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R. G. STROTHER, Editor.
F. K. STROTHER, Manager.

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Tramps.

"Tramp" names a small army of big and little sinners. Among the thousands of vagrants are criminals and degenerates of the worst kind, whose deeds have made the word "tramp" a terror to women in lonely regions. Probably the rank and file of the wilfully unemployed are the "Wandering Willies"—dear to comic papers—whose sin is merely an exaggeration of the indolence which is born in us all. These amiable vagabonds who enjoy a vacation of 12 months a year have had an unhindered road and plenty of free food in a broad, generous country. But the day has come when "Meandering Mike" must find other occupation than picking the flowers of the century plants. Systematic charity and criminology are beating the bush for him and his companions, and driving them into the corals of civilization. At the national conference of charities and correction the committee on vagrants considered the united duty of state, town and individual to exterminate the tramp nuisance. Because the tramp passes on after a full meal we do not feel the responsibility for him which we feel for offenders who abide in our community. Towns have contented themselves with sending the vagrant across the lines to the next town, which is like throwing rubbish over the fence into our neighbor's back yard. It is a mistake to feed a vagrant unless he pays for his food with a fair amount of work, says the Youth's Companion. The great remedy for the disease of vagrancy is cord-wood, which should be administered in allopathic doses. Finally, since life as a tramp depends on easy transit, the railroads need the sanction of severe laws in dealing with those who steal rides. Cut the vagrant off from unearned food and transportation, and the "hobo" will disappear.

Dr. Lantz of the national biological bureau has been studying rats and presents appalling figures as to their numbers and the extent of their destructiveness. He thinks the recent estimate by the department of agriculture that they do $100,000,000 worth of damage in this country annually is a conservative estimate—this damage including the results of disease conveyed by them into human habitations, fires and flooded houses caused by their gnawing and foods polluted as well as consumed by them. No systematic or scientific movement to rid the country of the pests has been undertaken, but in view of this destructiveness concerted efforts to exterminate them will eventually have to be made. Prof. Lantz has found, after experimenting, that the cheapest and most effective way to get rid of them is to use barytes. The mineral produces slow death, and the rats leave the premises to seek water.

It will soon be against the law in Germany to take without permission a snapshot at a person or his building or his ox or his ass. People of Germany must be overmodest or else afraid of their faces. When the amateur photographer in this country goes out to take a picture of a landscape or a building so many people happen along and stop accidentally in graceful poses in front of the camera that the picture when completed looks for all the world like a photograph of a crowd watching a ball game. Germany may be inaugurating a useful reform, but it looks strange that the camera should be banished, while the automobile is allowed to run at large. Judging from the number of accidents caused by the horseless wagons, it would be a good idea for everybody in Germany to be snapshotted as often as possible, so that their friends in after years could know what they looked like.

A "lady stenographer" and a "lady music teacher" fought four bloody rounds, Marquis of Queensberry rules, at Davenport, Ia., for the purpose of deciding which should be entitled to the attentions of a certain young man. We have not learned his name, but it is perhaps fair to infer that he is "a perfect gent."

King Alfonso's son has been made colonel of one of Spain's regiments, and it is expected that he will rise so rapidly that by the time he is able to walk he may be a major general. Well may we subscribe to the theory that they can't keep a good boy down.

In view of the frequency with which Bright's disease is reported as a cause of death it looks as if it would presently take rank with tuberculosis as a plague to whose abatement medical science should especially direct its energies.

Not even a ghost can get a drink in Montana under the new law preventing saloons coming within half a mile of cemeteries. In such circumstances we fancy that dying will become very unpopular.

It would be a fine thing for our society buds who like information but are timid about asking questions if the next blue book should print after the name of each man the amount for which he is assessed.

A Virginia woman is suing a man for damages on the claim that he insulted her by paying her street car fare. Whether he failed to get her a transfer does not appear in the report.

A SIMPLE REMEDY

ONE OF THE WAYS TO CURTAIL OPERATIONS OF TRUSTS.

