Former la Better Because it Can Be Read at a Greater Distance Than the Latter.

There is a tendency on the part of railroads to adopt signs with white letters on a black background, not realizing that the black letter on a white background is easier to read and can be seen at a greater distance. This follows in an interesting way from the structure of the retina of the eve.

The impression of a letter at the limit of vision is received on the ends of a small bundle of nerves which convey to the brain a sort of mossic impression. A nerve can only transmit to the brain information as to wether or not a ray of light is falling upon it, and when a nerve is partly in the light and partly in darkness the sensation is the same as though all of it was in the light.

It follows, therefore, according to the Scientific American, that all nerves on the dividing edge between any black and white area transmit the sensation of light so that all white lines and white areas appear wider and all black lines and black areas appear narrower than they real-

Black letters grow thinner at the limit of vision and are still recognizable, while at the same distance white letters grow thicker and cannot be distinguished. There are circumstances when it is necessary to use white letters, but in such cases legibility will be improved if they are made with a thin stroke and strongly lighted. Black letters are more distinct if made with a heavy stroke.

NOGI ORDERED TO MARRY

Japanese Hero Took Bride Practicali~ at the Command of His Superior Officer.

The Counters Nori was a woman no less remarkable in many ways than her famous husband. The circumstances of her marriage with Nogi, when he was a brilliant young officer, are unusual in the extreme, especially in

Japan. She was the daughter of Sadayoki Yoji, and one day she was sitting in the window of her father's house in Tokyo watching the troops march past, when she saw a gallant young officer in command and immediately fell in love with him. Her father found it out and found out who the officer was, and later Nogi was approached to bring about a match.

He would not hear of it, as he had dedicated his life to the nation and did not intend to marry. But the young lady would not endure this attitude, and her father approached one of the high officers, a superior of Nogi's, and this officer fell in with the idea at once, saying the match would be most it was just what

The word was given from above to the young officer, and Nogi practically married Miss Yoll at the command of his superior officer. The union turned out to be an ideal one, as the subsequent history of the pair and their two brave sons has proved. The Count and Countess Nogi are regarded by the nation as the most exemplary couple that could be found anywhere. She was every inch as much a Samurai as he was.—Tokyo correspondence of Lon don Standard.

Unused Doors.

With slight trouble and small expense an unused door may be most advantageously converted into a bookcase by having a carpenter set up a vertical board on each side of the door-iamb and upon these boards—to the saving of the door-frame itselfmail the cross-piece upon which the book-shelves are to rest. Then have your woodwork painted or stained to match the door behind it, and hang a curtain of canton flannel, denim, or a more ornamental and servicable material from a rod fastened just inside the door-jambs, if the recess be good and deep; if shallow, as the door-settings are apt to be in our newer houses have the rod fastened across the outside of the door-recess. A door thus treated will accompdate a surprising number of books.

Cast-Iron Magnets.

The difficulty of making good castfron permanent magnets has been overcome by a very simple process. The iron casting, after being machined to the required dimensions, is heated in a gas furnace until the iron can just he handled without distortion through moftening.

It is then plunged in a chemical bath, which removes superfluous materials and leaves the iron clean. Fimally, it is magnetised by means of electric coils.

In strength of field, cast-iron magmets are from ten to fifteen per cent. inferior to those of steel, but they are equal in magnetic permanence, and cost, for intricate patterns, only one half as much as steel magnets.

Heirnin Box.

One may obtain the most charming and at once the most useful hairpin box which has been shown for many a day. It is made entirely of dark tortois shell and stands about three inches high and five inches long. The little top opens to hold one size hairmins, and, without closing this, there may be opened at the same time two lower trave, in the manner of bureau drawers. It will distinctly appeal to the women who must dress in a hurry and for whom attractive toilet articles have a strong claim.

## EVIDENTLY HIS FIRST CASE

Young Attorney Considerably "Rattled," and the Court Indulged in a Little Laughter.

