### BLIND SPOT IN EVERY EYE

It is Located Just at the Point Where the Optic Nerve Centers.

In every eye there is a little spot that is totally blind. Young eyes, ol eyes, sharp eyes, dull eyes, blue, brown or black eyes all of them even the most perfect, have, in eacl retina, a little round spot which is wholly blind both to brightness and color. This spot is located just at the point where the optic nerve centers, and is approximately one-twelfth of an inch wide. Several interesting experiments can be made to prove the presence of this blind spot. For example, cover the right eye with the hand or a bandage and gaze with the left steadily at a point on the wall or screen about seven feet distant. Let another person be seated against the wall on your left-hand side, in such a position that his forehead is on a level with the point at which you are gazing, and his nearer cheek about twenty inches distant from it. Do not turn your eyeball, but gaze steadily as at first, and his face will entirely disappear, and the waff will seem to be perfectly blank. If you spread a sheet of paper on the wall and note the points at which a pencil moved back and forth by another person appears and disappears, you will be able to make an accurate map of the blind spot as projected on the wall. Another experiment is performed by painting nine large letters in three vertical columns of three letters each, upon a sheet of paper at such a distance and in such a position before the eye that the central letter of the square falls within the blind spot, while the surrounding eight letters are still visible.—Christian Herald.

### RUSKIN A GREAT TEACHER

Knew How to Lead the Child, Youth and Mature Man and Woman.

What a teacher Ruskin was! He gave himself to those who came, entering keenly into the young delight in the perception of new truths and beauty, knowing how to take the learner step by step as he saw the way ahead. He charmed all with his inimitable style even when he spoke to the humblest in the guild of St. George.

To the sensitive, impressionable nature of childhood he came with a flood of artistic criticism that made us yearn to draw and paint, to depict the delicate tracery of tree stems or catch the varied tints of mountain, lake, or cloud; while his scorn for careless unconscientious artwork drove us to strive for the best.

To the growing youth he brought such a keen perception of moral beauty as made us desire to realize some noble ideal in life, to enter seriously some pursuit with a pure love of doing beautiful work; while his contempt for machine-made articles of poor finish taught us to value those noble craftsmen of all ages who took infinite pains with all that was worth

doing. To our ripening manhood and womanhood he opened the ideals of unselfish life, where all might let their hearts delight in the labor of their hands and none should toil with suffering for a miserable pittance; while his prophetic denunciations of the hideous conditions prevailing in our large manufacturing districts made us earnestly seek to probe these sores and find their cure.—Theosoph

Gas at Small Expense.

In some parts of Holland the farmers have taken the hint from nature, and as the result have their own gas plents. On the drained marshy land, below the sea level, natural gas is equite plentiful, and plants have been installed to put it into practical use. The installation comprises a well, into which water from the soil filters, with a gas generator placed therein this extracting the gaseous properties from the water and conducting them to a reservoir containing a supply for the house. The gas thus obtained provides all the wants for cooking, heating and lighting in the house or any other part of the farmyard. After the plant is once installed, which is at a small expense, the cost is absolutely nothing, and the quality of the gas is said to be particularly good.

"Devils of Diplomacy." French papers say that the Italians, successors to Machiavelli, are "very devils of diplomacy," and in coming to an understanding with Turkey have left no end of trouble for that unhappy country. These papers say that the Italians have not spared to sow the seeds of discord between the Arabs of Tripoli and the Turks, that the Arabs have long been distrustful of the Turkish troops and have threatened to slaughter them to the last man if they attempt to leave the country to its enemies, and that the government at Constatinople will hardly know how to withdraw its lit-We army from Africa.

Rebuking "Dikzy." Bir William Fraser records with pride his own readiness in quoting the saying of one of Disraeli's heroes to "Dissy" himself, together with the pleasure "Disay" took in being so quoted to. "Bitting next to him at Lord Shrowsbury's, cigars were handed round after dinner. He shook his head, and turning to me, said, "The grave of love.' I replied, "Tobacco is the tomb of love," said Egremont, holding up a eigne. He looked very much pleased, and said, 'I apologize; I thought the remark was original." HE RAN AFOUL OF THE LAW

New Yorker Who Pursued a Burglar Had to Spend Night in a Cell.