HOME PATRONAGE PRINCIPLES

Systems That Oppose the Advancement of Rural Towns and Agricultural Communities.

Never before have the people of the country been so awakened to the importance of home protection as they are at present. The wide knowledge spread by means of the public press as to the operations of the great trusts and how the masses are made to serve the more favored classes is having its effect. The residents of agricultural communities are beginning to realize the dangers of business concentration in sections of the country dominated by the capitalistic classes. They are fast becoming aroused to the truth that this concentration is a menace to the prosperity of the nation, and directly affects every producer, every laborer and every citizen of the country who depends upon his work for support.

The building up of great trusts commenced less than a score of years ago. At the same time there were other systems inaugurated that tended towards robbing the home towns of business and concentrating this business in the large cities. One of these systems, most notable in its injurious operations and its force to draw wealth from communities where it is produced, is the mail-order system of business. None will say that this system is illegitimate, but no economist can show wherein its principles are sound. By the system communities are impoverished and kept from progressing. He who will give study to the basis of country development will see that it is the labor employed that not alone enhances the value of the farm lands, but builds up the towns. When there is little to employ this labor, the result is depression, stagnation and non-progress. The great evil of the mail-order system which has grown up, is its taking away the means that small towns have of employing labor, and the drawing from each community the profits in commercial transactions that represents the wealth that is procured. It is sophistry to claim that the resident of a community who sends his money to a foreign town and saves the ten per cent. that may represent the home merchant's profits, is not a factor in impoverishing the community. While the saving may remain in the community the employment of labor essential to every business is given to the foreign place, and the home town is robbed of this employment giving power.

Every dollar that is sent away from a community where it is produced either by the tilling of the soil, by the growing of live stock, by the work of the day laborer, or by the storekeeper, impoverishes the community to that extent, and this dollar ceases to be any factor in the advancement of the community. Presuming that there are in a community 2,000 people, suppose that each one of these 2,000 people send away to some foreign place $50 per year. This in the aggregate is $100,000 per year that goes to the support of a foreign town. Suppose that each one sending his money away saves ten per cent.; the savings for a year would be $5, and in ten years $50. Look at the other side—$100,000 business per year would support in the home town five good stores. Each one of these stores would give employment to a number of hands. The small percentage of profit that would be made would be retained in the community and be invested in new enterprises. Year after year there would be a continual increase in the prosperity of the town, and the building up process would add to the value of all the town property, and to the farms within the trading radius of the town. While by sending away the farmer would in ten years' time save but $50, whereas by patronizing the home town the profits that would come to him in substantial increase in real estate values would be ten times this amount. The building up of the town would improve the home market, affording every producer on the farms better prices for all his produce.

Then there is another thing, the town supports the churches, the schools and other public institutions. The efficiency of these institutions are dependent upon the life and activity of the town. Where poor towns exist, the schools do not receive the support that is necessary to make them good, neither are the churches of the high standard they should be. Home patronage means good schools, good churches and all conveniences that add to the pleasure and enlightenment of a people.

All the residents of a community have common interests in it—the banker, the lawyer, the doctor, the merchant, the farmer, the day laborer—all have equal interests. Thus we find that a community is in reality a large cooperative assembly. What is of interest to one is of material interest to the other. But more important than all is that by a practice of the home patronage principle the possibilities of building up trusts for the control of industries of the country are reduced to the minimum; in fact, a strict adherence to this simple principle of building up and protecting home industries precludes the building up of harmful trusts and combinations.

D. M. CARR.

Care of Shade Trees.

While shade trees are very desirable along sidewalks and roads, unless they are kept well trimmed they become much of a nuisance, preventing evaporation of rains and helping make muddy streets. It is well for citizens of every town to look after the trimming of shade trees, and the planting of shade trees where they are needed.

The invention of the typewriter has given work to more than 1,000,000 women.

SCHOOLS AND CHURCHES.

