Plan Adopted by English People of Bederate Beans Which Seems to Be Good.

in England people of moderate means are beginning to insure themnelves against surgical operations. The plan is that subscribers who pay an annual for shall be entitled either to free admittance to a hospital or mursing at home and free operation or to a fixed sum paid down to defray the cost of an operation if one becomes necessary. In England, as here, the cost of surgical repairs to the human body has become oppresaively great to persons who just manage to pay their way. People who are obviously poor get a great deal of excellent surgical and medical teratment in hospitals and elsewhere for nothing, but for the next class above them a serious illness-especially if it involves an operation is almost ruinous, says Harper's Week-

It would seem as if the time was near when societies for insurance against specialists might be profitably organized in the larger American cities. The specialist has come to be a very important-indeed, an indispensable—institution, especially to families in which there are children. The office of the family doefor has now become simplified to the tack of coming in and telling the petient which specialist to go to. It is not that specialists charge too much, for their honorable services are above price. It is that landlord. butcher, baker, grocer, milkman, coalman, dentist and trained nurse do not leave you money enough to pay them appropriately. To subscribe a considerable sum annually and have all the repairs and desirable improvements made in one's family without further disbursement would be a comparatively simple way out of a \$roublesome predicament.

DESTRUCTION OF CITY MAINS.

Bleetrelysis Is Causing Great Bamane and Expense in Metropolitan fystems.

Destruction of underground mains

by electrolysis is rapidly nearing a point at which it ceases to be a phemomentum of technical interest to bbysicists, says the Electrical Review. and becomes a commercial fact of startling magnitude. Water, gas and steam mains are being destroyed so sapidly that within a comparatively brief period renewals and replacements on a vast scale will become mecessary. Their postposement in the case of gar mains accounts for the rapid destruction of asphalt pavements in many cities and imposes rievous burdens upon municipalities in the effort to maintain good roadways. The eating off of service pipes and the erosion of mains accomplish _rapidly what would be brought about by natural causes much more slowif, and explain why the leakage loss of water in distribution is so enory mously great, and why the building of new reservoirs and the laying of new lines of mains is constantly necessary ander conditions which seem to show the per capita consumption of five and waste of hand waste of any city since civiliza-

CONVERSATIONAL PARROTS.

Brasilian Birds Brook Out ta Caintelligible Tongue Immediately Upon feeing Each Other.

Do parrots understand what they A correspondent writes that a friend with a fine green Brazilian parrot has been staying with her. The parrot is a fivent and accomplished speaker, says the London Chronicle. A gray parrot was inscoduced one day, but the Brazilian haughtily declined to have anything to say to the gray. Then another friend, who had just been given a newly-imported green Brazilian, brought the newcomer to call. The moment the parrots caught sight of each other they broke info a torrent of apparently articulate language, peopuisting, as it seemed, of questions and answers, but what the language was no one present could tell. The owner of the first parrot had never during the years it had lived with her heard it speak this strange tongue. The two parrots talked to each other without ceasing all the time they were together, and a few days later, when they met again, exnetly the same thing happened. Was the first parrot-long exiled from its mative forests—asking eagerly for mews of its people?

> Poer Effort at Translation. The English papers have lately been having fun with a new German-English and English-German dictionary. The hest example of the work is said to be in the translation of our word "gimerack." According to the London Daily Chronicle four meanings have been given for this word, which, when translated back into English are: "The handsome girl," "the bad machine," "the ordinary handsbake" and "a magician."

Ground Frozen 225 Peet. William Boone, a miner, says the Ransas City Journal, who has come down from Dawson City, Klondike, to spend the winter with relatives at La Plata, says he has dug 225 feet deep in the ground of his claim, but has never been able to reach a point where the Maround was not frozen hard.

Wooden Legs.

by order of the Japanese empress coden legs have been distributed to the seven maimed survivors of the domori disaster, when 200 Japanese moldiers were frozen to death.

UNIFORM ORTHOGRAPHY.

Bifference in the Spelling of Words Between the English and American Styles.

