# STRENGTH OF SPIDER'S WEB

Single Thread Supports Weight Seventy-Four Times Weight of Spider Himself.

The strength of the spider, and of the materials it employes, is something almost incomprehensible, when the size of the insect and the thickness of his thread are taken into account. Recent experiments have shown that a single thread of a web made by a spider which weighed 54 milligrams supported endwise a weight of four grams, or 74 times the weight of the

apider itself. When, therefore, a spider spins a web to let himself down from the ceiling, or from the branch of a tree, and we see him descending without perceiving his thread at all, we may be perfectly sure that he is not only In no danger of falling, but that he sould carry 73 other spiders down with him on his invisible rope. Knowing this fact with reference to a single thread, we need not be surprised that the threads of a web, interwoven and reinforced one by another, have a very considerable strength, and are able to hold bees and wasps, themselves very powerful in proportion to their size, and to bend without breaking under a weight of dew or rain.

## TO READ COIN INSCRIPTIONS

Numismatist Shows Test That Seldom Falls to Reveal Dates on Worn Coins.

Lying on the table in front of a mumismatist was an old copper coin. It had experienced hard usage. "Can you read the date and the in-

scription?" inquired the collector. The visitor inspected the specimen. but, although he had the aid of a magmifying glass, he confessed that the words and figures were illegible.

"Let me assist you." the collector remarked. Going to the kitchen range he thrust an ordinary coal shovel into the fire and permitted it to remain there until red hot. Withdrawing it, he dropped the coin on the utensil. and it speedily became as red hot as the shovel itself. Immediately the date, 1794, shone brightly in glowing figures on the obverse side of the cola, and similar treatment revealed the words United States of America -one cent-on the reverse. This test, according to the numismatist, seldom fails with any coin, even when the inscriptions have been worn so perfect-If smooth that they are invisible to the naked eye.

Costumes of Fish Skins. Among the most wonderful garments worn at the present day are the curious fish skin dresses of the wealthy women of the Gold tribe, living along the Amur river, East Siberia. Though they can neither read nor write these people are producing astonishing ornaments, designs and embroidery work.

The dress is composed of several layers of fish skin, the undermost representing the skin of the garment proper, the uppermost showing the ornaments in their cut-out forms. Between these two layers is inserted a middle layer, which serves as a background, throwing out distinctly all parts of the ornaments. The pieces of Ash skin forming the ornaments are generally colored blue. The front and back of the dress is adorned with these cut-out pieces of fish skin sewed with fish skin thread.—Christian Her-

Business Methods in the Home. There is some discussion going on in England, according to the London Daily Mirror, as to whether a man should not manage the house. A woman, say those in favor of the plan, is never trained in business methods. and when she has served apprenticeship in business, before marriage even, it was in a subordinate position where she had merely to take orders and carry them out mechanically. A man is trained in managing subordinates and systematizing work, no mat-

ter what his calling may have been. The alternative is that women should receive training in business methods and system.

Buzzard Freed of Trap.

After a chase of three hours, Abram Layton and his son captured one of the largest buzzards ever seen in this section. Attached to the bird's leg was a steel trap and an iron chain three feet long. The buzzard was so emaclated that it could hardly fly with its burden, which it had evidently carried, for months, as the wound made by the anapping of the steel trap had entirely healed.

The bird did not show fight, but seemed glad to get rid of its burden, and it looked so pitiful that Mr. Layten had compassion on it and set it fires.-Clayton Correspondence Philadelphia Record.

Expected It.

The crazy vehicle went bumping over the uneven pavement. This is enough to drive a man to

drink," groaned the passenger inside. "Yessir," said the cabdriver. "Most per the fellers that hires it think it's igood enough for that. Any p'ticular place you was wishin' to stop at right new, sir?"

Earning Her Way. "I am working my way through col-

"Brave girl! How de you earn

money?" "Well, father gives me \$10 for evsinging lesson I don't take."

# EARTH WEARS DUST BLANKET

Increases Temperature in Daytime and Checks Fall of Temperature at Night.