This is a funny little town of ours, the Cincinnati Times-Star's New York correspondent writes. Things happen here that couldn't possibly happen anywhere else. The other night, for example, a man whose name may be set down as Jim Smith was awakened by a tinkling noise in the front room. Mr. Smith rose, pulled on the conventional pants, took his aix-shooter and went stalking a burglar. He found that individual packing up the silver. "Throw up your hands!" said Mr. Smith.

A frightened gasp was the reply. The burglar shut off his pocket electric lamp and leaped on the fire escape. So did Mr. Smith. The pair reached the street safely and tore down that thoroughfare. On the way the burglar presumably threw away his electric lamp and whatever other tools of his trade he possessed. When the running pair came in sight of, one of Mr. Waldo's policemen on peg post it was the burglar who clasped the astonished officer about the knees. "Help!" said the burglar, impressively, "a nutty guy's chasin'

There was no help for it. The officer took the burglar and Mr. Smith to the station house. There the burglar was searched, but nothing incriminating was found. Early the next morning a lawyer appeared for the burglar, and when he was arraigned in court he was discharged because Smith's identification was necessarily imperfect. Smith was sure of his man-but the lawyer rather shook his certainty. In the meantime no lawyer appeared for Smith. He spent the night in the cell. Oh, sure, he was placed under arrest for carrying a revolver without a license. The magistrate bound him over on \$1,000 to appear before the grand jury.

## LAND OF OUR FOREFATHERS

Edward Everett's Tribute to England as the Cradle and Refuge of Free Principles.

For myself I can truly say that after my native land I feel a tenderness and a reverence for that of my fathers. The pride I take in my own country makes me respect that from which we are sprung. The sound of my native language beyond the sea is a music to my ears beyond the richest strains of Tuscan softness or Castilian majesty.

I am not-I need not say I am notthe panegyrist of England. I am not dassled by her riches nor awed by her power. The scepter, the miter and the coronet, stars, garters and rib bons seem to me poor things for great men to contend for.

But England is the cradle and the refuge of free principles, though often persecuted; the school of religious liberty, the more precious for the struggles through which it has passed; she holds the tombs of those who have reflected honor on all who speak the English tongue; she is the birthplace of our fathers, the home of the Pilgrims; it is these which I love and venerate in England.

I should feel ashamed of an enthusiasm for Italy and Greece did I not also feel it for a land like this. In an American it would seem to be degenerate and ungrateful to hang with passion upon the traces of Homer and Virgil and follow without emotion the nearer and plainer footsteps of Shakespeare and Milton. I should think him cold in love for his native land who felt no melting in his heart for that other native country which holds the ashes of his forefathers .-Edward Everett.

Heavy Coal Producers. The concentration of the anthracite industry of Pennsylvania into strong and relatively few units is shown by the fact that in 1911 nearly 75 per cent. of the mines were producers of more than 100,000 tons each and that all but 3 per cent. of the total production was from this gloup of mines. According to the geological survey the anthracite mines exclusively in the first class—those producing over 200,-000 tons each-yielded 87.2 per cent. of the total output, and the 168 mines included in this class had an average production of 444,697 tons each. In 1910 there were 157 anthracite mines in the 200,000-ton class and their average production was 419,035 tons each; in 1909 170 mines had an aver age production of \$86,688 tons each.

The Hohensollerns. The house of Hohenzollern, of which is the present emperor of Germany, had its origin in Thassilo, who built the castle of Hohensollern about the year 800. In 1417 Frederick of Nuremberg, his descendant was made Elector of Brandenburg. The Prince of Hohenzollern abdicated in favor of the King of Prussia in 1849. Charles, son of Charles Anthony, was elected Prince of Roumania in 1866. His brother, Leopold, was nominated for the throne of Spain in 1870, but withdrew on account of the excitement of the time, brought on by the Franco-Prussian difficulty.

Abelone Most in Domand. Dried and smoked abalone meat, most of which is sured in southern California fishing ports, is purchased by Oriental importers at fancy prices. Occasionally it sells for \$300 a ton. In some instances divers are employed to procure the mollusks, and it is not uncommon for an experienced man to bring to the surface two tons of meat and shells in a dar.