Reveral prominent attorneys were discussing the peculiar and rather humorous questions put to witnesses by young attorneys entering upon their legal work, and one of the number vouched for the authenticity of this in-

cident: "I went up to the superior civil court one day to hear a young friend of mine try his first case. All his relatives and friends were there and the novice wore a most serious expression as he started to question a witness. He did nicely until he asked the man: "Did you have a contract with the

plaintiff?"

"'Yes,' replied witness. "What kind of a contract was it?" "An oral one,' replied the witness.

"Will you please produce it?" "The witness stood stalk still staring at the attorney and then looked at the judge, inquiringly. There was a ripple of laughter throughout the courtroom, but still the young attorney did not 'catch on,' and looking

toward the judge, remarked: "'Your honor, I ask you to give the witness until two o'clock to produce that contract.'

"The court could not longer withhold and joined in the laughter. Then the young lawyer saw his mistake and with reddened face also had a good laugh."

## INDIAN NAME FOR WHISKY

Called "Fire Water" Because of Their Method of Discovering If It Was Diluted.

When the Hudon's Bay Trading company began its trading among the Indians it was found that by selling the Indians liquor they could more easily be induced to trade their pel-

The first whisky or intoxicant of inferior quality was distilled in England and brought to America in large barrels, but in transporting it overland it was found more convenient to

divide it into small kegs. The traders soon became aware of the fact that by diluting the whisky with water more furs could be obtained. This was practiced for some time, but the Indians learned that good whisky poured on a fire would cause it to flame up, whereas had the whisky been diluted the fire would be quenched. It was by this simple experiment that the term "fire water" be-

came a common word among Indians. A chief who had experienced the bad effects of whisky among his people said it was most certainly distilled from the hearts of wildcats and the tongues of women from the effects it produced.—From Bonfort's Spirit and Wine Circular.

The Human Woman.

We have thought of life as a building of many rooms containing war, commerce, industry, art and science, all things done by men. Then away out at one side, across a bridge, was an annex, and there was our thought of home, child, mother, fireside, cradle, comfort, beauty, and all the home ideas, and also the ideas of shame connected with women. When women crossed the bridge and appeared in the other building, the building of human life, we were shocked. We felt that all of life was masculine except the home.

Women will be better to live with when they are more human. The greatest need of the world today is for more humanness in its women, so that they can help make men more human, and help make children more human: for the purpose of all the agelong development of the race in the attainment of humanhood.—Gilman.

Falls-Climbing Eels.

Do fish possess the imitative faculty? That has been the subject of much discussion. Now salmon fishermen in the Willamette and Columbia rivers, near Portland, Ore., say that eels are the monkeys of the sea. Salmon have the ability to climb up waterfalls. They can be seen doing it simost any day at The Dalles, near Portland. At seasons of the year Columbia river fishermen have found large quantities of dead eels near the falls. A fish warden found that eels, in attempting to imitate the fallsclimbing salmon, met their fate. They would attempt to climb the falls, be washed back and be crushed to death by the weight of the water. More than sixty tons of eels killed in this way were gathered last month at The Dalles.

Did She Get the Place? "Oh, yis, mum," said Kathleen, applying for a new situation, "I lived in me last place t'ree weeks, mum, an' though I say it th't shouldn't I gev excellent satisfaction?"

"And why did you leave?" ventured the lady who was looking for a serv-

"Shure, I couldn't get along wid th' missus at all, she wor that ould an'

cranky." "But, maybe you'll find me old and

cranky, too." "Cranky ve may be, mum, for sweet faces like yours is sometimes deceivin', but ye're not ould—I c'n see that at a glance!"

Floiding. "What do you think of Fielding? she asked young Mr. Ashby. "Oh, it's important, of course, but

it won't avail anything without good

NOT QUITE THE SAME

WANDERER FOUND THAT GIRLS DIDN'T STAY GIRLS.

Lamentable Fact That Time Does Unkind Things to the Sweet High School Graduate Had to Be Admitted.

"I got an invitation the other day," said Abe Peters, "to attend the commencement exercises of the high school in the little old town where I used to live. It sort of brought back old memories. I recollect a commencement exercise that I attended in that town when I was in the gosling age. I should say about sixteen or seventeen. There were several girls that were doing the graduating act, but there was one in particular that I thought was altogether the nicest thing in the way of girl that ever wore dress goods.

