

# BOYS AND GIRLS

## My Cat.

Our neighbor's cat is Persian, the Jones's is Maltese, Auntie's big Angora has feathers to her knees (At least, they look like feathers) and a tail so big and white When that kitty meets a puppy dog, I tell you, it's a sight! But when I ask: "What breed is mine—my pussy, sleek and fat?" They laugh, and pull my curls and say: "I fear—just cat." It's true her eyes aren't yellow, and her tail is rather small, I don't know if she ever had a ped-l-gree at all. (That big word means her mother, her grandma, too, they say, That they all took prizes at a show, were marked a special way). What do I care for markings, for prizes and all that? My kitty's just as precious if she is just cat! She was the dearest kitten, all scamper and all fur! Not one of all my pets could make me laugh at her; She may be very common, but I know she's good and true. For she meets me when I come from school with loving little mew; And when she's 'round we never see a naughty mouse or rat, And I believe I love her better 'cause she's just plain cat!

—Selected.

## The String and Vase Trick.

See who can hold the greatest number of peanuts in his left hand without the aid of his right in putting them there.

Fasten a peanut to a thread, and on the floor place a vase with a mouth just large enough for a peanut to pass through. Let each take a turn at holding the peanut by the thread about a foot above the vase, and then



dropping it. The one who succeeds in dropping the peanut into the vase wins. If no one succeeds in the first inning, let all try again. If more than one succeeds, they must try again until there is only one.

Place a large hatpin upright on the floor, and let each contestant throw five peanuts at it, one at a time; the one who makes a peanut go nearest the pin, and remain there, wins.

Strew peanuts over the room about a foot apart, and let each contestant take a turn at going from one to the other and back again. The one who does this in the least time by the watch, without stepping on a peanut, wins.

Give each contestant ten peanuts, and at a signal let all begin to shell them, removing also the inner skin. The one who finishes first, without breaking a kernel, wins. If one breaks into more than two natural divisions of the nut, another peanut must be shelled in its place.

## Recoloring Flowers.

One of the popular fads of late years is to have flowers of peculiar colors different from those that nature gives them. A "freak" of this kind is considered a great curiosity and is valued accordingly. Many growers of flowers have sought a method of changing the color of the lac, the heliotrope, or the red rose, parent stalk by treating the roots with various chemical processes, sometimes with surprising results. Boys and girls would hardly care to

undertake anything so serious as the attempts of the florists, but perhaps they would like to know how they may change the colors in a perfectly simple way.

Pour a little ether into a small glass and to it add one-tenth of its quantity of strong ammonia water. With this simple and easily made mixture you may change to a bright green any flower that is red or violet. All you have to do is to dip the flower into the mixture and the change will at once take place.

Try, for instance, the violet, the periwinkle, the red geranium, the li- These will all respond to the treat-



## How to Change the Bloom.

ment, and you will have a novel specimen of each, one to excite wonder among those to whom you show them.

A beautiful variation of the experiment is to dip the violet colored sweet pea into the mixture, when the upper petal will become a dark blue and the lower one green. Try the streaked carnation and you will see it turn to brown and green.

Yellow flowers are not changed by this process, but white ones usually turn to a yellow or a deep orange tone.

The action of the fluid is almost instantaneous, and you may vary the experiment by sprinkling some flowers, instead of dipping them, which will give a spotted effect.

Somewhat similar results may be produced by using ammonia only, but the process is a longer one.

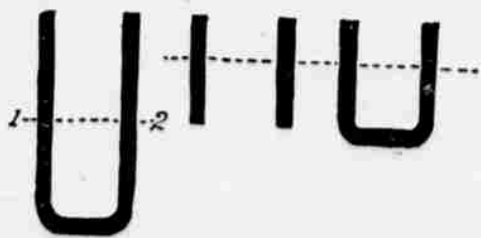
You are all familiar with the aster, the handsome fall flower that heralds the coming of the larger chrysanthemum, and know that it has no odor. To give it one pleasantly aromatic, pour ammonia into a plate or flat dish and cover it with an inverted dish containing asters. When you take the blossoms out you will find that they have a distinct odor. The fumes of the ammonia effect the change.

## "Pious" Parrots.

Parrots are such close observers and keen mimics that it would be surprising if birds in the households of clergymen and ministers did not repeat special phrases at proper times. Indeed, it would be as well not to hold family worship with a speaking parrot in the room. There was no harm in the bird that sang in good time and tune, "There Is a Happy Land." But other feats of imitiveness might easily offend. Parrots, uttering responses, or bits of the creed, or scraps of prayer—as several have been known to do—especially at unseasonable moments, are apt to vex rather than amuse, though, of course, the birds do not mean to be irreverent. A bishop's parrot used to ejaculate "Let us pray," sometimes in devout tones, at other times mockingly, and the bishop could hardly have liked it.

## Seven Pieces in Two Cuts.

Draw a big U on cardboard or stiff paper, and then, with a sharp knife or scissors, cut it out. Laying it on the table, ask who can in two cuts, divide it into seven pieces. That seems a



difficult thing to do, doesn't it? But it is quite easy. The picture shows how you may do it. First, cut across from 1 to 2, which will divide it into three pieces. Then place the pieces side by side, and one cut where you see the dotted line will give you seven pieces.

# OUT OF THE ORDINARY

## Pro and Con.

In the days of the creation, Says the scientists' relation, There were creatures of the most appalling mien, E'en the fabled Ichthyosaurus, Would be like an angel chorus, If we'd seen the creatures Adam must have seen.

And I pity Mister Adam, If the fellow ever had 'em, After having sundry drinks of forty per. He, in visions beatific, Must have seen some things terrific, If he saw things worse than what these really were.