When the air is very thick and bazy it may contain floating dust particles to the number of from 10,000 to 20,000 in every cubic centimeter, while a cubic continueter of very clear air may contain only from a dozen to

a few hundred particles. An English observer's data indicates that there is a relation between the quantity of dust and the temperature of the air. A great amount of dust, it is thought, increases the temperature in the daytime and checks the'

fall of temperature at night. The reason is that the presence of dust serves as an obstruction to the free radiation of heat through the air. The sunbeams pass through very pure, clear air without lending much heat to it, and at night the heat received by the ground during the day readily escapes through the same air; but if the atmosphere is heavily laden with dust, the sun's rays are partially arrested by the particles which, becoming heated, in turn warm the air, and in like manner heat radiated from the earth at night is retained in the hazy layers of air in contact with its surface.

Without its atmosphere, which serves as a coverlet to protect it against the fearful cold of space, the aurface of the earth would be frozen like that of the airless moon. But the data gathered by reliable observers show that the atmospheric blanket wrapped around our planet varies in its power to retain heat in proportion to the amount of dust particles that it contains.-Harper's Weekly.

#### WHERE ART WAS AT FAULT

House Maid Has Trouble With Ploture of Leaning Tower of Pisa.

Among the engravings that adorned the walls of a Toledo woman's home was one big one of the leaning tower of Pisa. One morning, shortly after the advent of a new maid, the mistress of the house noticed that the picture of the tower hung crooked. She straightened it and said nothing of the matter to the new servant, who had evidently shifted it while dusting. The next day the picture was again crooked; the same thing happened the next day and the next. Finally, one morning, chancing to be in the room where the picture was, the mistress said to the maid as she dusted:

"Mary, you've hung that picture of the tower crooked, Just look at it!" "That's what I say, mum," returned the domestic, "look at it! The only way I can git that blamed tower to hang straight is to hang the picture crooked."--Lippincott's.

Unredeemed Paris Piedge.

An incident not without pathos oocurred toward the end of last week at a sale of unredeemed pledges at the Mont de Piete. There were sold by auction a child's drinking cup, plate, spoon and knife and fork. Fifty-one years ago these souvenirs were deposited in the Paris municipal pawnshop. Every year since the interest has been naid regularly and the right of redemption secured, but the family never seem to have possessed the necessary 15 or 20 francs to resume possession.

Evidently the poor people are either dead or have become more needy. Two years ago the interest ceased to be paid, but the department, to their credit, abstained from selling these "lares and penates." Several letters were addressed at the last known residence and to other places where the pawners have lived, but they have come back marked "Inconnu." The sands of the glass have run out and the objects so carefully guarded for half a century have been sold.

Austrian State Coach.

The emperor Austria owns the most beautiful state coach in existence. Its proportions are perfect and the finish of the moldings and carvings are exquisite. It was built in 1696, and is shaped with all the curves which distinguish Louis Quatorve furniture, straight lines being carefully avoided.

The panels are aderned with nymphs in the style of Rubens. Indeed, the custedian informs those privileged to view the coach that they are the work of Rubens. If Peter the painter had not died 56 years before the coach was built his statement would be believed. It is a more comfortable conveyance. too, than the British state coach, being hung upon well balanced springs.

Fastening Battery Wires.

There are two ways of doing almost everything, and this is especially true of fastening battery and coll terminal wires. One way is wrong, and the other is to twist the bare end of the wire around the terminal as the hands of the clock move, and then tighten up the nut. The reason for this is because the screw-thread is right-handed, therefore the tendency of the tightening nut will be to twist the wire around the terminal tighter than it was. Should the wire he twisted the other , the nut would tend to untwist it and it would slip under the nut and very likely get a very poor

Overcrowded.

"There's no doubt," remarked a shopkeeper, "there are too many hum-Bugs and swindlers in this town." "That is so," agreed his companion; "you and I must leave it!"

#### WOMAN'S WAY THE SUREST

The state of the s

Gets Quick Action Where Man Would Have Argued for Half an Hour.

