of the experiment.

Place two bits of white paper about a foot apart on a table. Cover the right eye and look steadily at the right-hand piece of paper with the left eye. By stepping backward you will reach a spot where the left-hand piece of paper will disappear. You can make the right-hand piece of paper disappear by looking at the left-hand piece of paper with the right eye.

When you have made one disappear in this way, move your head ever so slightly backward or forward, and the paper will instantly reappear. The reason of this is that every person's eye has a blind spot on the retina, and when an image of the piece of paper falls on the spot it cannot be seen.



The Ghost.

Physicians use this principle in the correction of vision.

Place on a gray background a piece of colored paper in any design, and look steadily at it for a minute or so. Snatch the colored piece away, and a design exactly like it will be seen in the same spot, but in a different color. If the design was green the replica will be red; if yellow, the replica will be violet.

Instead of snatching the paper away after looking at it steadily, look up at the ceiling, and the image will be seen there. These "ghosts," as they are sometimes called, are caused by the action of light on the retina of the eye.

Look at the accompanying illustration steadily for a little while, and then look up at the ceiling; you will see the image in black, instead of white, on a white background. The "ghost" will always appear in the opposite or complimentary color of the original.

A Few Conundrums.

When a public speaker has had the misfortune to lose one of his hands, what appellation would express his condition? Offhand speaker.

Why is a lame dog like a schoolboy adding six and seven together? Because he puts down three and carries one.

When is a boat like a heap of snow? When it is adrift.

What three letters change boy into man? A G E.

Who can speak all languages? Echo.

Why is gooseberry pie like counterfeit money? Because it is not current.

Why are corn and potatoes like certain sinners of old? Because, having ears, they hear not, and, having eyes, they see not.

What is the difference between a man looking upstairs and one going downstairs? One stares up steps and the other steps up stairs.—Exchange.

Usefulness of School.

Boys, why do you go to school? First, that you may reckon your wages a-Saturdays; second, that you may think accurately and rapidly; third, that you may enjoy the "beautiful, the true, and the good."—The Boys' World.

OUT OF THE ORDINARY

Silas Angry.

"My husband was real mad to-day,"
Said Mrs. Silas Gray,
"Our cow got tangled in her rope,
An' choked herself to-day.
Well, pa had gone down to the store,
I sez to little Dick:
'Run tell yer daddy 'bout the cow,
An' tell him to come quick.'"

"When Dick found pa he simply sez:
'There, sonny, keep yer head,
We'll take an' git another cow,
If our ole May is dead.'
He led the youngster home agin
But by that time ole May
Had got herself untangled an'
Was calmly eatin' hay."

"When Silas saw that animal,
My sakes! but he was mad,
He sez: 'How comes it she ain't dead?'
An' say, he took on bad.
'Nex' time,' he sez, 'you fetch me home
When that ole cow gets sick,
Ef she gets well 'fore I arrive,
You better kill her quick.'"
—Kansas City Times.

Shipload of Soldiers' Brides.

The English, a homely nation, are so fond of seeing their soldiers "settled down" to the comforts of home that they even go to the trouble and expense of sending brides to the furthest corners of the earth for Tommy Atkins.

The recent dispatch of 30 young women for India in the troopship Plassy, on marriage bent, was by no means an uncommon occurrence.

The good-behaved soldier, when he has been in the service a specified time, usually finds that he is in love, and whether he is stationed on the sandy plains of Egypt, or in India, his lady love will be invited to take passage on a troopship to share his lot in life.

The old troopship Himalaya, now in use as a coal storehouse, holds the record of having conveyed the greatest number of soldiers' wives and sweethearts abroad.—Stray Stories.

Cent for Every Horseshoe.

Ralph H. Whitney, one of Houlton's enterprising blacksmiths, has a unique method in regard to keeping account of the number of horseshoes he nails on each year.

For every shoe that he places on a horse's hoof he gives his wife 1 cent, and at the end of the year he can easily tell the exact number. He has followed this method ever since starting in business, and the amount of money which his better half has saved is not small.

