

# Corner for the Juniors

PLIMSOLL'S MARK ON SHIPS

Peculiar Characters on Side of British Vessels Determine Weight of Her Cargo.

Perhaps you have often heard of man's making his mark in the world, but what do you think of a man that left his mark on every British ship that sails the seas?

If you are observant you may have noticed in passing some of the freight steamers a peculiar mark on the side, close to the water, something like the letters O. E. This mark is usually about the middle of the boat, and is white or yellow on a dark background. In the old days many merchant ships were lost through overloading, and a British member of parliament, Samuel Plimsoll, who sympathized with the poor sailors that had to risk their lives on these ships while the greedy owners stayed safely at home, worked and worked until he got a law passed that obliged every cargo carrying vessel to carry a mark on its side, showing the depth to which she might safely be loaded.

The five marks on the figure to the right, which look like a letter E, indicate the loading depths for different places and seasons. The top line, turned to the left, is for fresh water. The top line to the right is for the Indian ocean. The next below is for



the summer season anywhere. The one below that is for winter and the lowest of all is for the north Atlantic in winter, as that is considered the most dangerous of all the oceans traveled by cargo carrying ships.

**LITTLE TRICK OF INTEREST**  
One May See Through His Hand by Using Piece of Paper Rolled Up in Form of Tube.

Here is something that is very easy to try and that is bound to interest everyone you show it to. Take a piece of paper and roll it up into a



Seeing Through Hand.  
tube about three-quarters of an inch in diameter. Hold this in your right hand and place one end of it close up to your right eye. Place on the table about three feet from you any small object, such as a coin. Now open your left hand and place it with the palm facing you, against the left side of the paper tube, about midway of its length. Keeping both eyes open, now you will appear to see through this hand. In fact, there will apparently be a hole right through it, through which you will see the coin.

**Evenly Matched.**  
A boy sat on a rail fence enclosing a cornfield. A city chap passing, said:  
"Your corn looks kind of yellow, Bub."  
"Yep, that's the kind we planted," said Bub.  
"It doesn't look as if you would get more than half a crop," observed the city chap.  
"Nops; we don't expect to. Landlord gets the other half," retorted the youngster.  
The stranger hesitated a moment and then ventured:  
"You are not very far from a foolish fellow, are you, Bub?"  
"Nops; not a bit. I am feet," said the boy—and the city chap passed on.

**Colors One Cannot See.**  
Perhaps you know that there is no such thing as color in the objects you look at. Some process in the brain transforms the waves of light that come from different things into colors we called colors. When there is no light you see no colors and a red rose is the same shade as a green tree.

At present people can distinguish seven colors in the rainbow, but scientists say there are others beyond those we see which the human eye cannot see. They have proved that some insects, such as bats, can see rays of light beyond the violet, just as it has been shown that some animals that you hear around you which see only the five human eyes to detect.

**The Maid and Her Apple.**  
"Three boys had a maid ready to marry them. The first had a red apple, the second had a green one, the third had a yellow one. The maid said to the first, 'I don't want you, you have a red apple.' She said to the second, 'I don't want you, you have a green apple.' She said to the third, 'I don't want you, you have a yellow apple.' The boys were very sad. The maid said to them, 'I will marry you if you give me a red apple, a green apple, and a yellow apple.' The boys gave her the apples and she married them." — *London Times*.



**GENTLE JANE.**  
Bald Gentle Jane, "I heard today fence runs 'round the house, but I thought I must say it's quiet as a mouse."

## ALSACE STORKS ON DECREASE

Every year the number of storks to be seen in Alsace becomes less, and the London Daily Globe states. Of the four nests perched on the big chimneys of the old roofs of Strasbourg only one has been occupied this year. In many of the villages the great migrators have come for a long time to relieve the landscape, and it seems only a question of time when the stork in Alsace will be a memory. Various are the causes assigned for this desertion—the drainage of the marshes, the multiplication of telephone and telegraph wires and the smoke from factory chimneys.

In Germany for the better study of storks there has been created a sort of observatory in connection with the education department which tends to set up an "old civil" for each bird, or, in other words, to register them after the manner which obtains for citizens in France.

Each bird is captured where possible and a metallic disk affixed to its leg, and German officials, wherever the birds are believed to migrate, have instructions to send to the department any information they can gather concerning storks which are German subjects. (Possibly this labeling may have something to do with the academy.) By this system of registration the authorities have learned something of the migratory habits of the bird; for instance, one was found dead at the Cape of Good Hope whose place of origin was eastern Prussia.

## POLE FOR A ROLLER SKATER

Amusement Found by Small Boy in Riding Astraddle of Broomstick is Improved On.  
When the very small boy who likes to play horse astraddle a broomstick becomes out of control on his roller skates, he may carry out the idea in a more practical way with a roller pole of the kind shown in the illustration. The device comprises a pole with a handle at one end, and a seat near the center, a crosspiece for the hands at the other end, and



a second crosspiece between the first and the second. The seat is fastened to the pole, and the boy sits on it. This second crosspiece is to brace his knees against when he sits on the seat after getting a good start.