TOO BRIGHT FOR BUSINESS

Small Boy Put an End to Thefts of Candy Tasters But Lost Hie Job.

A small boy began his business career in a five-and-ten-cent store last week-and he also closed the first chapter of it in the same store two days later. He was overzealous in his efforts to protect his employer's interest. Every merchant displaying counters of candies unprotected by glass or wire screen covers loses pounds of candy weekly through the petry thievings of candy-tasters who help themselves to one or as many pieces as they can grab while passing the unprotected sweets.

The small boy feeling the responsibility of his position reported the raids on the candy to the manager, who, appreciating the child's interest, explained to him that it was almost impossible to deal with such culprits and that at least 15 pounds of candy were confiscated weekly in such fash-

ion. Part of the boy's work was to uncover the counters in the morning. and he was on the job good and early the second day of his employment. He assured the salesgirl at the candy counter that there was going to be a reduction in candy-tasters that day. She thought nothing of the remark until she noticed that every one helping herself to the sweets almost immediately clapped her hand over her mouth and ran for the door. Tasting her wares herself, she discovered the upper layers of them liberally sprinkled with cayenne pepper.

Half an hour later the boy who thought he had solved the candy-tasters' problem was out on the street, ruefully contemplating a pepper shaker while he went on the quest of

## LENIENT TO THE OFFENDER

Baron Martin, Old Time English Jurist, Let Thief Fix His Own Punishment.

Judges were very considerate in the old days. Lord Brampton, in his Reminiscences, relates a story illustrating this.

Baron Martin, a famous English jurist of the old school, whose native leniency and sense of fun often placed him at the mercy of the very men he was trying, was once about to sentence an old offender charged with petty theft.

"Look," said the baron, with an assumption of severity; "I hardly know what to do, but you can take six

"I can't take that, my lord; it's too much," said the prisoner, respectfully but firmly. "I can't take it. Your lordship sees I didn't steal very much, after all."

The baron indulged in one of his low, chuckling laughs before reply-"Well, that's verra true; ye didn't

steal much," he said." "Well, then, ye can tak' four months. Will that do -four months?" "Nay, my lord, but I can't take that

either," was the reply. "Then tak' three."

"That's nearer the mark, my lord," the prisoner said, approvingly. "But I'd rather you made it two, if you will be so kind."

"Verra well, then, tak' two," said the judge, with the air of one who is pleased to have done the right thing at last. "And mind, don't come again. If you do I'll give ye-well, it all de pends!"

Wireless and Aurora. The aurora borealis, or northern lights, apparently affects the wireless telegraph waves that pass between Hammerfest, Norway, and the northernmost station in the world at Green Harbor, Spitsbergen. Often the polar light so weakens the wireless waves that the operator in the receiving-station at Spitsbergen can hardly hear them, and at times communication is wholly interrupted. On the other hand, the appearance of the northern lights seems to strengthen the waves that are sent southward. Once, when the aurora was so bright in Spitsbergen that it was mentioned in a dispatch to Norway, the receiving operator at Hammerfest, when the polar light was not visible, noticed an extraordinary increase in the volume and distinct ness of the signals.

Have Catalogue of Stars. At Cambridge, Mass., there now exists the most extensive and valuable collection of stellar photographs in the world, numbering over 240,000; and 100,000 or more of them have been secured at Harvard University Observatory at Arequipa, Peru, at an elevation of \$,000 feet. The number of stars revealed on the different plates depends, of course, on the density of the part of the sky being photographed, and on the length of the exposure, the longer the exposure the more stars, provided the light of the sky does not fog the plate. On one plate alone, namely the region about Eta Carinae, 240,000 stars have been actually counted.

Humility Net Noticeable. The will of the earl of Pembroks, of the English civil war notoriety. does not portray a mind exactly in the state it should be, when he proceeds to say: "As regards my other horses, I bequeath them to my Lord Fairfax, that when Cromwell and his council take away his commission he may still have some horses to command. Above all, put not my body beneath the church porch, for I am, after all, a man of birth, and would not that I should be interred there where Colonel Pride was born."