In the year 1903 the number of shoes was something like 14,000, and during the year 1904 the whole number was 12,101.—Kennebec Journal.

Alarm Clock Centuries Old.

In the town of Schramberg, in the Black Forest, there is an alarm clock which warned sleepers it was time to get up when Charles II. was king of England. It was made in 1680, and is an ingenious piece of workmanship. In form it resembles a lantern in which is a lighted candle, the wick of which is automatically clipped every minute by a pair of scissors. The candle is slowly pushed upward by a spring, which also controls the mechanism of the clock, and at the required hour of waking an alarm is sounded, and at the same time the movable sides of the lantern fall and the room is flooded with light.

Concert in a Well.

For many years there has been a scarcity of water at Woolley, Huntingdonshire, the result being that when at last a new well was dug the villagers thought it a most important event.

A religious service was conducted around the well on Thursday afternoon, all of the women and children afterward being entertained at tea. In the evening the men of the hamlet assembled at the bottom of the well, which was, of course, dry. After a prayer by the Rev. A. E. Farrar, the rector, there were songs and speeches

and refreshments were handed round.
—London Daily Mail.

Strange Ending of a Concert.

In the middle of a charity concert at Ditchon-Thames, on Tuesday night the accompanist, mistaking his cue, struck up "God Save the King."

Before any one of the performers realized what had happened, the hall was empty, the audience having gone home with the idea that the concert was over. As a consequence comic singers and ballad vocalists, some of whom had traveled long distances to render their services, could not give their turns, and yesterday the organizers of the concert were walking about the village apologizing to everybody.—London Chronicle.

Man Broke Shark's Jaw.

According to a letter from John Ginder, street commissioner, a shark attacked him while he was bathing in the surf at Palm Beach, Fla., with Walter Phares and F. P. Holz, also of this city.

Holz and Phares, being expert swimmers, made for the shore, but the shark made for Ginder. Seeing he could not escape he dived and seized the shark by the jaw. Being a Hercules in strength he broke the jaw of the shark and carried the "man-eater" ashore. The jaw has over seventy teeth.—Trenton (N. J.) Cor. New York World.

Waistcoat as Autograph Album.

A gentleman named Cook possesses a white waistcoat bequeathed to him by his father, who had used it for the reception of literary celebrities' autographs. Upon the front are written the names of the legatee's favorite authors, among which figure those of Thackeray and Dickens. The back is devoted to such as were not so high in favor, while the inside is lined with a perfect patchwork of dead author's signatures, cut from letters and other documents purchased by this eccentric collector at various times.—London Tit-Bits.

Introduced New Vegetable.

A new vegetable has been introduced into France by M. Labergerie, and M. G. Bonnier has reported on it to the Academy of Science. It is a species of wild potato which grows where there is plenty of moisture, while the ordinary potato does better in dry soil. The plant is a native of Uruguay, and the species, which is known as the solanum oometani, will yield more than 90,000 pounds an acre on ground which suits it.

To Explode Tons of Dynamite.

People are wondering how far the shock will be felt when the fifty tons of dynamite is exploded under the harbor at Portsmouth, N. H. The dynamite is now being placed and the explosion is expected to result in the loosening of thousands of tons of rock many feet under water, and this, when removed by dredges and divers, will add 250 feet to the harbor entrance and make it one of the best along the coast.

Shot Gray Eagle on Wing.

A gray eagle, measuring 7 feet 8 inches from tip to tip, was shot recently by George L. Fraser of Egypt, Mo., while he was aboard a train that was backing up at the rate of twenty-five miles an hour and while the bird was flying. The bullet, from a .38 caliber revolver, entered the bird's neck and came out between its eyes, killing it instantly. The remarkable shot was witnessed by thirty spectators.

Remarkable Birth Record.

A Bavarian mother has a record which should delight the opponents of race suicide. The Munich Neuste Nachrichten announces that Frau Higen of Trastberg, in Bavaria, has borne no less than six children in one year. She was delivered of triplets last January and bore triplets again in December. The case is attracting much attention from the medical profession.