Two Vital Things for the Welfare of the Masses.

There is wisdom in the old slogan, "A school on every hill top and a church in every valley." Citizens of the United States may well feel proud of the great educational system which makes it possible for all classes to acquire the proper mental cultivation. They may also feel proud of the religious liberty that each and every citizen enjoys. There is no established church to interfere with the free exercise of conscience, neither is there any law that interferes with the exercise of religious belief.

The United States can be looked upon as a nation where schools and churches flourish to the fullest. The public school system is one of the most perfect that civilization has yet evolved. Of course there are communities where local conditions are not so favorable for schools as other places. It will be observed that the more important is the city or the town, the more advanced are the educational facilities offered the people. The residents of rural communities have their state or district school, the curriculums of which are restricted. It is to the nearby town that the children who are residents of the farm districts must look for their higher education, which is a necessary preparation for entry into college, and for business life. How important it is, then, to the resident of the farm district that his home town be an active place and of sufficient business importance to justify the maintenance of a high class school! It can be seen how each resident of a farming community should be interested in the home town and all that pertains to its upbuilding. If on no other account, purely on account of the educational facilities.

Running parallel in importance with the schools are the churches. The better the home town the better are the church buildings, and the greater is the talent that fills the pulpit. Both schools and churches have educational qualities that should not be lightly valued. They mean the highest mental and moral development, and upon this development depends the good citizenship and the advancement and perpetuation of the nation.

COSTLY LESSONS IN ECONOMY.

It Is Not Always a Matter of Saving to Buy Cheap Goods.

Almost every rural community has within its confines people who have paid well for experience and have learned costly lessons as to buying of goods.

Not long ago in a western town a citizen desired to buy a kitchen range. A visit to the local hardware store was made and the prices asked by the dealer were not satisfactory to the prospective purchaser, who by the way had his attention attracted by the advertising in his farm paper of "a bargain" in a kitchen range. The range was advertised as equal to those costing "twice the money at the local store." The citizen sent a money order to the concern advertising the range, and in the course of a few weeks he was notified by the railroad agent that the range had arrived. In removing it from the station to the farm house, in some inexplainable way part of it was broken. The broken pieces were taken to the local hardware store but could not be duplicated. A letter was written to the range company and in the course of a few weeks a duplicate of the broken part was received, but it was discovered that it would not fit the stove. It had to be returned and a few weeks later another piece was sent; then the stove was placed in use. Within six months the top had become so warped that it interfered seriously with the drafts. At the end of the year the stove was burned out and ready for the junk heap. The purchaser of the stove then determined that he would secure another range from the home dealer. He paid the home dealer the price he was asked which was about one-third more than the poor range cost, and after a few years the range was found to be as good almost as when first bought.

This is one illustration of how economy wrongfully practiced is expensive. It is not always wise to seek the bargain counters when good articles are wanted. Neither is it a wise idea to buy goods before you have an opportunity to carefully examine them and determine their value.

GOOD ROADS MOVEMENT.

Millions of Dollars Annually Saved to the Farmers of the United States.

One of the most important movements that has been inaugurated of recent years, and which has resulted in wonderful benefit to the people is the good roads movement. Within the United States there are approximately about 8,000,000 farmers. If during a year each of those farmers can be saved $10 in time, or in wear and tear upon horses and wagons by means of improved roads, it means a saving of $80,000,000 annually; but the truth is that the improved roads that have been built up the past half dozen years through agitation of the good roads movement saves each farmer in the land from $50 to $100. Thus it can be seen that the savings brought about through this movement aggregate hundreds of millions of dollars each year.

Good roads are important to the progressive town. This fact has become so recognized that wherever there exists a live agricultural town its citizens will be found to be staunch advocates of road improvement, and there is a civic pride and friendly competition in the matter of having good roads leading to the towns. The work of road improvement has only fairly begun. A number of state legislatures have taken up the work and during the next dozen years great changes will be wrought as to the building and maintenance of public highways.