PROUD OF HIS NEW CLOTHES

A TOTAL CONTROL OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPERT

Rhodesian Native, Returning From Mines, Was Scandalized By Unclad Relatives and Friends.

A town in Rhodesia is not generally a town, declares Mrs. M. L. Woods in "Pastels Under the Southern Cross." A few scattered shops, a broad road deep in red dust, down which a sudden miscellaneous herd of blacks occasionally pours, constitute a town. Of these natives, Mrs. Woods gives the following description:

They are collected from all parts of Rhodesia, from Portuguese territory, even from Nyasaland. Dressed in anything and everything, they come pell-mell, grinning and chattering, some like young colts bounding into the air as they go. These happy fellows are probably rejoicing because they are being sent to some mine where certain of their friends and relations are already working.

This is the native as he appears entering on his term of service at the mines. I once saw a group of black men who had completed their term of service and were on their way home. They were serious, dignified, conscious of clean and complete costumes, consisting of shirt and trousers and a hard straw hat. Each had his neat bundle and his gaily painted wooden box.

We were once appreciative witnesses of the home-coming of such a miner at a wayside station. A party of relatives and friends had come from the kraal to meet the returning one. all innocent in their nakedness and rags. The plutocrat surveyed them with a scandalized eye; coldly he waved their salutations and endearments, obviously too shocked and pained to appreciate them. Then ho withdrew from the platform to the foot of a neighboring tree, and beckoned his bewildered friends to approach. In a few minutes, before the eyes of the passengers in the train. he had clothed his whole party with decency, and surely, in their eyes with splendor. Then, and only then, did he condescend to return their greetings; and, exceedingly joyful, all marched off together in the direction of their kraal.

# EGGS COOKED TO SUIT HIM

How John Randolph Had Them Botted With Assistance of String of Servants.

Most persons who eat eggs at all are particular about them. The boiling of an egg seems a simple matter, but many a breakfast has been spoiled and many a temper rasped by the cook's failing to observe the precise number of minutes and seconds that the process should occupy.

That very original man, John Randolph, is said to have invented a method of getting his eggs cooked exactly to his taste that worked perfectly. As in the case in many country homes in the south, the kitchen was in a separate building at some distance from the house, and servants

were plenty.

When the "sage of Roanoke" took his seat at the breakfast table there was a line of servants from the dining room to the kitchen. Mrs. Randolph, the mother of the statesman, held an open watch in her hand.

"ln!" exclaimed Mr. Randolph, and the word "in" was passed from mouth to mouth until it reached the waiting cook, who dropped the eggs into the water. After the requisite number of seconds the holder of the timepiece signified that the cooking was done. "Out!" went forth the command in like manuer, and the eggs were quickly removed.

The system required six or seven servants to cook one egg, but Randolph was accustomed to declare that this was the only way that he could get it cooked to suit him.

His Position Explained.

One of the curiosities of the British house of commons, very rarely seen. was Erle Drax, for many years member for Dorsetshire borough. Once, at a general election, on the day previous to the nomination, he put out the following address to his constituents: "Electors of Wareham! I understand that some evil-disposed person has been circulating a report that I wish my tenants, and other persons dependent upon me, to vote according to their conscience. This is a das-tardly lie, calculated to injure m I have no wish of the sort. I wish and I intend, that these persons shall vote for me."

Tolorably Well.

The last pig-tail has disappeared from the Chinese embassy in London. It belonged to the majordomo of the Chinese ambassador, and it is now on its way to China as a present to that functionary's wife. A story is going the rounds that at an official reception recently a member of the Chinese embassy was presented to a well known lady.

"We no talkee Chines velly well," aho maid. "Never mind, your ladyship," was

the smooth reply, "I can converse tolerably well in English!"

World's Rubber Production. About one-ball the world's supply of rubber comes from the Brazilian pections of Coars, Mansos and Para. Their product sets the price for the raw material in the consuming markets. The trees grow wild. No systematic preparation of the ground has ever been necessary, and the entire care of the rebber gatherers has been given to obtaining only the juice from the rubber tree and getting it to

### TREE THAT EXHIBITS ANGER

In Idaho a Species Quakes and Emits an Unpleasant Odor When Disturbed.