Horace, the Latin poet, mys that sustom has made the power of deeiding and the right of forming the standard of correct speaking; beace the oft-quoted dictum, "Usus est norma loquendi." Very glosely akia to speaking is the spelling of the words spoken, says Current Literature. Where shall we and the power of deciding and the right of forming the standard of current spelling? You may take up two different reputable newspapers or magazines, or two books issued by two different pub-Nohing houses, and the probability in that you will find more than one difference in spelling. Is the printer's devil or the proof reader the authority? Again, is the standard to be sought in this English-speaking country or in the land of the birth of the English tongue? In England precisiane abominate such forms as "labor," "honor," "color," "splendor," and they write "rumour," while they have "borror." On this side of the Atlantic certain publishers use the English form "labour," "honour," etc., while the majority give to what the British call "an Americanism." Some "standard" authors of England write "connection," while others equally "standard" use "conzezion," and here the two forms are recognized.

In the birthplace of the English tongue "theatre" and "centre" are required in correct English, and although "metre" becomes "meter" in composition, as in "resometer." the former spelling is held to be true form for the word when standing alone. Here you may frequently see "theatre" in the same journal as "center" and "meter." In British schools it is taught that when words ending in "double I" are compounded each drops one "l;" hence we get "ekilful." In America you must be "skillful" if you would be thought correct. The termination "ise," as In "recognize," is almost universally in vogue, but our "cousing" generally employ "ise." All English writers use "practice" as a noun and "practime" as a verb; an American writing the English language makes no difference between the two parts of speech. The diphysoogs "ac" and "oe" are here usually contracted into the single letter "e," or used indiscriminately, but the British are careful to retain the diphthongal form, and it would indeed be a poor journal that did not possess the two se permanent letters of their

Now, all this may seem to some so a very indifferent matter. They may argue that in this "land of freedom" we may spell as we like. They may even go so far as to think that each one of us may have his own way of representing counds, as the man had his own way of reading, who held the newspaper with the bottom of the page upward. But liberty based upon law, and free are the law-sbiding. Without law there is always tryanny. What are authors to do who look upon literature as a sacred thing? One who, perhaps, has studied philology with enthudasm and is an "authority" on spelling, sends a carefully prepared manuscript to the publisher only to rereire a "proof" with his spelling changed. He corrects it and returns it to that invisible autocrat who has charge of "traditions of the office." and when the book reaches the author he sees such forms of words as to make him feel ashamed. There can be no license in the matter of spelling. The republic of letters is wider than any boundaries of oceans and mountains. There can be no English "English." American "Eng-Msh." Canadian "English." or Australian "English." Above all, there ought not to be a multitude of invis-Ible autocrate, each with a will of him own on the subject of spelling, who, from their little dens, stir up riots in the republic. We are ready enough to smile at the letters of Chesterfieldian days, in which a word might be written half a dozen ways in a single page; but the laugh would be upon this twentieth century if . Martian should come to Terra and undertake to learn English from text-books issued from the different publishing houses in different English-speaking countries. By all means let us have a "norma scribendi."

Indin's Mendleant Army. India is the mendicants' paradise, for there they are regarded as holy instead of being considered a nuisance. The penances of these beggure take many and strange forms, one of the severest being the passing of the devotee's life in an iron eage, bound with fetters so heavy as to prevent him standing upright. Others hold one arm above their beads till it becomes withered, while others bind ropes and chains so tightly round their bodies that the bonds grow into the flesh and cannot be removed. A form of penance which savors of the ridiculous is that in which the fakir ties his hands and feet together and rolls head over heels for long distances; in some cases, it is said, thousands of miles are traveled in this way. Although there are over 3,000,000 fakirs in India alone, a beggar never starves, except voluntarily in self-punishment, so afraid are the natives of incurring the wrath of their multitudinous gods if the holy men are not cared for .- London News.

Uddhies of Memory. It is instanced as one of the curiosities of the memory that people who know long pieces of verse by heart frequently cannot remember their telephone number.

SCHOOL AND CHURCH

Out of the 100,000 Chinese in the United States 1,600 are Christians. It is not the end of the college course, but the course itself, that makes for mastery.-United Presbyterian.

There is a society in the north of Ireland for the discouragement of Sunday travel. It was formed in 1884 and has now 27,000 members, all pledged not to travel on Sunday "except under most urgent necessity."

The gospels of Luke and John have just been printed in Indiana in the Cheyenne Indian language, in the interests of the Mennonite missions among the Indians in the territories. Long words of ten or more syllables are not infrequent. A peculiarity of the language is that the consonants f, l and r are not found in it.