A writer in the New York Globe tells of a young woman who, he believes, is not inferior to any man in the management of the affairs of life. She bought a small farm, and was

busy overseeing the work on it. The other day she ordered a telephone installed, and the company's workmen started in. Presently the "boss" called her out to the lawn.

"We can't run the wire in without damaging that tree," he said, pointing to a fine old elm near the piazza. "It can't be done."

"Very well," replied the young woman smiling, "then you needn't put in the phone." and she re-entered the house.

"Did the electricians go away?" asked the correspondent, who assuredly believes that a man should think twice before insisting upon his boasted mental superiority to the other sex.

"No, sir. They put in the phoneand without harming the tree." "A man, now," he concludes, "would have argued a half hour over the mat-

#### EXTRA ALLOWANCE FOR KIDS

Wise Housekeeper Lays Down Safe Rule for the Entertainment of Children.

They just had received a telephone message that Mr. and Mrs. Rankin were over in town with little Bennie. and would drop in for luncheon if it would be convenient, and they had said of course it would be. Then they hastily examined the contents of the

"We seem to be rather low on chocolate." announced Jessica, "but probably there is enough if we are careful. We can give Bennie a little cup."

"Don't ever think it," warned mother, hastily. "Pick out the biggest cup for Bennie and be prepared to refill it a few times. You and I will take little cup or none, but don't ever think a child-especially a growing boyisn't going to want the most of everything. If you make such a mistake you are likely to come face to face with the most terrible embarrassments. A much safer rule is to allow double, at least, for each child." The state of the s

Country With Only One Bank. There are no public banking institutions in the Dominican republic, and but one private bank with agencies in the more important towns which buys and sells drafts, makes loans, and is the repository of the government

funds. Buying and selling drafts is an important course of revenue to this bank and also to many private individ-

Money is easily placed at almost any time at one and one-half per cent. a month, and sometimes at two and two and one-half per cent., with first class real estate or personal security. Long time loans of large amounts are placed at 12 per cent. per annum. Municipalities, borrowing money for improvements and other purposes, pay

one per cent, a menth. There are very few depositors in the local bank. Most of the well-to-do people, both among the merchants and farmers, never think of depositing their money, but have small private safes or secrete their hoardings in some other manner.-Moody's Maga-

Housekeeping and Business.

Mothers should remember that when their daughters become wives they must know values, not only the values of food and clothing, but the values of time and of patience, of perseverance and of forbearance. Unless they have been taught these, how are they to make success in life? How can they help the man whose future lies to a certain extent in their hands, to make that future worth while? In housekeeping there is just as much business method required as in the management of a large corporation. So many things to see to, a certain amount of money to manage, so many results to get at by the end of each

Birds Killed in Migration. According to advices from the Caucasus millions of singing birds which every winter used to find a warm retreat on the southern slopes of the forest clad mountains of the Caucasus have suddenly been surprised by the intense cold and severe snowstorms while they were on their way from the north.

The slides of the mighty mountains, the highest in Europe, and the shores of the Black see are now strewn with small corpdes of singing birds, especially bulfinches, goldfaches, rebinredbreasts, fly-catchers and other birds which in the summer mostly visit these shores.

How Birds Keep Warm.

The high temperature of birds enables them to resist celd more effectively than they could otherwise da. Whereas blood heat in man is \$6.4 degrees Fahrenheit it is 107 degrees. In the demestic fowl and more in some other birds.

Nevertheless 'they feel the celdi cruelly, as you may see any frosty night if you visit an ivy creeper cladwall with a lantern; the sparrows nestle together in a closely packed mass, and if there be a chimney you may be sure the birds will have chosen its exterior as their roosting place for the sake of such warmth as it may give.

#### CURIOUS PHASE OF IDIOCY

Man Will Lie in Bed and Shiver Rather Than Get Up for Extra Wraps.

Perhaps a man never realizes so surely what a fool he is as when he wakes up on a cold night with the feeling that there is not enough covering on the bed. While he is perfectly aware that he is shivering, all his powers of action seem to have deserted him. He will no doubt draw his knees up close to his chin, but that is about all he will do to relieve his suffering.

