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AN EVIL AND ITS PREVENTION.

berless Scholars. If any one should take the trouble to make the rounds of the public schools of the city on a rainy or snowy day, he would find a large number of children with wet feet. This condition, due for the most part to the negligence of parents, undoubtedly helps to swell the sick list, and often the death rate, from croup, diphtheria, pneumonia and the

At Eighty-fifth street and First avenue is a grammar school having a registry of 646 girls, the principal of which is Miss Julia Richman. This principal exerts herself in the most praiseworthy way to correct, in her jurisdiction, the evil mentioned. Asked recently what system sho used to prevent wet feet and how she managed when she encountered them, Miss Richman replied:

"I can hardly say I have any system for getting my girls to wear overshoes in-wet weather. I simply insist upon it. "The general plan I adopt is this: Early in the fall upon a very wet morning I inquire in every class as to how many girls have come out without overshoes. The number is discouragingly large, as indicating lack of supervision on the part of mothers. I catechize each individual delinquent, and the customary replies are: 'I forgot them.' 'Mine are too small.' My shoes are thick,' and 'I haven't any.' Then follows a general talk on the physical evils resultant upon dampness absorbed through the feet, and in language not classic I pile on the agony. I tell of he need for growing girls to take every precautionary measure in this direction and give illustrations of the result of inadvertence, so far as I can in a general

"I blame the mothers for their carelessness, and then exonerate the mothers and blame big girls for not taking these little cares off the overworked shoulders of the mothers. I lay down as a sweeping assertion, 'If your father can't spare the money for rubbers and a new hat, wear your old hat, but get the rubbers.' I make them see that thick shoes are no protection unless they are taken off immediately upon coming indoors, as the dampness in the leather will penetrate. terview in private, and unless their parsist. The very poor I supply by begging partially worn rubbers from my friends. Giving new ones encourages pauperism. "By the next wet day all my girls own rubbers, and then either I or the teachers inquire every following wet day as to how many girls forgot. Such as have I send home to dry their feet, put on rubbers and return to school, marking them absent for the time lost. This makes them careful, and we rarely have

a girl forget."-New York Times. A True Bird Story.

My friend, James Shanock, three years ago caught a young lark, and it has been pouring out its song ever since then from its cage, and a very sweet note it is. Some little while ago, as the afternoon was sunny, the cage was hung outside in the garden at the moment another lark was caroling in the air, and Shanock's bird rose from the cage, which was only covered with a fine net, and in which there must have been a rent, and disappeared in the direction of the other lark. My friend, seeing this, at once began to whistle, holding up the cage to attract his pet back again, and in a very short time down it came to his feet and waited patiently while he gently replaced it in its cage. There were three witnesses, I

believe, in this case. The funniest thing, too, is that about the same time James Shanock's cat brought him in a little bird quite delicately and waited for him to take it from its mouth quite uninjured. He is a great bird lover, and it looks as if the

cat, like everybody else, knew this fact. -London Spectator. Helping Each Other. A gentleman who had traveled extensively through the south was one evening seated in one of those proverbial corner grocery stores in a small village talking to the people and commenting upon the unstinted hospitality of the people. A tall, cadaverous looking chap, who had listened to him intently, interrupted:

"That's so, stranger. When a man comes among we uns an does what's right, we uns ain't the people to see him suffer when he's down on his back an can't help himself. We're just going to raise him up." And they do "raise him up." If he is sick, they till his ground, feed his cattle. cut his wood and in various ways render him assistance. On the eastern shore of Maryland and Virginia this custom is universal, and many a sick man has silently made his grateful prayers for blessings on his neighbors for the great stacks of chips and split wood that have been gathered about his yard, and for the

hams and flour and other necessaries that have been placed in his smokehouse.-Philadelphia Times. Why We Are Slack In Speech. We do not demand careful speech of our children because we do not know it ourselves. We rebuke them a dozen times for some breach of etiquette with a teaspoon or a dish, but we do not think to say, "Stop-decide first what you want to say, and then say it clearly and briefv." We do not think of it because we do not do it ourselves, and not doing it we do not notice it in others.