Dangerous Anywhere.

Bad water and ignorance are said to be responsible for the spread of typhoid fever in Pittsburg. They are a dangerous combination.

The demi-toilette for evening wear is of the first importance at this time. The French demi-toilette resembles a tea gown only in so much that it is picturesque and old-world. It is not in the very least untidy or floppy, and even an expert in such matters would find it difficult to clearly define the difference between it and a dinner gown suitable for ceremonious occasions. The difference is very subtle and yet—ever present! Possibly it is a distinction which owes much to the arrangement of the hair and to the ornaments worn. Some wonderfully lovely gowns of this order have been made this season of fine silk gauze enriched with ribbon embroideries, or with borderie Anglaise carried out in delicate pastel tints. The latter is a distinct novelty and entirely satisfactory when designed and executed by a master hand. For example, take a flowing skirt of creamy gauze, lavishly decorated in panels with broderie Anglaise worked in fine silver threads. On either side of these panels there were shaped insertions of Maltese lace—of exactly the same tint as the muslin—and at the extreme hem of the skirt five flounces of Valenciennes; while the bodice was arranged in picture fashion, having a large fischu of Valenciennes, which crossed in front and tucked away in the folded waistband of palest liberty satin. The wide Japanese sleeves were made of the Maltese lace, and underneath there were the daintiest little puffings and frills of Valenciennes. The peach-colored waistband boasted two very long ends at the left side, and these ends were drawn through a handsome buckle of gun metal set with small diamonds. It would be impossible to describe the poetic charm of this gown, and the dark buckle, with its brilliant frame, supplied just the right note.

The sleeveless coat of taffetas is entering a successful reign. This picturesque garment is almost always worn with muslin or lace gowns, and nine times out of ten the silk is of a dark and rather somber color. These silk coats are a short three-quarter length and semi-sack, back and front, and they are rarely closed in front, but are confined by chenille or silk ornaments, or, in some cases, they are lightly laced from throat to breast.

The most conspicuous of Fashion's new edicts will be the long coat, longer than they have been. These coats look equally well in both cloth and linen, and have charm when supplied with the square sleeve, the elbow sleeve, or the ordinary coat sleeve. It is, indeed, a highly adaptable garment, upon which we propose to bestow our very best attentions from now until October at least, and this I prophesy as other wise people would have prophesied, because I know.

But I am forgetting the novelty of the hour, and the like, being rare, should be treated with greater respect. White flowers allied to white leaves, and looking for all the world like the conventional decoration of the conventional wedding-cake, are upon the hats which express the last word of Fashion. White lilies of the valley allied to white rose-leaves I have met forming a thick wreath round a bell-shaped hat of brown straw lined with white chip; large white garden lilies with white leaves upstand in bold relief from a shape of purple straw, and white roses and white leaves encircle the broad brim of a hat of dull green lined with black glace. Here is novelty indeed—and for so much, and no more, I commend it.

Apropos summer hats—very high crowns are slowly but surely creeping toward us. Just at present these high crowns are chiefly arranged in flowers, but a little later we shall see a revival of the high "flower-pot" crown which used to be fashionable when the "Grecian bend" afforded fruitful topics for music-hall singers! It seems a thousand pities that we should think of adopting such a fashion as this, the hat crowns of this year are so ideal and so infinitely becoming, and the "flower-pot" crown is so peculiarly inartistic. Unhappily it is no use to protest against Fashion's dictates, but let us hope that this revival, when it comes, will be short lived, and that there will be found leaders of Society with sufficient taste and courage to protest against an ugly mode just as they protested against the meaningless short waist which is already dying the death.