All this time, strange to say, his mind is just as capable of thinking as if he were not in a half daze. He realizes fully that in his wardrobe, within a few feet of him, are enough extra wraps to laugh the cold to scorn and make him the happiest man in the world. Yet he will huddle himself into a cramped position, and lie awake to hear his teeth chatter rather than get out of bed and walk a few feet. All this time he recognizes the fact that he is a fool, and though he inwardly curses himself for his timidity, some strange spell seems to be cast over him that prevents his doing what he should do. There he shivers until sleep comes to his aid. In the morning he will vow never again to be such a coward, though he knows in his heart that when the thing occurs again he will be just as big a fool as before.

#### FACTS ABOUT THE SHAMROCK

le an Entirely Different Plant in Various Sections of the Emerald Islo.

A rose by any other name would be as sweet, and the fact that the shamrock of old Ireland is an entirely diferent plant in various sections of the Emerald isle in no wise affects the romance that attaches to the name The plant generally exported from Ireland under that name is one of the hop clovers, Trifolium minus. It is a mistake to think that this plant will grow only in Ireland. It will grow and thrive in any temperate climate when properly cultivated. In fact, there is no plant known as shamrock which is peculiar to Ireland. White clover, for instance, known in various sections of Ireland as shamrock, grows in the United States in great abundance. Black medic and wood sorrel are designated as shamrock in certain localities. The wood sorrel may, in fact, be the shamrock of song and story. Ordinary red clover is sometimes called shamrock in the United States.

But, after all, a pretty sentiment should not be interfered with by botanical experts—what matters their Latin names, so long as the threeleafed bit of green grew near the cottage of the fathers in the ould coun-

The Sisters. "What a dainty little person Miss Blookings is!" exclaimed a very young man at an East end reception one Mon-

day afternoon. "Yes," agreed his companion, laconically.

"Such a lithe, perfect figure! And those beautiful little hands! Surely no manicurist could produce an effeet like that; it must come from nature aided by rest."

"I guess so." "But here's something I've always noticed. See that gaunt awkward girl standing beside her? Girls always get some ugly person to show them off by contrast. Look at the big red hands of the second one. Ain't it flerce? Who's that fright, anyhow?"

"That's Miss Blooking's older sister. She washes and irons Miss Blooking's party gowns for her.-Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Enemies of Matrimony. Wedlock seems to be in a bad way in the mountains of the Dauphine. The confirmed bachelors of the country have decided to meet every month and toast celibacy. Invitations are sent out with the information. "Good feeding, good drinking, much laughter, much dancing.

An added insult to matrimony is that the invitations have been sent to all spinsters who have "put on St. Katherine's cap;" that is to say, who are over 25, and are therefore presumed to be on the high road to old maidenhood. The confirmed backelors announce their intention of eating, drinking, laughing and dancing with the old maids every month. But their very hardihood may be their un-

How He Ate the Hay.

There are still some mighty eaters neft. Not long ago a Berlin market porter undertook, for a wager, to put away at one sitting six mutton chops, 12 eggs, a goose, a duck, six pounds of potatoes and 22 pounds of hay. Difficulties were anticipated with the last course, and large sums were laid against the accomplishment of the feat. The ingenious porter solved the difficulty by calling for a cigarette after he had finished the duck. He then set light to the hay, pounded the ashes up with the petatoes, and swallowed the lot. After a heated discussion the referee declared him the winbet.

Toe Practical an Argument. "Who was it," shouted the suffragist leader, "who was it that did most to

elevate woman? "Why, the man who invented those high French heels," said a voice in

her audience. Then the meeting adjourned.

#### WHAT THE PUBLIC WANTS

Popular Taste is Not Always for the Best in Books, Plays or Anecdotes.

"It is a regrettable fact." said a speaker at a Republican banquet in Fort Wayne, "that the most popular men are not necessarily the best men, the most popular books are not the best books, and the most popular

plays are not the best plays. "Even in anecdotes," continued the speaker, "the public taste is bad. I'll tell you the kind of anecdote the public wants.