In Idaho there exists a species of the acacia tree which is entitled to be classed as one of the wonders of plant life. This tree, Harper's Weekly states, attains a height of about eight feet. When full grown it closes its leaves together in coils each day at sunset and curls its twigs to the shape of pigtails. When the tree has thus settled itself for its night's sleep it is said that if touched it will flutter as if agitated or impatient at the disturbance. The oftener, it is averred, the foliage is molested, the more violent will become the shaking of the branches. Finally, it is further alleged, if the shaking be continued, the tree will at length emit a nauseating odor quite sufficient to induce a headache in the case of the person

disturbing the tree. In Idaho it is called the "angry tree" and it is said that it was discovered by men who, on making camp for the night, placed one end of a canvas covering over one of the sensitive branches, using it for a support. Immediately the tree began to jerk its branches sharply. The motion continued, with increasing "nervousness," until at last came a sickening odor that drove the tired campers to a more friendly location.

Curiosity prompted an investigation. One of the "angry trees" was dug up and thrown to one side. Immediately upon being removed from the ground it is said that the tree opened its leaves, its twigs lost their pigtails and for something over an hour and a half the outraged branches showed their indignation by a series of quakings, which grew weaker and weaker and ceased when the foliage had be come limp and withered.

#### OLD WEDDING DAY CUSTOMS

Many Superstitions Have Clustered Around the Marriage Ceremony, Especially in Olden Times.

Superstition never clustered round any episode of life more than that of the wedding day, especially in olden times.

Then it was customary for the bride to present her future husband with a bunch of rosemary, tied up with ribbons, on his first appearance on the wedding morning. This was supposed to insure his love and loyalty, and to make her happy forever.

In Yorkshire the old superstition still abounds that nothing more unlucky could happen than for a newly made bride to leave the church by a different door from that by which she entered.

Another quaint custom, for which there is no known origin. practiced in some of the midland and northern counties. This is to ring a merry peal of the church bells at the first reading of the banns of an intending matrimonial couple. It is called the "spur peal," which in old Anglo-Saxon means simply "ask."

Of course it is well known that it is the height of luck for the bride-tobe to dream of fairles the night before the actual ceremony. So much was this idea believed in that many girls would peruse fairy tales before going to sleep.—Answers.

His Wishes Carried Out. Old Forglen, the Scotch judge, died

in 1727. Dr. Clerk, who attended his lordship to the last, calling on his patient the day he died, was admitted by the judge's cld servant and clerk, David Reed. "How does my lord do?" inquired the doctor. "I boup he's weel!" responded the old man, whose voice and manner at once explained his meaning. With tears streaming down his face, he conducted Dr. Clerk into a room where there two dozen bottles of wine underneath the table. Other gentlemen presently arrived, and having partaken of a glass or two of wine, while they listened to David's account of his master's last hours, they all rose to depart. "No, no, gentlemen; not so," said the old factotum, "it was the express of the deceased that I should fill ye a' fou, and I maun fulfill the will o' the dead." Dr. Clerk used to add, when relating the story, "and, indeed, he did fulfill the will of the dead, for before the end o't there was na ane of us able to bite his ain thoomb!"

Ancient Egyptian. The question, "Of what race were the ancient Egyptians?" has never been satisfactorily disposed of, but we may be sure that they were not negroes. They were not black, nor was their hair "kinky"-therefore, they belonged to some other than the negro race. They certainly were not Caucasians, nor were they of the Mongolian or yellow breed of man. The builders of the pyramids were probably of Arabic stock or stock in which Arabic predominated, Although, as has been intimated, it is by no means settled as yet as to just where the old Mgyptians are to be placed in the human scale.

Had Botter Knewledge. Lord Dufferin delivered an address before the Greek class of the McGitt university, about which a reporter wrote: "His lordship spoke to the class in the purest ancient Greek, without mispronouncing a word or making the slightest grammatical "Good heavens!" resolecism." marked Sir Hector Langevin to the late Sir John A. McDonald, "how did the reporter know that?" "I toldhim," was the conservative statesman's answer. "But you don't know Greek." "True, but I know a little about politics."