A new agricultural school for Jewish boys is being established near Grojec. In the government of Warsaw, Russian Poland. This is in the line of improving the physical welfare of the race, which is in danger of deterioration, not being able to withstand the destructive influences of overcrowded ghettos.

The famous Burchard alliteration, "Rum, Romanism and rebellion," is recalled by the transformation of the church in New York over which he presided into a residence. An artist and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Francois Tonetti, have bought the place and will have it fitted up for a studio, a residence and a stable. For a long time the old-fashioned red-brick church has been on the market, but found no purchasers. Mr. and Mrs. Tonetti, both having ample means, looking around for a place of residence, hit upon the disused church

and bought it. It will be remodeled. Bishop Clark, of Rhode Island, enjoys the distinction of being the oldest Anglican bishop in the world. He belongs to a family distinguished in the religious annals of America. One of his brothers, the Rev. Dr. Rufus Clark, was for many years pastor of the First Reformed church at Albany, N. Y. Bishof Clark himself began his ministerial service as a Presbyterian, but only remained in that denomination one year. He was made bishop of Rhode Island in 1854.

THE REAL KING OF FRUITS.

At Any Time and in Any Place the Good Old Reliable Apple Topo the Reap.

The boy is indeed the true appleeater, and is not to be questioned how he came by the fruit with which his pockets are filled. It belongs to him and he may steal it if he cannot have it in any other way, says John Burroughs' "Winter Sunshine." His own juicy flesh craves the juicy fruit of the apple. Sap draws sap. His fruit-enting has little reference to the state of his appetite. Whether he be full of meat or empty of meat he wants the apple just the same. Before meal or after meal it never comes amiss. T farm boy munches apples all day long. He has nests of them in the hay-mow mellowing, to which he makes frequent visits. Sometimes old Brindle. having access through the open door, smells them out and makes short work

The genuine apple eater comforts himself with an apple in their season as others with a pipe or cigar. When he has nothing else to do or is bored he cate an apple. While he is waiting for the train he eats an apple, sometimes several of them. When he takes a walk he arms himself with apples. He offers an apple to his companion and takes one himself. They are his chief solace when on the road. He sows their seed all along the route. He tosses the seed from the car window and from the top of the stage coach. He would in time make the world one vast orchard. He dispenses with a knife. He prefers that his teeth shall have the first taste. Then he knows the best flavor is immediately beneath the skin and that in a pared apple this is lost. If you will stew the apple, he says, instead of baking it, by all means leave the skin on. It improves the color and vastly heightens the flavor of the dish.

The apple is a masculine fruit; hence women are poor apple eaters. It belongs to the open air, and requires an open-air taste and relish.

A Lasy Limers. Admiral Sir William Kennedy, of the British navy, says in his recent book of reminiscences that there is in South America a gigantic lizard, called lagato, which is more tenacious of life than any other known creature "One day while shooting in Uruguay, my dog pointed at something in the grase; on going up I saw it was a lagato, so I gave him a shot, blowing half his side away: the brute merely looked around as though something had tickled him, when I killed him with a second barrel. Another time I found one basking in the sun, so I told a small boy who was with me to kill it. Taking up a scythe he drove it through the creature's body up to the hilt; it never moved. I then stood on its head to finish it, and when I stepped. off it ran away as fast as possible and gained its hole before we could intercept it. While out driving with a friend near Colonia we drove over one of those reptiles which was lying on the road. Two wheels of the buggy passed over it, but it took no notice, so we turned about and drove over it again, when the brute thought it time to move on and ran into the bush."-Chicago Daily News.

Tone of Toys. Great Britain buys 11.000 tons of German toys annually, while the United States ranks next, with an importation of about 6,000 tons.

ABOUT FISH COOKING.

Some Simple Suggestions Which May Contain Something New to Many Housewires.