'Beyond are Alps Lies Italy.' She was really in dead earnest about it, too, having practiced on that essay for three weeks before the commencement night, and she had it down fine. Maybe she didn't write all of it. Maybe she didn't really compose much of it, but she had practiced on it till she believed it. She told that crowd how everybody had Alps to climb and how they could scale the snowy heights by effort and perseverance, and how, beyond lay the fruitful vallevs of the Italy of success. Oh, she was a peach, all right. I felt at that time that without her life to me wouldn't be worth living. But somehow or other the dreams of my youth

"She read an essay on the subject,

didn't come true. "I wandered off west and she married a country doctor. I didn't see her for more than twenty years. Then I happened to be back at the old town and concluded I would look up the girl who climbed the Alps that night in the long ago. Well, I found her. She would weigh, I should say at a rough guess, in the neighborhood of 175 pounds and had a double chin. Her waist line was, I should say, more than forty inches. She was gray headed and a grandmother, and so short-winded that he couldn't have climbed an Alp that was over ten feet. We sat there and talked and lied to each other. I told her how young she looked and how she hadn't changed a bit and that I would have known her anywhere, and she, like a dear good soul, lied back to me and told me that I looked almost as young as I did that night of the commencement. Both of us knew that we were lying to each other, but it was the only thing to do.

"I met another of the girls who sat on the stage that night and read an essay on some subject or other. I don't remember just what it was. She had grown thin instead of fat. She was wrinkled and had lost a tooth or two, and had developed a hairy mole on her chin, and she seemed me to cackle when she talked. I have always been kind of sorry that I went back and hunted up those girls."-Topeka Capital.

Japan's New Art. While Japan has been forming her soldiers after the German model, her navy after English and American models, her inventors are following Edison, her bacteriologists are students at the Pasteur institute at Paris, and her painters have modified their art after French and Italian masters. In sculpture she has been ridiculously inefficient, but she is not blind to that fact. The other day the Japanese minister at Paris presented to the illustrious sculptor, Rodin, a young artist who in a carton carried photographs of his own work. These strongly resembled the sculptures of Rodin, who exclaimed that they were so well done that he himself would not be ashamed to sign them. Rodin then learned that many young artists in Japan were influenced by his work. This gave the sculptor so much pleasure that he promised to send a number of his drawings and sculptures to an exposition at Tokyo.

Distinction Without Difference. Mayor Gaynor of New York said recently that, as long as rich men were permitted to drink in their clubs on Sunday, it was hard to stop the poor

from drinking in saloons. "Too many of us," he said, "incline to see a difference between the rich

drinker and the poor drinker. "One evening at ten o'clock or thereabouts two men were seen to lurch arm-in-arm through the iron lodge gates of a mansion. They zigsagged up the curved driveway, fell, rolled down the sloping lawn and finally came to a stop in a bed of tall andgorgeous tulips.

"'Who's that?' one passerby asked "That's Gobsa Golde and his chauf-

feur,' the other answered. "What's the matter with them?" "'Mr. Golde has been dining, and that blasted chauffeur has been

drinking again."—Detroit Free Press. Perplexed Parent.

"Did you ever try to be a kind husband and an induigent parent?" asked the man whose hair is thin in front. "Why, sir." replied the hearty individual, "that should require no ef-

"No effort! Well I want to tell you that in my case it's a superhuman undertaking. My wife wants to smoke cigarettes, my daughter wants to marry a nobleman whose title has lapsed and my son wants me to buy him an aeroplane."

NIAGARA'S MIGHTY STRENGTH

Hard to Estimate Power That Has Been Wasted Since Hennepin First Described the Falls.