"A Bostonian was showing his two little girls through the poets' corner in Westminster abbey. . Bessie, the older of the two little girls, carried a rose in her hand. When they came to the marble effigy of Longfellow, Bessie rose on tiptoe and reverently placed her rose in a fold of the poet's marble drapery.

"As the Bostonian departed he missed his golden-haired younger daughter. Turning back, he saw her still lingering before Longfellow's bust. Then as he regarded her, she drew herself up on her tiny toes and placed something that glittered beside her sister's red rose. And, smiling happily, she run to her father. 'What were you doing, dear one?'

the Bostonian asked. Bessie had a rose and I hadn't nuffing,' said the little golden?haired darling, 'so I bit off one of my curls and gave Mr. Longfellow that,"

## HE WAS REAL DIPLOMATIST

Man Discovers Sure Way to Get Wife to Mend His Clothes.

As Mr. Compton looked down at his waistcoat he discovered that it lacked a button. "And I asked my wife to sew it on more firmly, last night," he said to his commuter neighbor in the train. "I don't see how she forgot

"Don't ever ask her to mend anything," said his friend. "I learned a better way before I'd been married a year. When I want anything mended. say a shirt, for instance, I take it under my arm, all mussed up, and open the closet door, and sing out to my wife, 'Where's the rag-bag, Peggy?" 'What do you want of the rag-

bag?' she'll ask me. 'Oh, I thought I'd throw this away,' I tell her, and squeeze it a little tighter under my arm.

"Let me see what you have there," she'll say, and I'll mutter something about 'worn-out old thing!' while I hand it over to her.

"'Why, James Holland " she'll say, when she's spread it out and looked it over in a hurry. 'I am surprised at you! This is perfectly good. It doesn't need a single thing except-And then and there she sits down to mend it, looking as if I'd made her a present."-Youth's Companion.

Where Fisherman's "Catgut" Is Made. Probably but a small percentage of the fishermen who use flies strung with fine transparent "catgut" are aware that the almost unbreakable substance that holds the hooks against the flercest struggles of the struck fish

comes from silk worms. The principal center of the manufacture of this kind of catgut is the island of Procida, in the Bay of Naples, but most of the silk worms employed are raised near Terre Annunziata, at the foot of Vesuvius. The caterpillars are killed just as they are about to begin the spinning of cocoons, the silk glands are removed and subjected to a process of pickling which is a secret of the trade, and afterward the threads are carefully drawn out by skilled workers, mostly women. The length of the thread varies from a foot to nearly 20 Inches. -- Scientific American.

Need of ideals.

Mankind always needs ideals which loom so large in the sight of men that they cannot fail to see them clearly. More than ever is thus true of today. for the turmoil and the hurry of modern life raise a great dust which of tentimes hides the skies. Enthusiasna dreams, hopes are to be encouraged. and belong to youth, which ever renews itself in warm hearts, although reason is needed to cool and guide them. The fact that we believe that our ideal is beautiful and holy is not ground for forcing it on our mates. To win success a man must not be a pure idealist, else in practical things he will fail, but he must have ideals, and he must obey them.--Atlantic.

Day on Which Wemen Rule. Candlemas day is not celebrated in: Holland much more than in England. but its place is taken by a festival unknown in this country, says the Lendon Globe. Slipper day in the Netherlands is the one day in the year in which the Dutch woman claims

On that day she rules him to her heart's content, and he generally obeys good humoredly enough. That is, unless she is one of those ladies; not unknown in Holland or in any other county who aspire to complete rule ever their unhappy partners throughout the year.

guneriority over her husband.

Queer Guy.

Willis-Bumpus is one of the oddest men I ever saw.

Gillis-How so?

Willis-Why, when a fellow borrows; a quarter and doesn't pay it back. Bumpus finally admits that it is the quarter he cares about, and not the principle of the thing.-Puck.

## WOMAN'S ARTISTIC PERBUKE

Makes God on Declaration That France fould Create & wutter al hire Out of Nothing.