I should deem it rather risky, After prehistoric whisky, Having alphabetic beasts before his eyes, He must have a bromo seltzer, Manufacture something else, or Have a head next morning of tremendous size.

There was still this one advantage In that no-coat-shirt-or-pant age, Which, I fear, he didn't quite appreciate, When he called for number seven, At a minute past eleven, There was no one then to tell him, "Just too late!"

—Harvard Lampoon.

## Food of Various Nations.

In France the sea anemone is used as food; stuffed like peppers and boiled it calls to mind crab or crayfish. The echini of various species is also used, cooked in the shell, like an egg, and eaten with a spoon. In nearly all the old countries of Europe of the type of Spain and Italy, the poor are so poor that everything in the nature of food is utilized. Absolutely nothing is wasted and meat is rare. The writer recalls the surprise of an Italian fisherman who landed in California after a trip around the Horn, and was amazed, not at the country, but with the abundance of food. He found his countrymen eating meat twice, perhaps three times a day, when he rarely had it once a month. He saw hundreds of pounds of fish wasted, and discarded merely because the people did not care for it, when in Italy even the heads would be boiled and eaten. He saw big tunnies towed out to sea and thrown away because they were tough, when in his own land every scrap of this fish was saved. America was indeed the land of plenty to the poor of other nations.—Montreal Herald.

## Lobster Mortality High.

A lobster lays thousands of eggs, most of which hatch, but few ever live to grow up. This is not the fault of the mother, for she carries them about with her for nearly a year, and with admirable instinct guards them as she does her own life. When the young are set free, her duty is done, for they must then shift for themselves. Though hardly larger than mosquitoes, being about one-third of an inch long, the little ones leave their parents on the bottom and swim toward the light—to the surface, where, for one or two months, if fortune favors them, they lead a free, roving life. The open sea is a poor nursery for such weaklings, which become the sport of every storm and the prey of numberless hungry mouths. Out of a brood of 10,000 it would be a rare chance for more than one or two lobsters to reach maturity or finally to end their career in the kitchen or the chafing dish.—St. Nicholas.

## Queer Tricks of Engine.

"One of the strangest mishaps I ever saw on a railroad happened to a train I was riding on, bound from Augusta to Bath," said the old railroader. "This was a good many years ago when the engines were not built as they are to-day and such an occurrence now would be a wonder of the age. We had been going along at a good rate of speed when the train suddenly came to a stop. I knew we were not near any station, so I went ahead through the baggage car to the engine to see what was the matter. Well, sir, the drive wheels on one

side of that engine lay in the snow alongside the track, still connected with the engine by the piston rod, but the axles, which were nearly six inches through and solid iron, were snapped off short. The engine was still on the iron and did not appear to be injured to any other way. We got word to Brunswick and were towed in after a few hours' wait.

## "Jag" Too Much for Horse.

Jim, a speedy horse, who suffered four days from exposure and famine in a swamp, died last night in Springfield, near here, says a Jamaica, N. Y., dispatch, after having the time of his life.

When Jim was discovered he was filled up with whisky to ward off an inevitable chill. It resulted in his acquiring a glorious jag. Forgetting his troubles, he began first to stand on his hind legs, then on his forelegs. Then he experimented, standing on his head, but landed on his neck. Then he started other stunts.

When he began trying to climb up a ladder leading to a hayloft his attendants fled. Finally Jim tired of his circus ring acts and lay down peacefully in his stall. Blankets were thrown over him, but he never recovered.

## Woman Sews with Her Mouth.

It would seem that the use of the hands would be a necessity to a seamstress, yet there is an expert in needlecraft living in Sag Harbor, L. I., who has no use of either hands or feet. She does the most exquisite work holding her needle in her mouth. When she wants to thread a needle she sticks it into the soft wood of her work table with her mouth and then, biting off the cotton the right length, passes it through the eye with her lips with more quickness and dexterity than most nimble fingered women show. She can tie knots in her thread with her tongue and works quite rapidly. One of the specimens of her skill is a crazy quilt which contains over 300 different fancy stitches. She is also an artist of some skill in the use of brush and crayon.

## Tobacco and Coffee in Spain.

Even of wine, so cheap and abundant in Spain, the natives seem to use very little. They are frightfully intemperate, however, in their use of tobacco and coffee. The clerk who takes his morning cup at 9 has another at his desk an hour later, purchased from a street vender. The business men, passing through the streets, pause while a fellow who carries hot coffee, hot milk, sugar and spoons harnessed upon him serves them on the sidewalk. If the Spaniard does not smoke in his sleep it is his only respite from the habit.

## Changes in Common Glass.

Common clear glass, left exposed in certain desert regions of the earth, soon changes greatly in appearance and acquires color, sometimes rose purple and sometimes amethyst. This change has been attributed by some observers to alkaline soils, but others maintain that such changes occur where there is no alkali, and that it must be due to the great activity of the actinic rays of the sun where the atmosphere is very clear.

## Yankee Skippers Hard to Down.

A yankee sea dog, having lost a rudder in a gale, sailed his ship stern-foremost several hundred miles to a port where he could reef. More than one of them, in charge of cotton ships, which were liable to take fire, tore in to Liverpool under all sail, with the deck burning hot under his feet and all hands living on the quarter-deck in order to be to windward of the smoke, which made the ship look like a literal flying cloud.

## Engineers Imprisoned by Sea.

On her latest trip from the orient to San Francisco, the steamer Alcoa encountered seas that kept one watch down in her engine room two days. The men could not come up and none could go down to relieve them.