In the autumn of 1678 a Franciscan friar. Hennenin, set out alone—the first solitary figure of the expedition. a gray priest-from the gray rock of Quebec, in a birch canoe, carrying with him the "furniture of a portable altar." Along the way up the St. Lawrence he stopped to minister to the habitants, too few and too poor to support a priest, saying mass, exhorting and baptising. Early in November he arrived at the mission at Fort Frontenac, which he had two or three years before helped La Salle to establish in the wilds. Soon La Salle's lieutenants appeared, with most of the men, and while some were dispatched in canoes to Lake Michigan to gather the buffalo fieeces against the coming of the ship whose keel had not yet been laid, the rest (La Motte, Hennepin and sixteen men) embarked for the river by which the upper lakes empty into Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence, that is the Niagara. To this priest, Hennepin, we owe the first description and picture of Niagara, probably now more familiar to the world than any other natural feature of this continent. He has somewhat magnified the height of these falls, but they are impressive enough to acquit him of falsification and powerful enough to run virtually all the manufacturing plants in the United States, if they could be gathered within reach. As it is, less than four per cent. of the water that overflows from the four upper Great Lakes into the lower lake once known as Lake Frontenac and now as Ontario, is diverted for utilitarian purposes, and yet it supplies the American and the Canadian almost equally between the two shores over 300,000 horsepower. What the conversion of the strength of this Titan, for ages entirely wasted and for a century after Hennepin only a scenic wonder, means or may mean to industry in the future is intimated in some statistics furnished by a recent writer on the Great Lakes showing the relative cost per month of a certain unit of power in a number of representative American cities.—John Finley, in Scribner's.

Uses of Uranium.

There is considerable popular interest in uranium in the United States on account of its connection with radium. Very little uranium is mined in this country, except as it is incidentally taken out in mining carnotits for vanadium, according to the United States geological survey. In 1911 the uranium mined amounted to about twenty-one and two-tenths tons. A few hundred pounds of pitchblende was mined from the German mine, at Central City, Colo., but this material was not sold, as it was said to have been used in experimental work. The extraction of radium has been attempted in the United States by several persons and firms. Some of these have given up their efforts. but others are still at work. Uranium is employed principally for making yellow glass, for yellow glazes on pottery, and in a less degree as a chemical reagent. Yellow glass made with uranium oxide is known as "opalescent." Direct light shining through it gives a yellow color and indirect light a greenish yellow. Some of the firms which have attempted to use urantum in the manufacture of steel have abandoned such experiments, the claim being made that it apparently imparts about the same properties as tungsten, and is very much more expensive.

Fiddle With a Brain.

The latest invention is a violin that plays itself. People who have heard it say that it possesses the delicacy of touch and sweetness of tone of a finished player, Pearson's Weekly

Really the mechanical violin consists of three instruments. The bow is a circular hoop of horsehair which travels around continually. Standing on end inside the hoop are three vio-

Along the neck of the instruments stretch a row of uncanny fingers that run up and down the strings just like real fingers. The violine stand back about an inch from the moving hoop of horsehair, against which they are pushed at the right moment when the note is struck.

The hardest tunes to play present no difficulties to this marvelous fiddle. It is not likely to replace the human player in the orchestra for some time. at least, as the cheapest kind costs

Like most machines, however, lacks one thing; it cannot tune itself. When any of the notes get flat the strings have to be tightened by mere man in almost the same way as an ordinary violin.

Still There.

Robert had just received a whipping from his mother, who afterward angrily burst in upon his father as he was quietly reading the evening pa-

"I don't know where that child got his vile temper from," she exclaimed, throwing down a book: "not from me, I'm sure.'

Her husband looked sadly and responded: "No, my dear; you certainly haven" lost any of yours."-Harper's Bazar.

Too Bwift.

Billy-If you'd have me I'd marry you in a minute. Milly-In a minute? Why, the very idea! It takes at least three months

....to get a trousseau ready.

THEN HE UNDERSTOOD

REVELATION CAME SUDDENLY TO MAN OF WEALTH.

Plain Old Countrywoman Had Possessed Something Greater Than the Riches He had Spent His Life in Gathering.