It is quite certain that nine women out of ten look best when something rich and dark is placed near the face, not an entire black, or dark, hat necessarily, but one with a lining of full tone and in a becoming tint. The very newest and most popular idea with regard to cloche hats is the flat lining of black, or dark hued, satin. As a rule, this lining does not reach quite to the edge of the hat, an inch of light straw being left plain. Black satin or taffetas is wonderfully effective in an ivory straw cloche or one of Tuscan; rich bottle-green satin is used in the same way, and also dark Lancret blue, nut-brown and dark violet, the latter color being quite a rage of the moment. For example, take an ivory straw cloche which boasts a wide, rather high, crown, and a large drooping brim, the front of the latter being shorter than the back.

A Novel Serge Costume.

And now just another word about the new circular veils of which we spoke in a former letter. The new blue spotted net—the blue which is exactly like cornflower-blue dusted over with ivory powder—is delightfully flattering to a clear complexion, when the veil is edged all round with an inch-wide band of ribbon velvet. These veils ought to be quite long—at least three yards—and of the finest and lightest net. They are pinned round the cloche hat and thrown back from the face, making the most perfect frame it is possible to imagine.

His Trouble.

A small, quiet-looking man, smoking a large cigar, sat by the side of a medium-sized automobile that was drawn out of the road as a large touring car came along, driven by a man with an interrogatory aspect.

The man in the touring car slowed up and leaned over.

"How long have you been here?"

"About two hours."

"Can't you find out what the matter is?"

"No."

"Trouble with spark plug?"

"Think not."

"How are your batteries?"

"O. K."

"Haven't got a short-circuit, have you?"

"Oh, no."

"Got any gasoline in your tank?"

"Plenty."

"Would you mind telling me, sir, just what's the matter with that machine of yours?"

In answer, the man pointed to a large red farm house in the distance.

"See that house out there?" he asked.

"Yes, sir."

"Well, sir, there isn't anything the matter with this machine, but since noon my wife has been in that house kissing her sister's first baby good-by. When she gets through, if you are not over a thousand miles away, and will leave your address, I will telegraph or cable you the glad news at my own expense." — Collier's Weekly.

Why They Don't Speak.

First Saleslady (disguising her pleasure) — What do you think, Mayme? A gentleman friend o' mine sent my photo to that newspaper that's running the beauty contest! Didn't he have the nerve, though?

Second Saleslady—And the worst of it is them practical jokers never apologize.—Puck.

Would Mean Immense Saving.

Two hundred and fifty million dollars a year would be saved if electricity were to supplant steam entirely.

ARE PHYSICIANS' PRESCRIPTIONS NOSTRUMS?

To one not qualified, and few laymen are, to discriminate intelligently between physicians' prescriptions, proprietary medicines and nostrums, it may seem little short of a crime to hint even that physicians' prescriptions are in any manner related to nostrums; nevertheless, an impartial examination of all the facts in the case leads irresistibly to the conclusion that every medicinal preparation compounded and dispensed by a physician is, in the strict sense of the word, a nostrum, and that the average, ready-prepared proprietary remedy is superior to the average specially-prepared physicians' prescription.

What is a nostrum? According to the Standard Dictionary a nostrum is "a medicine the composition of which is kept a secret." Now, when a physician compounds and dispenses with his own hands a remedy for the treatment of a disease—and it is authoritatively stated that probably 60 per cent. of all physicians' prescriptions in this country are so dispensed—the names and quantities of the ingredients which constitute the remedy are not made known to the patient. Hence, since its composition is kept a secret by the physician, the remedy or prescription is unquestionably, in the true meaning of the word, a Simon-pure nostrum. Furthermore, the prescription compounded by the average physician is more than likely to be a perfect jumble—replete with therapeutic, physiologic and chemical incompatibilities and bearing all the earmarks of pharmaceutical incompetency; for it is now generally admitted that unless a physician has made a special study of pharmacy and passed some time in a drug store for the purpose of gaining a practical knowledge of modern pharmaceutical methods, he is not fitted to compound remedies for his patients. Moreover, a physician who compounds his own prescriptions not only deprives the pharmacist of his just emoluments, but he endangers the lives of patients; for it is only by the detection and elimination of errors in prescriptions by clever, competent prescriptionists that the safety of the public can be effectually shielded from the criminal blunders of ignorant physicians.