Among all the different ways of preparing the dried fish there is none better, easier or more quickly than by creaming. It can be cooked in ten minutes, simply using brown wrapping paper or old newspaper twisted into sticks for fuel, says the Washington Star. If you burn gas it can be prepared in even less time. Formerly it was considered cheaper and better to get the whole fish and "pick it apart" as needed. To-day there in such excellent shredded fish in the market that it is a great saving of time and labor to get it already prepared. Put your saucepan over the fire, and in it melt two tablespoonfuls of butter. As soon as it begins to bubble add two scant tablespoonfuls of flour and a dash of pepper. Pour on gradually, stirring all the time, one pint of warm milk. If heated so much the better. Stir until the cream sauce is smooth and velvety, then add one cupful shredded fish, which has been soaked a moment in cold water.

If you have picked up the fish yourself it will need longer soaking in luke-warm water before adding to the sauce. When this is well heated through add one teaspoonful of chopped parsley, and if desired one or two well-beaten eggs. Cook one moment and serve with baked potatoes. This preparation may be varied from time to time. You may omit the eggs entirely, or instead of the raw eggs have two hard-boiled eggs, sliced and laid on the platter of fish. Or take the yolks from two hard-boiled eggs and run through the ricer or an ordinary sieve over the fish, then cut the whites in rings and lay about the edge of the platter as a border. Still snother variation is a border of tiny slices of encumber pickle.

It is not generally known that codfish makes an excellent scallop, especially in combination with cheese. Prepare the fish as for creaming. Butter a pudding dish and place in the bottom a layer of the fish. Grate over this a slight covering of cheese. Repeat until the dish is filled. Scatter a few fine breadcrumbs over the top of the fish and bake from 20 to 30 minutes in a bot oven.

A COURAGEOUS MOTHER.

the Knew the Game of Football and Was Not Frightened at a Little Blood.

She sat in the grandstand, waiting for her first football game to begin. Her boy had played it ever since she could remember, and now he had made his 'varsity team, which was her 'varsity, too-her Cornell.

Two of his fraternity "brothers"s sat on either side as a bodyguard to her gray bairs and as a bureau of information. They were happier than they would have been with the prettiest girl they knew, says the New York Tribune.

She smiled with motherly pride when she picked him out of the aquad of red sweatered "huskies" which at length trotted out on the field. She wiped away a tear when a Columbia man fell across the line for a touchdown.

Then she surprised her bodyguard by muttering under her breath: "Hold 'em hard, fellows!" "Twist their necks!" "Push! Push!"

She explained her knowledge of these strenuous technical details by saying that her boy cried out like that when playing dream games in his sleep.

She did not faint when he tackled too hard and failed to rise, although his white face, with a streak of red blood across the forehead, was staring up at her.

"You can't hurt my boy," she said with confidence. "He's just doing that to get wind." So it proved. He was up and at it harder than ever within the time limit. The Ithacans gained five through tackle, and lost as many more yards trying

to round the end. Then something bappened. A sturdy youngster shot out of the tangled elevens and dashed down the field toward the goal of the blue and white. He crossed line after line of whitewash, and finally was over the last one, the whole pack at his heels. "Touchdown! Touchdown!" cried

the crowd. "My-boy did it," said the mother, and then she cried.

Oyster Dressing for Turkey. Three cupfuls of rolled crackers, 20 large oysters chopped fine, two eupfuls of oyster liquor, the yolku of two eggs and one whole egg, an even tablespoonful of sait, one even teaspoonful of pepper, two ounces melted butter and a tablespoonful of chopped parvley; mix well and put in a seasoned turkey.-Good Lit-

erature.

Conditional. Suburban Knight Errant-I would like to take care of your furnace this

winter. Suburban Lord-All right, but before giving you the job just give me a chance to see if I can get any coal to run it with .-- N. Y. Herald.

A Full Stop. She- Did your father give you a

check when you told him you wanted to go on the excursion we were talking about? He-A check! He gave me a full stop.

He declined to give me a dollar .- Boston Transcript.

Chocolate Walnutu. Take English walnuts, chop finely, spread on buttered dish, melt sweet shocolate and turn over them. Peaputs will do nicely; cut in squares while warm.—Boston Globe.

HUMOROUS

An early crop—the small boy's first hair-cut.-Chicago Daily News. Neft-"He loves her for all he is worth, doesn's he?" Bell-"Yes, and for all she in worth."-Somerville Journal.

"Have you the same cook you had when I was here in the spring?" "Not by seventeen."-Cleveland Plain Dealer.

He-"He said he bought 25 tons of anthracite coal." She-"A million-aire?" He-"No; Har."-Detroit Free Press. "Is this the cracked wheat, Jane?"