John Hull found the telegram at his

office. As he read the words, the

busy scene about him faded away, and

he saw himself once more a little,

ragged, frightened boy, who heard

with terror the word "poorhouse" whispered by the neighbors. Then Aunt Rachel had come in. She had stood a moment looking at his mother's still face; then she had crossed the room and gathered the boy into her arms. "He isn't going to the poorhouse," she had said, quietly. "I am going to take care of him." It was an odd "caretaking" in some ways. Aunt Rachel was an old maid, and knew nothing of a boy's heart. And yet-how good she had beenhow good and patient! In the last ten years, although he had seen her only twice, there had been no word of reproach, only the same unchanging

John Hull's eyes, and calling his secretary, he gave rapid orders. He was going to Aunt Rachel. He hoped she would know. Nine hours later he was alone with Aunt Rachel. As he looked at the great peace of the small, worn face, a strange feeling swept across him. . He never saw a look like that in Wall street! This little, plain, old country-

love and faith. A blur came over

woman had possessed something greater than riches! Later, they brought him her papers and letters. They were very few, but among them were her account books, and John Hull realized that in those careful figures he was reading the story of her life. He was amazed to know how tiny her income had been. And of what she had had, a tenth had gone to her church, a fifth to her missionary society, and nearly all the rest for a boy who was not even related to her.

And he had thought her life pitifully poor and narrow! Now in his hour of vision he saw that his was the poor and barren life-with its careless and spasmodic giving, its absorption in "the game." He understood at last the generous and unselfish investment of this life and all its possessions. And suddenly there came to him the memory of a hot summer Sunday of his boyhood, and of the minister's voice as he read his text: "Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things."

Could that be said of the uses he had made of his own life?

Alone in the April night John Hull

The Rostanda Stood Treat. All the stories now arriving from Cambo, where the family of Edmond Rostand is sojourning, have the character of the heroic legend. The family of Rostand, now more united than ever, was to attend a cinematograph performance at Cambo. At nine o'clock in the evening the hall had iong been filled with people, but the show did not begin. The audience began to exhibit strong signs of impatience. The proprietor came to the front and announced that the Rostands having retained three places, the show could not decently begin before their arrival. The audience was of a quite different mind. It took the announcement in bad temper, and some moments later when the illustrious tardy ones came in, making a sensational entry, they were received with murmurs and with exclamations far from complimentary. Mme. Rostand frowned, but Maurice Rostand called the proprietor, and giving him a fist full of louis, said: "Fill the jaws of these fellows with champagne." This was done. The entire audience drank excellent champagne. The murmurs of disapprobation died away and the family received a warm ovation-Le Cri de Paris.

Dr. Helen Macmurchy of Toronto says that deafness is more frequent among school children than is usually supposed. She calls attention to the fact that in a perfectly quiet room the average normal hearing distance for a whisper is about 25 feet, and that a child that can bear a whisper at only five yards will not lose much ed-

Children's Deafness.

ucation on account of this degree of impairment. Those who can hear a whisper only from three to five yards, she says, should sit on the front seats, and those who can hear a whisper from one to three yards need special help and should be placed in smaller classes, with a teacher who will speak slowly and distictly, and will take special, individual interest in such pupils. She advocates the teaching of lip reading to those who are yet more defective. There is no doubt that many children suffer from unrecognized slight deafness. Such children should not only be aided to hear,

Her Version.

but to speak plainly.

"I was talking with Harold last night and he says he has completely reformed since he has become engaged to you," said the elder lady as she reclined in a luxurious armchair. "Yes." replied the young debutante.

"he says I snatched him out of the laws of death, out of the mouth of hell, back to the 400."--Harper's Bazar.

MORE THAN SHE COULD BEAR

Heart of Gentle Old Maid Was Touched, and Silly Quarrel Immediately Came to an End.