Nor can it be said that the average physician is any more competent to formulate a prescription than he is to compound it. When memorized or directly copied from a book of "favorite prescriptions by famous physicians," or from some text-book or medical journal, the prescription may be all that it should be. It is only when the physician is required to originate a formula on the spur of the moment that his incompetency is distinctly evident. Seemingly, however, the physicians of the United States are little worse than the average British physician; for we find Dr. James Burnett, lecturer on Practical Materia Medica and Pharmacy, Edinburgh, lamenting in the Medical Magazine the passing of the prescription and bemoaning the fact that seldom does he find a "final man" able to devise a prescription even in "good contracted Latin."

And what, it may be asked, is the status of the written prescription—the prescription that is compounded and dispensed by the pharmacist—is it, too, a nostrum? It may be contended that the patient, with the written formula in his possession, may learn the character of the remedy prescribed. So, possibly, he might if he understood Latin and were a physician or a pharmacist, but as he usually possesses no professional training and cannot read Latin, the prescription is practically a dead secret to him. Furthermore, the average prescription is so badly written and so greatly abbreviated that even the pharmacist, skilled as he usually is in deciphering medical hieroglyphs, is constantly obliged to interview prescribers to find out what actually has been prescribed. It may also be contended, that inasmuch as the formula is known to both physician and pharmacist the prescription cannot therefore be a secret. But with equal truth it might be contended that the formula of any so-called nostrum is not a secret since it is known to both proprietor and manufacturer; for it must not be forgotten that, according to reliable authority, 95 per cent. of the proprietors of so-called patent medicines prepared in this country have their remedies made for them by large, reputable manufacturing pharmacists. But even should a patient be able to recognize the names of the ingredients mentioned in a formula he would only know half the story. It is seldom, for instance, that alcohol is specifically mentioned in a prescription, for it is usually masked in the form of tinctures and fluid extracts, as are a great many other substances. It is evident, therefore, that the ordinary formulated prescription is, to the average patient, little less than a secret remedy or nostrum.

On the other hand, the formulae of nearly all the proprietary medicines that are exploited exclusively to the medical profession as well as those of a large percentage of the proprietary remedies that are advertised to the public (the so-called patent medicines) are published in full. Under the Food and Drugs Act, every medicinal preparation entering interstate commerce is now required to have the proportion or quantity of alcohol, opium, cocain and other habit-forming or harmful ingredients which it may contain plainly printed on the label. As physicians' prescriptions seldom or never enter interstate commerce they are practically exempt under the law. And if it be necessary for the public to know the composition of proprietary remedies, as is contended by those who through ignorance or for mercenary reasons are opposing the sale of all household remedies, *why is it not equally necessary for patients to know the composition of the remedy prescribed by a physician?* Does any sane person believe that the opium in a physician's prescription is less potent or less likely to create a drug habit than the opium in a proprietary medicine? *As a matter of fact, more opium-addicts and cocain-fiends have been made through the criminal carelessness of ignorant physicians than by any other means.*

Unquestionably, there are a number of proprietary remedies on the market the sales of which should be prohibited, and no doubt they will be when the requirements of the Food and Drugs Act are rigidly enforced; many are frauds, pure and simple, and some are decidedly harmful. Of the average proprietary remedy, however, it may truthfully be said that it is distinctly better than the average physicians' prescription; for not only is its composition less secret, but it is prepared for the proprietor by reputable manufacturing pharmacists in magnificently equipped laboratories and under the supervision and advice of able chemists, competent physicians and skillful pharmacists. It should not be considered strange, therefore, that so many physicians prefer to prescribe these ready-prepared proprietary remedies rather than trust those of their own devising.

JUST THE SAME AS CURRENCY.

Third Son Felt He Had Nothing to Reproach Himself with.