ALL FOR THE SAKE OF BETSY

When Col. J. J. Astor Jeopardized His Yacht and Passengers for a Dog.

Some years ago Col. J. J. Astor and his yacht Nourmahal and his son, Vincent, were reported lost at sea, the New York correspondent of the Cincinnati Times-Star recalls. Every one got excited about it-especially in New York newspaper offices. It was a New York newspaper, you may remember, which ran this headline over the story of the wreck of the Titanic: "Col. John Jacob Astor Lost at Sea; Two Thousand Others Also Drowned."

The Astor part of the headline was in very large pink letters and the rest was comparatively modest type. When the Nourmahal was reported lost the papers began to talk about sending out searching expeditions. The government dispatched a cruiser to search for Astor. Now Richard Barry tells the story of that episode for the first time. "Astor was very fond of his pet dog," says Barry. "The pet dog hated the sea. The second day out on the cruise the dog began to mope. Astor told the captain of the yacht to point her nose for shore. Till take Betsy off and give her a run, said the master of millions.

"They landed that day on the Carolino shore and Betsy got her run. But one run wasn't enough for her. Each day, as they voyaged south, Betsy was taken on land to stretch her legs. Finally they were off the Honduras coast, and Betsy began to howl for a frolic. The captain protested that the coast line was insufficiently charted, and that the Nourmahal was in danger of being wrecked if he was obliged to run in too near. "'No matter,' said Astor. 'Betsy

isn't happy.' "So they put in, and shelved the Nourmahal on a rock, and every one north of Panama became violently excited because it wasn't possible to hear from the Astors, and it cost the yacht owner a good many dollars to get her off. But he didn't care. He was fond of Betsy-and Betsy had her run."

### MARRIED AND DIDN'T KNOW IT

New Indian Agent Got Into Predicament Through Ignorance of a Native Custom.

On the old Rosebud Indian reservation, in South Dakota, they still laugh over the peculiar predicament into which a new Indian agent once got himself.

The agent, an unqualified "tenderfoot," was inspecting an Indian school. Noticing that as soon as he entered the room every girl present brought her hair forward over her face, he asked the teacher to tell them to throw it back so that he might see their faces. But this they refused to do, until, after much urging, one girl did finally uncover her face.

After school was over, the agent wondered at the strange actions of the girl who had uncovered her face. She followed him to his house, entered after him, and set about getting his dinner. As he spoke no Sioux, and she no English, he could get no explanation from her.

Finally, to his relief, the teacher rode up. Shaking with laughter, he asked the agent how he liked his new wife! Then the latter understood what he had done. In certain tribes of the Sioux Indians all a man needs do in order to get a wife is to induce a girl to uncover her face. The agent had proposed in the usual way-and been accepted.

In vain did the agent plead that he already had a wife in the east; there was only one way to get out of it. It cost him the equivalent of fourteen ponies to persuade the Indian girl's ather to take her back again.

Cloves Main Source of Income. Nine-tenths of the world's supply of cloves comes from the island of Zanzibar, a British protectorate, on the east coast of Africa. The government receives as a tax one bale out of each five. As many as 200,000 bales have been produced in a season. The industry, which has long been the salvation of the little island, with its scant population, really had its beginning in 1860, when an Arab plant ed 200 shrubs. Said Burgash, sultan of the island, saw the commercial possibilities of the plant and cannot cloves to be set out by his people. 2 cyclone in 1872 devastated the island and uprooted the trees, but within short time the sultan had them ref placed. Since then the industry had grown steadily.

Time-Telling Made Easy. Though comparatively few of the natives of Turkey own watches, yet they have an ingenious way of approximating the time, and some of them hit it with considerable accuracy. They locate two cardinal points of the compass, and then, holding their hands together in such a manner that the forefingers point upward and in opposite directions, they observe the shadow cast. In the morning or evening at certain known hours one finger or the other will point directly at the sun. A comparison of the two shadows will determine the hours be-

Fortunate Liechtenstein. Liechtenstein, the smallest of Eu-

rope's sovereign states, has a monarch, a partiament, but no taxes and no army. It is preparing to celebrate the second century of its independence. Prince John II. provides itsfinances, and in return nominates. three of its 15 members of parlia-