

BOYS AND GIRLS

Raindrops.

Knocking against my window pane—
Fell the drip-drip of the silver rain—
Like tears by an angel wept.
When a teasing wind came rollicking by—
And the raindrops fled with a farewell
sigh—
But one in a rosebud crept,
It lay like a gem on her heart of gold,
And hearkened the tales that her lover
told—
Breathed to this blushing flower,
Then a sunbeam sped from his home on
high—
And carried the raindrop up to the sky—
Where he wooed her for one short hour.
Silent—queen night, came creeping down,
In search of a pearl for her jeweled
crown,
And she leaned o'er the sunset's bar,
There in a sea of amethyst,
She found the tear that the sunbeam
kissed
And fashioned it into a star,
A glittering silver star.
—Agnes Lockhart Hughes, in Recreation



At Gilmerton, near Edinburg, there is a great deal of sandstone, very soft and easy to work. In 1720 a blacksmith named George Paterson resolved to make himself a house in the rock, and after working for nearly five years it was finished. It consisted of a smithy, a dining room six feet high, seven feet wide, fourteen and a half feet long, with a bench all around, a table, and a bed in the wall, a drinking room of rather larger size, a kitchen with bed in the wall, a cellar and a washing house. All these things were formed out of the living rock, each room being lighted from a skylight. Over the entrance, carved in stone, ran this inscription: "Here is a house and shop hewn in this rock with my own hand, George Paterson." Then followed some verses composed by Alexander Penicuk, of which two lines will serve as a sample:

On Jacob's pillow nightly lies my head,
My house when living and my grave
when dead.

Paterson died in 1735, having dwelt eleven years in his cave, which became a well-known resort of holiday-makers. Even judges used to take a drink in the stone parlor.

The Whirlwind.

This game is played by any number of persons, all but one sitting in chairs placed close together in a circle. The players face inward, and one stands in the center of the circle, leaving one chair unoccupied. At a signal each player changes to the chair just at his right, and then to the next one, the whole circle moving around thus as fast as possible. The player in the middle tries to secure a chair, and when he does so the one on his right must take his place.



Plants at the Cape are often rare and curious. There is one, stunted and thorny, which, lighted at the end when green, burns slowly and steadily like a wax candle. That is why it is called the candle bush. On the slopes of some of the hills grow trees named euphorbia. They may reach a height of forty feet, and stand up stiff and straight as if made of metal. Their

branches are as severely formal as the arms of a candelabra, and the tree has, on that account, been likened to the Jewish candlestick carved on the famous arch of Titus in Rome, which pictures have made familiar to everyone. Travelers say that they look quite uncanny when they ride through a grove of them at dusk.

Game of Initials.

A good game for you to play is this: Distribute paper and pencils among the boys and girls, one for each, and tell them to write down at the head of their sheets of paper their own initials, each one to write down his own initials only.

Then read aloud the following questions for them to write down in the order that you give them.

These questions they must answer with words beginning with the initials.

After the questions have all been answered, or after "time is up," gather all the papers and read the answers aloud. Here is an example: One boy's initials were B. O. P.:

What do you like best to eat? Beans, Otherwise Peas.

What is your worst fault? Boasting Of Performances.

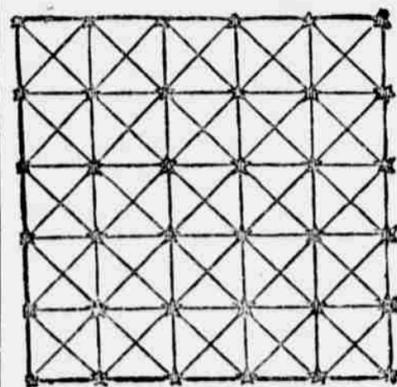
What is your greatest virtue? Being Occasionally Pious.

Many other questions may be given, such as "What did you dislike most as a child?" "What do you most dread in the future?" "What do you most hope for in the future?" etc.—North American.

Torpedo Dived Into Mud.

A torpedo was fired recently from the after starboard tube of the flagship Wisconsin of the Asiatic squadron. It went straight until within 100 yards from the ship, when it dived and buried itself in the mud. Until the propellers stopped it created a black whirlpool where it was burrowing into the bottom. A buoy was dropped and native divers were dispatched to the scene. Some hours later the torpedo was located and returned to the ship. The tail of the little destroyer was buried six feet beneath the mud and it was a difficult task for the diver to make a line fast to it.

Pin up the Stars.



Stick six pins into the stars in the diagram above, so that no two pins appear in the same straight line.

When the Whale Dines.

The appetite of a whale is phenomenal. His chief diet consists of jellyfish. He has simply to open his mouth and paddle along leisurely in order to take in jellyfish by the wagonload. Such is the method adopted by the whalebone whale. The sperm whale, on the contrary, captures huge squids, weighing often several tons. Like his brother, the whalebone whale, he must be constantly on the lookout for food. Otherwise he would starve. As many as 14 seals have been taken from a 30-foot "killer." Other fishes of enormous appetites are not uncommon. The bluefish, for example, thrives on sardines and other small fish. Assuming that one bluefish eats 10 small fish a day, it has been figured that it requires 10,000,000,000,000 sardines to feed 1,000,000,000,000 bluefish on the American coast every summer. Most curious of all eaters is the hydra—a strange creature that can be turned inside out without impairing its appetite or its powers to eat.—Golden Penny.

OUT OF THE ORDINARY

Dreamin' of the Old Days.

Think about the time now when you'll leave yer city ranch,
An' try to be a boy again a-wadin' in the branch!