Mme. In Konig was a young woman of Frach origin who, ten goal rebefore the granco-Prussian war, had married a Grman army officer Help heart was ten during the same sie, and, though her aid went to see busband, her tearh were shed for Fra; co. At a dinner party some ore had the bad taste to speak of woogsered France."

"France may be conquired," haid Mme. Von Konig, but she will re hins. her ability to create a beautiful thing out of nothing."

The next day one of the addensen present sent her a single water bair. asking her what France could make out of that. She sent it to a steat French jeweler, and told him, of her challenge. Presently there came buck to her a device in gold and enhanel. On a bed of sabres stood the Pressian black eagle, holding in its month the single white hair. Attached to one end of the hair were the arms of Alsace, in delicate, tiny gold workmanship, at the other, the arms of Lorraine. Underneath was engrossed: "Alsace and Lorraine; you hold them by a hair."

#### BRAN BATH IS SOOTHING

High Strung Nervous Woman Will Find Them Beneficial as Well as Cheap.

Besides softening and whitening the warm bran bath is soothing to nerves. These can be taken so easily and cheaply at home that the highly strung woman should experiment with

them. Get a peck of bran at a feed store. It is much cheaper than buying it in prepared bags or getting bran mix-

tures at a drug store. Make a number of cheesecloth bags about 12 inches square. Leave . . small opening at one corner to hold a funcel neck and fill with bran until the bag is half full.

Run a tub quarter full of hot water and put the bag in it several minutes before it is to be used. After soaking squeeze well until the water is brown and bubbling. Do not stay too long in this bath

and rest for 15 minutes afterward. In

cases of extreme nervousness the rest

is followed by a brisk rubbing with cocoa butter.

Foolhardy Snake Keeper. The only fatal case of snake bite on record in the London Zoological gardens was directly due to the foolishness of the victim. He was in charge of the snakes, and coming in morning with some friends began to boast of his power over the creatures and the extent to which they would submit to be played with by one whom they knew. This ied to practical experiments, the overconfident keeper taking an Indian cobra from its comfortable sleeping place, and declaring he was a snake charmer proceeded to swing it about his head and

play other tricks with it. A native snake charmer would have known there was no more certain way to rouse the snake's temper than this, for the race abhors rough handling or sudden provement of any sort. The result of the exploit was that the keeper was bitten on the nose. He was hurried off to the hospital, but died in a few hours.

The Dak Bungalow.

The Dak bungalow of India is a blessed institution for the weary Dak, as the natives call the traveler. He finds these little shelters dotted over many of the out-of-the-way parts of the country, generally not more than one long day's march apart. They mean warmth. when one has been chilled to the bone by biting winds, or shelter from the driving rain and hail storms, the latter so common in northern India that planters insure their crops against them, and so violent that both men and cattle are often killed by them. The bungalows usually consist of two bedrooms and a dining room, with rough outside buildings providing a kitchen and sheds for horses and coolies. After our life in the untrodden forests of South America it was camping de luxe.—Harper's Magazine.

Why the Horse Rolls.

Horses are fond of rolling on the ground, and no animal more thoroughly shakes itself than they do. After & roll they give themselves a shake or two to remove anything adhering to the coat. The habit is of much service to horses living in open plains.

On being turned loose at the end of a fourney an Arab horse rolls in the sand, which acts as blotting paper, absorbing exudations from the body. A shake removes the sand, and the ceat soon dries. Cavalrymen in hot climates semetimes put sand on their horses as the simplest and quickest way of drying them.

Even Mere Tireseme.

"Is there anybody quite as irritating," said a doctor, "as my partner, who invariably comes round after something happens and says, 'I told you so'?'

"Yes," replied his friend. "An uncle of mine is quite as tiresome. He never says 'I told you so' in so few words, but always remarks, in a tone of mournful triumph, 'And yet I was wholly unable to make any of you perceive, although it was perfectly clear to my mind, that such would be

the inevitable result."

# L'ABEILLE DE LA NOUVELLE-ORLEANS

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