William Knoepfel, of St. Louis, has invented and hopes to patent a secret plowing method for the cure of baldness. "A genuine cure for baldness," said Mr. Knoepfel the other day, should make a man very rich. Why, men grow rich on fake cures. It is amazing, it really is, what fakes some of those cures are. Yet there's money in them." Mr. Knoepfel gave a loud, scornful laugh. "In their crookedness they remind me," he said, "of the third son of the old eccentric. Perhaps you have heard the story? Well, an old eccentric died and left his fortune equally to his three sons. But the will contained a strange proviso. Each heir was to place $100 in the coffin immediately before the interment. A few days after the interment the three young men met and discussed the queer proviso and its execution. 'Well,' said the oldest son, 'my conscience is clear. I put my hundred in the coffin in clean, new notes.' 'My conscience is clear, too,' said the second son. 'I put in my hundred in gold.' 'I, too, have nothing to reproach myself with,' said the third son. 'I had no cash at the time, though; so I wrote out a check for $300 in poor, dear father's name, placed it in the coffin and took in change the $200 in currency that I found there.'"

PUSHED THE BEAR ASIDE.

Surveyor Tells of Experience He Does Not Care to Repeat.

To walk right up to a monster bear and try to shove it out of the way and then escape without so much as a scratch is an experience of a lifetime. Harry I Engelbright found it so a few days ago in Diamond canyon, above Washington, says a Nevada City correspondent of the Sacramento Bee. The young man, son of Congressman Engelbright, has just returned from the upper country, where he has been doing some surveying, and relates his thrilling experience. It was coming on dusk, at the close of the day's work. In the brush-lined trail he saw protruding what he thought were the hind quarters of some stray bovine. He walked up and gave the brute a shove. It came to its haunches with a snort that made his hair rise and caused him to beat a hasty retreat. The big brute looked around and then shuffled off into the woods. It was either asleep or else so busy eating ants from an old log that it failed to hear the young surveyor, whose footsteps were deadened by the thick carpet of pine needles. Later it was learned that the same bear, a monster cinnamon, had killed a dog earlier in the day. The dog ventured too close and with one blow of its paw the big beast sent it hurtling yards away, dead as a doornail.

Magnifying Choir Leader's Voice.

In the old village of Braybrook in Northamptonshire, England, is a monster trumpet, five six inches in length and having a bell-shaped end two feet one inch in diameter. The trumpet is made up of ten rings, which in turn are made up of smaller parts. The use of this trumpet—only four of the kind are known to exist at the present day—was to magnify the voice of the leader in the choir and summon the people to the church service. At the present time neither the choir nor the service is in need of this extraordinary "musical instrument," but the vicar of the church takes care of the ancient relic and is fond of showing it to all visitors.

Painfully Exact.

A New England man tells of a prosperous Connecticut farmer, painfully exact in money matters, who married a widow of Greenwich possessing in her own right the sum of $10,000. Shortly after the wedding a friend met the farmer, to whom he offered congratulations, at the same time observing: "It's a good thing for you, Malachi, a marriage that means $10,000 to you." "Not quite that, Bill," said the farmer, "not quite that." "Why," exclaimed the friend, "I understood there was every cent of $10,000 in it for you!" "I had to pay $2 for a marriage license," said Malachi.

Diplomatic Salesman.

An elderly woman entered a shop and asked to be shown some tablecloths. The salesman brought a pile and showed them to her, but she said she had seen those elsewhere—nothing suited her. "Haven't you something new?" she asked. The man then brought another pile and showed them to her. "These are the newest patterns," he said. "You will notice the edge runs right round the border and the center is in the middle." "Dear me, yes. I will take half a dozen of them," said the woman.

Wit.

A witty man is a dramatic performer; in process of time he can no more exist without applause than he can exist without air; if his audience be small, or if they are inattentive, or if a new wit defrauds him of any portion of his admiration, it is all over with him—he sickens and is extinguished. The applause of the theater on which he performs is so essential to him that he must obtain it at the expense of decency, friendship and good feeling. — Sydney Smith.