"Splash!" goes the water,
An' every ripple seems
To bring you back the sunshine—
The sweetness of old dreams.

Think about the time now when you'll rest where shadders creep,
Down by the river, where the boys air divin' deep.

"Splash!" goes the water,
An' the river, in its flow,
Is singin'—singin' to you
The songs of long ago!

Think about the time now—the sweetest time of all,
When you listened for a footstep where the blossoms used to fall!

Find the old, sweet meadows—
Leave yer city ranch!
There's blossoms waitin' fer you,
An' the boys air in the branch!
—Atlanta Constitution.

Resemblance Led to Crime.

In the famous case of Martin Guerre, the launching on a criminal course was the result of an extraordinary chance and a sudden resolve. Martin Guerre was a soldier, and was mortally wounded in a skirmish in the north of France. Among his comrades was a man remarkably like him, and with whom Guerre had contracted a great friendship. The two used to be always together and enjoyed the joke of their strange resemblance. Guerre's double was with him when he was dying and Guerre, with his last breath, begged his comrade to carry some little trinkets he had to his wife at home. The double assented and proceeded to fulfill his promise faithfully.

When he arrived at the village on his mission he learned that Guerre's wife had, during her husband's absence in the war, come into some little property through the death of a relation. He began to envy Martin Guerre's lot if he had lived. When the villages saw him they began to exclaim, "Here's Martin Guerre!" By the time he arrived at the cottage door he had decided to act Martin's part, provided the dead man's wife was deceived by his similarity to her husband. She was, and the impostor took Martin Guerre's place. The wife only discovered the truth some twelve months later by the absence from the impostor's arm of a scar which Martin had borne.

Horse "Tarred and Stoned."

A van laden with tarred stones was passing down Oxford street, London, the other day, near the Marble Arch, when an incident occurred which filled the spectators with amusement. The shafts suddenly gave way, so that the tarry contents of the van were precipitated upon the back of the horse. The animal presented a curious spectacle, for the stones covered the greater portion of his body, adhering by means of the sticky composition. In the end, all other efforts being of no avail, the fantastic creature was led away to be operated upon with suitable chemicals.

Odd Month of February.

S. C. Hewitt of Rockland, Me., who has kept a diary faithfully since 1859 has the following entry against Feb. 28, 1900: "February has been an odd number. The month has but 28 days, although the year is the fourth after leap year; there was no new moon; there was a thunder shower; it has rained six times and had four stormy Sundays. The thermometer ranged from 14 below to 46 above zero. January and March each had two new moons."

Origin of the Postmark.

Great Britain. It is said, cap. without fear of contradiction, claim the honor of having originated the postmark. The first one, which was used

in London as long ago as 1660, was a very simple affair, consisting of a small circle divided into two parts. In the top portion there were two letters, indicating the month, while in the lower half the day of the month was shown. No endeavor was made to denote the year, and it is only by the dates of the letters on which the mark is impressed that it is possible to fix the date of its use. The earliest known was on a letter written in 1680.

As Thin as Two.

"The sailor who said there was very little wind, but what there was of it was very high, has a rival in syntax down in Virginia," said Mr. Paul Kester. "The last time I saw him he told me of a mutual acquaintance who had been in poor health and lost flesh very noticeably.

"You are thin," said he, 'and I am thin, but he is as thin as the two of us put together.'—New York Herald.

Relics Hard to Value.

When the appraisers of the estate of the late Robert R. Fullerton of Bedford, N. H., came to his collection of ancient firearms and weapons they were at loss to know what to do. A pair of old dueling pistols, silver mounted, and in an excellent state of preservation, was especially difficult to value. Dates were found on them indicating that they had been made and probably used before the revolutionary war.

Deer Die in Combat.

With their horns locked after a deadly combat, two large buck deer were found on a mountain south of Danbury, Conn., during the winter. The bodies of both animals were lacerated as a result of the fight, and the ground for rods around was covered with blood. The larger of the two animals, held tight to the adversary it had slain by the entangling of their horns, had frozen to death.

Legislative Halls Not for Dogs.

The speaker of the New South Wales Parliament was lately called upon to give what is probably a unique ruling. He decided that the legislative chamber was for the use of bipeds, not quadrupeds. A member had insisted on bringing his pet dog into the chamber, and another member called the speaker's attention to the innovation and the annoyance caused thereby.

Odd Charge Against Woman.

Charged with jumping astride a wild but somewhat exhausted deer and pounding it to death with a stone, pretty Luella Hulett, a young married woman, appeared in the Bennington, Vt., court. When arraigned she was clad in the typical garb of a backwoodsman, including trousers, red sweater, holster belt, fur cap and had her hair closely cropped.

Seven Million Men on One Job.

The greatest number of men ever employed on one structure was the Gizeh pyramid, where 7,900,000 men were in forced labor. This pyramid is 450 feet high and covers an area of thirteen acres, twice the dimensions of any other building in the world, in one instance taking 2,000 men three years in bringing a single stone from the quarry.

Wartlike Omen Fulfilled.

A Manchester, N. H., man recalls that when he was a young child his father took him to see the vast quantity of army worms which had settled down on trees, grass, houses and fences surrounding Concord common. This visitation occurred about 1860, and people said the worms were an omen of war.

Twin Stem of Tobacco.

Mr. Helm Morgan, of White Sulphur district, showed the Times a twin leaf of tobacco—a perfect specimen.

The two stems firmly united show distinctly right up to the stalk. How many growers or handlers of tobacco have ever seen such a freak?—Georgetown Times.