But when we are sick talking tires us. and when we are not sick, but suffering from nervous exhaustion, this driveling speech becomes indeed a burden. The tired brain droops under the flood of superfluous words, climbs wearily over the gaps of words omitted and stumbling blocks of words misplaced, allows for known peculiarities, illumines by past experience, winnows the words and picks out the thought-only to find it some totally irrelevant statement, some mere overflow of a low banked brain, that need not have been said at all.—Charlotte P. Stetson in Kate Field's Washington.

Germany's Forests.

In Germany 200,000 families are supported from the care of the forests, upon which about \$40,000,000 is expended annually, 3,000,000 people more finding employment in the various wood industries of the empire. The forest account shows an annual profit of between \$5,000,000 and \$6,000,000.-Chicago Herald.

The manufacture of snowshoes for army use would establish a new industry that might employ a goodly number of workmen,

Life In Suburban Towns. A French woman recently wrote to a Paris litterateur asking for a remedy for the "one-day-like-another complaint." "I live," she says, "in a dull provincial town, where there is not a woman who can read or talk; if I read, I have no one to discuss the book with, and I have ar-

rived at the desperate point of despair where I would like to bite some one." The litterateur, according to the account, did not much help her, as he merely, in reply, admitted the fact in a quotation from De Musset, which was in effect that there is no more common trouble in life than the trouble of a com-

Perhaps the only echo of the French voman's wail could be found over here n the suburban towns of a large city. The smallest detached villages and cowns of America seem to have occupation and excitement of one sort or anther that make life endurable. Those, however, which are merely the overflow of a metropolitan center are often the

oneliest places on earth. "I have almost died with the monotony of my life," said a woman living in a small Jersey suburb recently, "until now, when I can get into New York oftener, because my children are out of the nursery. There is absolutely no neighborhood life, everybody looking to town for social recreation; there is only a half hearted interest in church affairs it is as different from an independent village as possible."-New York Times.

Education In the West. Eastern states might well take a lesson from the west in the matter of higher education. With the exception of Massachusetts and Connecticut our communities on the Atlantic border are sadly deficient in this respect. It will soon be a question whether those desiring the best university education for their children should not send them to some of the great institutions in the west rather than the older centers of learning in

Foremost among establishments of this kind in the new University of Chicago, which promises to eclipse everything in the way of facilities for study ever attempted on this continent. The buildings a models of excellence, and The girls pleading 'I haven't any I in- no expense was been spared to secure as professors those who are pre-eminent in ents are very poor I insist that they must | every department of human knowledge. get them. I have never had a parent re- In higher mathematics, astronomy, engineering and applied west far excels the east.

Even the smaller towns have public libraries, generously supported by the local authorities, and open in the evenings, affording unlimited opportunities for self education which would put to shame New York, with its inadequate facilities. The east should wake up, or it will be found that this process will surely transfer to the west the scepter of influence, for "knowledge is power,"-New York Herald.

A Convict's Letter. In East Greenwich there is a woman jailkeeper, whose father and grandfather kept the jail before her. So insecure was the old place that some years ago it was no unusual thing for the prisoners to remark that they could escape, but they were treated so well they didn't care to. To one of the prisoners who spoke of the matter of escape Mrs. Smith replied that she had asked for an appropriation, whereupon the prisoner called for pen and ink and wrote to the governor of the state a characteristic letter, which is kept among the archives. It is headed "East Greenwich Jail," and continues, "If you don't send some one down here pretty quick and patch up this place for Mrs. Smith as she wants it I'll leave."—New York Sun.

An Ungodly Grin. A Newburg minister was preaching

the other day. A young girl annoyed him by grinning. He said: "There is in this audience a young lady-no, a young girl-whose head resembles an empty basket. She has done nothing since she entered the church but grin. I want her to know that all of life does not consist of having a fine bonnet." Of course the girl shouldn't have grinned; but, all the same, if she has any big brothers they might properly put in 15 minutes in remonstrating with that preacher. Freshness in the pulpit should be discouraged.

-Buffalo Express. A New Surical Needle. A recent discovery in surgery is a new needle with an automatic spring eye which disappears when passing through the tissues and reappears when the pressure is removed. The eye is sprung into a slot on the concave side of the needle near its point. It is the invention of a prominent surgeon who aimed to secure a stronger needle with an eye which would carry a thread without tearing the tissue.-Cor. St. Louis Post-Dispatch. Parties furnishing cottages for the summer would do well to call on Hartman & Dunbracco, dealers in furniture 222 W. Baltimore Street, Baltimore.

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