"I don't know, mum. I sin't looked at it or teched it; an' if it's eracked it was cracked afore I come here."-N. Y. Observer. "I may be rather dense," remarked the fish, as he struggled to free himself from the hook that held him by

the gills; "but I can't see where the

sport of angling comes in."-Boston Transcript. Witless-"I see the government is establishing free burber shops out West for the Indians." Wagz -- Well, it is due them. They gave the early settlers many a close shave."-Balti-

more American. Bacon-"I can't for the life of me see what Penman saw in his wife to admire." "Egbert-"f guess you never heard her laugh, then? Would a man marry a woman to hear her laugh?" "Certainly. Penman is a joke writer."-Philadelphia Inquirer.

She Tried.-"Bridget," inquired the mistress of the house, "were you entertaining a policeman in the kitchen last night?" "Bure, mum," replied the cook lady, "'n' it's fer him t' say how, intertainin' Oi was. Ol was doin' me bist."--Philadelphia Builetin.

WALKING THROUGH FIRE.

A Woman Tourist Describes on Experience in the Crater of a Mawalian Yeleane.

Compared with the volcanoes in the Hawaiian islands, those in the West Indies are larger, and exhibit the phenomenon of nature on a greater scale, The cone of Kilaues, in Hawali, holds a lake of melted rock, the outlets of which are rivers of lava which gleam like molten allver. In "Fire Mountains" Miss C. F. Gordon-Cumming describes her descent into the outer cra-

"We took a circuitous route to avoid the flery breath of the sulphur cracks. Some of the cones are dome-shaped; others are more open, like witches' caldrons, and curiosity compelled me to snatch a gimpse of the flery broth within, although I knew that such atolen peeps were dangerous, as at any moment the wrathful spirits might drive away the intruder with a shower of molten rock. "So numerous were the streams

which intersected the bediof the erater on this side that it was necessary for the guide to keep ceaseless watch to guard against the possibility of our retreat being out off.

"We took our stand on an elevated hummock of lava, and were thus raised to the level of the lake which had serv capriciously selected the highest portion of the crater, so that all the rivers flowed down over the steep bank.

"Doctor Coan told me he had seen lava flowing at the rate of 40 miles an bour, rushing downhill through forests on its seaward way. I confess I watched this small, comparatively safe river with some trepidation.

"So rapidly does lava cool that when we had gained sufficient confidence to follow our experienced guide, we were able to walk across many of the streams which only a few bours before had been liquid fire. We were walking on a cool crust. As the streams of red fluid rock met the air they seemed to become coated over with a thin, gleaming, silvery film, like that which forms on molten metal. It was gruesome to think what would befall us if the thin crust gave way, beneath us. But I reflected that for love of wife and child our guide doubtless counted his own life precious, and so would not lead us into real danger.

"It is strange how quickly one gets accustomed to new circumstances. When luncheon-time came it seemed most natural to ait on the ring of a fire river, on a hummock of lava, and enjoy our sandwiches while we watched the beaving, rushing lava roll and break into half-cooled cakes, to be austlowed and melted afresh in the fire stream which flowed within ten feet of us."

Speed of Racing Camels.

The racing camel is very carefully bred and valuable prizes are offered by a racing society at Biskra for the fleetest racer. I have seen the start of a race and it reminded me, in a faroff sort of way, of a horse race. The camels were all arranged in line and they suiffed the air in their anxiety to be off. A fing was waved and they set off at a terrible pace, as if they were only racing for a short distance. They kept together until they were almost out of sight. Then they seemed to settle down to their habitual pace and the race proceeded with long intarvals between the competitors. I have also seen the finish of a camel race, and it reminded me of the first motor car promenade between London and Brighton. The camels were certainly not so broken down and bedraggled, but they came in at intervals of several hours and great patience was necessary to watch them arrive .-Pearson's Magazine.

Not a Good Investment. "You married a rich wife, didn't you?" asked Jones of his friend, "Yes," he sighed, "but she's not deelared any dividend yet."- Stray Sto-

PUNGENT PARAGRAPHS.

It's a wise clerk who laughs at the proprietor's fool joken. Chicago Daily Mann.