Two old ladies who had been loving friends for many years had a violent quarrel, and it began to look as if the wound would never heal. Neither one felt like taking the initiative, and indeed both were too sore to care to make up. Efforts of mutual friends were all in vain; representations to one that the other was suffering met only with the stubborn answer that she ought to suffer. They both insisted that they hoped the other would suffer more, and that she richly deserved it. Some thirteen months went by like this, and the one-time intimates saw each other only on state occasions, that is, at church each Sunday, where they sat side by side, too proud to change their pew because of what had happened. But they never pretended to notice that the other was there. On a recent Sabbath morning, however, Miss Sarah glanced around involuntarily at sound of a sneeze beside her, and despite her will kept her gaze fixed on Miss Malinda. Then an awful revelation broke in on her mind. Malinda had come to church without a handkerchief! Miss Sarah did not know what the sufferings of a person about to be electrocuted might be, but she knew all about being at church without a handkerchief. Malinda merited electrocution, in Miss Sarah's opinion, but no crime was heihous enough to merit such agony as this. A drop slowly gathered on Malinda's pinched nose, and finally fell off, giving place to another. Miss Sarah could not bear it. She took out her own handkerchief surreptitiously. glad it was a big one. Next moment there was a smothered sound of tearing cloth and Malinda felt something pressed into her rigid hand. It was a half of the handkerchief, and it went to Malinda's eves before it touched her needy nose. Then two wrinkled old hands groped for each other, and through the sermon Miss Sarah and Miss Malinda sat and clung to the newly found friend who had been lost.

Luxury of Balloon Travel. A Zeppelin airship leaves the earth with none of the balloon's soaring motion. It is just like a Pullman train, started without perceptible jar and kept in motion upon a perfect road bed, perfect track and perfect wheels. At luncheon time individual tables are placed in position, and luncheon is served much as it is in the ordinary buffet dining car in America. There is soup, an entree, a toast—all piping hot—vegetables. salad, cheese and coffee. More of a dinner than luncheon and all served as though the chef and waiters had the conveniences of a great hotel at their command. The principles of the firefers cooker have been brought into service in preparing the food, the exhaust from the engines being made to supply heat.

The comforts are all those of a very modern hotel. The cabin is kept at an unvarying comfortable temperature by means of pipes that carry the exhaust heat from the engines. There is more room for action than in an ordinary chair car. In the lavatories are hot and cold water. There is a library with the daily papers and the best of books. There is a lounge for those who are willing to sleep away the hours of flight.-World's Work.

2 Sand and Gravel.

One of the most important industries in the United States of which comparatively little is written is the production of sand and gravel. In 1911, according to a report by El. F. Burchard, just issued by the United States geological survey, the production of sand and gravel amounted to 66,846,969 short tons, valued at \$21, 158.583. The production of sand of all kinds was 40.253,977 tons, valued at \$14,438,500, and that of gravel was 26,592,882 tons valued at \$6,720,083 The production of glass sand was valned at \$1,457,788, an increase over the figures of 1910; the sand used for building in 1911 was valued at \$7, 719.286, a slight decrease as compared with 1910. This was accounted for by less activity in 1911 in the building trade, including that of concrete construction. The production of molding sand in 1911 was valued at \$2,132,-469, a marked decrease as compared with 1910. The production of all other sands in 1911, such as sand for grinding and polishing, fire sand, engine sand and filtration sand, was valued at \$8,048,012, an increase of over a million dollars in value as compared with 1910.

Imagination.

3

That imagination often lights the way to discoveries that would never be made by matter-of-fact plodding has proved true over and over again. Illustrations of this in the history of chamical science are as numerous as in other fields of discovery. In this connection the Journal of the American Medical Association calls to mind that oxygen was merely a principle to Lavoisier in 1777, and that when, a century later, it was produced in liquified form "the metaphor had become a reality." When Harvey was writing of the blood he wondered whether there might not be motion, as it were, in a circle the Journal save "he expressed in metaphoric language what only later became the fact of the circulation which was given visible demonstration by Malgiphi," and adds. the fabric of progress is woven from thimate dreams to a greater extent than the practical man is wont to "ealize or is willing to admit."

L'Abeille de la Nouvelle-Orléans Est Très Répandu en Louisiane et dans tous les Etats du Sud. Sa Publicité Offre au Commerce des Avantages Exceptionnels. Prix de l'Abonnement: Edition Quotidienne, \$9.00 Par An. Edition Hebdomadaire, \$3.00 Par An.