**What Are Cork Legs?**  
One often meets with a description, especially in some of the older novels, of men with cork legs, and upon reading the graphic accounts of some of some of these old sea dogs, for most of them were sailors, one would naturally think they had artificial legs made of cork.  
But artificial legs are never made of cork. They do not get their name from the material of which, but from the place at which they were made. This was not the city of Cork in Ireland, but Cork street, off Piccadilly, in London, which was the headquarters for the artificial limb trade in the old days, just as certain streets are known as the locality for certain wholesale businesses in our big cities today.

**Not Met!**  
An Irish builder was new to the huge skyscraper. He had carried material up to the top floor, and could not get it any way down. After a time the boss missed him and called up to him.  
"Pat, oh Pat! Why don't you come down?"  
"I don't know the way," said Pat.  
"Well, come down the way you went up."  
"Pat, oh I won't said Pat. 'I'm here to hand 'em.'"  
**Not Aword of Grandeur.**  
"Grandeur," queried small Ebe, "is it not a word?"  
"No, dear," replied the old lady, "I never see it."  
"Then," continued Ebe, "I wish you would be a word of grandeur."

## IMPROVEMENT OF WHEAT AND OATS RESULTING FROM SYSTEMATIC BREEDING



Breeding Oats at University of Illinois. Each row is the product of an individual plant.

By PROFESSOR L. H. SMITH, Chief in Plant Breeding, Illinois Agricultural Experiment Station, and Professor in the University of Illinois.

In considering the possibilities of improving crop production in this country, comparisons often have been made in recent years of the wheat fields of our country as compared with those of European countries. For example, the average production of wheat in the United States is 14 bushels to the acre; that of Germany is 28 bushels. It is to be recognized, of course, that a large share of this increased production must be assigned to the attention given to the fertility of the soil.

It appears, however, particularly in the last few years, that aside from the matter of improved soil conditions, another force of tremendous influence has been operating to produce that effect, and this is the close attention that is being paid to the matter of seed improvement. Great stress is laid upon the importance of testing different strains and varieties of the various farm crops with the object of finding those best adapted to the most different localities. In addition to this work much attention is given to crop improvement through systematic breeding. A report has quite recently appeared in which the statement is made that there are in Germany 46 breeders of rye, 31 breeders of wheat, 85 breeders of barley, 53 breeders of oats, and so on. This serves to show the importance attached to this line of endeavor and to indicate one of the sources of success in producing big crop yields in Germany.

In this country very little attention has been given to the systematic breeding of small grains. We have come in recent years to attach considerable importance to the breeding of corn, so that now almost every farmer not only carefully considers the variety which he will plant, but also critically examines each individual ear which is to furnish seed for his fields. Where is the progressive farmer these days who would think of going to the bin or to the elevator and securing up a lot of shelled corn for planting his field? Instead of this scoop-shovel method he demands that his seed corn be delivered to him in the ear, because he has come to realize the importance of taking into account the individuality of the ear.

But this same farmer who insists on handling his seed corn ear by ear is willing to go to the bin and use his scoop-shovel in selecting his seed wheat. Now, as a matter of fact, there is just the same reason why wheat and oats should be selected ear by ear in the head as there is for seed corn to be sold in the ear. And there is just as much importance in testing the heads of wheat and oats separately for their productivity as there is in testing ears of corn in separate breeding rows. The same principles of heredity operate in wheat and oats, in corn, and characteristics of individuals are transmitted to their progeny just as surely in one plant as in the other.

Wheat plant possesses its own individuality and its characters are transmitted to its progeny in accordance with the definite laws of heredity. Occasionally perhaps one or two many offspring plants—there occurs a very outstanding individual, the same as once in a while there arises a Shakespeare or an Edison, and the man race. It is the business of the plant breeder to seek out these exceptional individuals to test the transmission of their valuable characters, and if found inheritable, to propagate such strains.

If we were to trace the history of many of our most valuable strains of cereals, we would find that they emanate from some such exceptional individual plants. For example, in wheat, the Dawson's Golden Chaff variety is said to have arisen from a single plant discovered by Mr. Dawson, who was walking through his fields and noting the thirty vigorous growth of this plant, which was sown with its neighbors. Seed from this remarkable plant was saved and its progeny multiplied until now the Dawson's Golden Chaff has become one of the best wheat varieties in the world.

## HER LITTLE HAND IN HIS

Mr. Pecke's Explanation as to Reason Somewhat Diminishing the Odor of Romance

Henne and Pecke were two benighted married men. The other day they met, and, after a few casual remarks concerning the weather, the subject of women and unfortunate husbands was perhaps naturally—discussed. To Henne, however, suddenly came thoughts of years ago, when he was a happy bachelor, and (unconsciously of what Fate had in store for him) was "waiting out" a girl who was, later on, destined to bring him sorrow and misery.

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Speed the Parting Guest.  
Father Knickerbocker—Can't you stay a little longer?  
Departing Visitor—No. Haven't a red cent left.  
Father Knickerbocker—Oh! Well, good-by.

Out of Reach.  
Townley—How's the new cook getting on?  
Subbubs—I don't know. She didn't leave her address.—Boston Transcript.

Celia's Carbolescence.  
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