With most of us patience in not no often a virtue as a necessity.-- In-

dianapolia News. Judge-"I just received my light bill from the gas company. Gracious, it's steep!" Fudge-"Well in that case it's not a 'tight bill.' "-- Cincinmeti Commercial Tribune.

The Kinship Gouge .- "Wasn't that a pretty high rate you paid for those goods you bought of your brother-in-law?" "Oh, yes; relatively high, of course."-- Indianapolia

Her Coffee Characterized .- "This coffee." remarked the boarder, "is like the quality of mercy." "807" queried the landlady, with a show of interest. "Yes; it's not strained."-Philadelphia Record. Mrs. Korsley-"I don't see your

lady friend with you any more." Miss Cunnen-"No, but you may have noticed my lady friend's gentleman friend with me, so she's my lady enemy now."-Philadelphia Press. His Mean Retort .- "You married

me for my money," she exclaimed. angrily. As for him, he refused to lose his temper. "You must have been looking at yourself in the glass," was all he said.-Chicago Port.

"It's a good thing for man that woman is not a logical being." "What now?" "If she were he could never get her to tackle the job of keeping up appearance and keeping down expenaea."-Philadelphia Inquirer.

Two men, meeting each other in the street, clashed together for no apparent reason, each having tried to avoid the collision. After a deal of questioning, however, the mystery was solved. One of the men was a lecturer, with a magnetic eye: whilst the other man was a detective, with nerves of steel.-London Asswers.

A SHOWER OF NICKELS.

Extraordinary Manner of Celebrating Ricq in Price of Maps of Oregen Mas.

About 2,000 people witnessed 400 children scramble for \$100 worth of nickels. on the Courthouse square at Dallas recently. Some weeks ago Hop. W. C. Brown announced that should the price of hops ever reach 20 cents a

pound he would throw away \$100, re-

ports the Portland Oregonian. Mr. Brown had grown hops for a number of years and sold them for eight,or ten, or 12 cents. In converaution with some friends one day beamerted that he did not believe that the price would ever reach 20 cents again, and offered, should it do so, to throw away \$100 in coin. In October he sold his hop erop for 25 cents, and immediately announced that he was prepared to fulfil his promise.

The nickel-throwing affair came off with great crowds of children is attendance. The children were arranged in groups according to size and age, as follows: Large boys, small boys, large girls and small girls. The formation was on the sidewalks, and the nickels were sown on the sward and the different sections were separ-

ated by ropes. -At a signal from Mr. Brown, men. employed for the purpose threw \$100. in nickels at once, this being the signal for the seramble, which was immense. Several hundred children plunged into the square, clad for the occasion, There seemed to be an indiscriminate mixture of bonnets, hats, bonts, shoes, and other childish apparel. The affair passed without serious accident, every precaution having been taken beforehand, and was a great source of satinfaction to Mr. Brown.

WHAT THE SQUAW SAID.

the Was a Graduate of the Carlista School and Knew Good Beglich.

Maj. Pratt, the United States army officer who is in charge of the Cartisle. Indian school, admits that many of his graduates who return to tribal life fuli into Indian ways again. Therefore he is doing all be can to prevent the educated Indians from going back to the reservations, gays the New York Times.

He tells of an incident he saw at a western Indian agency. A squaw entered a trader's store, wrapped in a blanket, pointed to a straw hat, and asked: "How muchee?"

"Fifty cents," said the merchant. "How muchee?" she asked again, pointing at another article. The price was quoted, and was followed by another query of "How muchee?" Then she suddenly gazed blandly at

the merchant and asked, mildly: "Do you not regard such prices as extortionate for articles of such palpubly and unmistakable inferior quality? Do you not really believe that a reduction in your charges would materially enhance your pecuniary profits, as well as be ethically proper? I beg you to consider my suggestion."

Indian school. Women and Their Troubles. Once upon a time two women were talking over their troubles, and while one of them was telling her tale of woe the other was very impatient to

She was a graduate of the Carhole

tell hers. Finally, after several unsuccessful attempts, the second woman managed to tell her story, and as she had the last say she improved very much onthe tale of the first woman, in consequence of which the first speaker was

made quite unhappy. Moral-Some women are more wretched than others because the others have more troubles than they bave.-N. Y. Herald

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L'ABEILLE DE LA NOUVELLE-ORLÉANS