How Flowers, Meat, Shoes and Other Articles Are Sold in the Mikado's Land.

The shops and booths of Japan ar of unfailing interest. Here the green grocer and fruitseller has arranged hi. wares till it seems as though one looked upon a great bouquet. There the flower shop blazes in brilliance and the lantern maker squats at his multicolored task. At the next entrance we perhaps see a man severing chickten meat from the bone, and he performs the operation as skillfully as the surgeon with his dissecting knife.

Two or three paces farther on one is confronted with a typical Japanese shoe store. The newcomer is at once startled at the immense quantity of this simple footwear and the many places where it is sold, but he soon finds a solution to his query when he hears that a Japanese man annually makes away with from eight to ten

pairs. But curious things are not found in the shops alone. The green vegetable peddler carries loads heavy enough for a horse, but still has enough energy to call his wares as he goes. One marvels at those wonderful, big, snow white radishes he sells; green onions, carrots, fruits and even lotus roots dug from the muddy bottoms of ponds. Fancy yourself eating long burdock roots which grow in any country backyard! The Japanese consider these a toothsome article.—Christian Herald.

HIS MARKSMANSHIP IS GOOD

Night Watchman at the Ostrich Farm Thinks He Sees Burglars at the Window.

Sitting alone in the office of the Bentley ostrich farm at Melrose the other night, A. Walters, night watchman, looked up from his paper and was startled to see two faces peering at him through a window.

"Burglars!" he gasped, and drew his revolver. He sent two shots through the window, and then pursued two fleeing forms into the darkness outside, firing as he ran. His ammunition exhausted, he hastened back to the office and telephoned to the police station.

"I've just shot a burglar," he said. "Two of them tried to break into the office and I chased them. I killed one. and the other owes his life to the fact that I had no more bullets. Come quick. You may catch him before he gets away."

A posse surrounded the big farm. Triumphantly Walters led the sergeant to where a dark form lay huddled in a heap on the ground, a testimonial as to his marksmanship.

. A policeman bent over the form. "Why, it's an ostrich!" he exclaimed. -San Francisco Chonicle.

Where Rural Schools Attract.

It is as true as it is strange that in lowa many rural schools are so attractive that city boys are sent out of the city to attend the rural school. I know one country school in which there are six children from city schools. A "chicken roast" is the latest school attraction that I have known. A teacher is making the schoolhouse the center of social life for the district. She does not like the idea of having a dance in the school, and she will not have kissing fracases, so she plans various soicial functions with stunts and games that have abundance of life, that are new, that are harmless. She does quite a little along the line of refreshments, and everyone takes a part in the preparation as well as in disposing of the feast. The greatest success she has ever had was a chicken roast. It was in the autumn, and was in the school yard. It was a close approach to a barbecue. Every man, woman and child in the district was there.--Jourmal of Education.

The Universal Pot. Everybody must have a pet. If you haven't a baby, you must at least own a dog. If it isn't a dog, it may be a cat or a kitten. In other lands it may be a monkey. I have even known of those who have alligators as petslittle ones, of course. Perhaps this explains why, on a single Sunday, 40,-000 men, women and children, principally children, will flock into the Zoological garden at Bronx park in the porthern part of New York city, This may explain, too, why, in a single, calendar year nearly one million and is half visitors at the park take time -and do it with pleasure-to visit what is known as the finest soological; exhibit as well as the largest in the world.—Harriet Quimby, in Leslie's.

The Oriental Way. In China when the subscriber rings up exchange the operator may be expected to ask:

What number does the honorable son of the moon and stars desire?" "Hobi, two-three."

Silence. Then the exchange re-

"Will the honorable person graciously forgive the inadequacy of the insignificant service and permit this humbled slave of the wire to inform him that the never-to-be-sufficiently censured line is busy?"

A College Leader. "Old Man Bings has been bragging that his boy he sent to college is going to make a noise is the world." "Is he showing any signs of doing

it yet?" "Oh, yes; he's leading the class college yell."

HER REASON FOR WEEPING

Mrs. Ackroyd's Explanation Also Gives Her Husband Occasion for Some As a Sober Thinking.

Just when Mrs. Ackroyd had finlebed packing her trunks and after William had bought railway tickets for her and their two daughters little Bessie came down with a severe case of whooping cough. The doctor positively refused to let the child start on a long journey, and even if he had thought it safe for the little one to leave home he assured Mrs. Ackroyd that she would not be permitted to take the patient into a hotel any-

where. "Isn't it a shame!" the distressed lady wailed. "Here we are with everything in our trunks and my husband has even bought our berths in the sleeper."

"It is unfortunate, but I don't know what you can do except sit down and wait for four or five days. It may be safe for you then to start away."

When her husband got home that evening Mrs. Ackroyd was weeping. "Don't take it so hard, dear," he

said. 'It might be a good deal worse. Our little one is likely to get along all right. The doctor says the case isn't an unusually severe one, and when I telephoned him this afternoon he said he thought it might be safe for you to start away by the end of the week."

"I know. He told me the same thing. But I feel that we'll never go. I never postponed anything yet that didn't turn out sadly. I once postponed a wedding and the marriage never took place."

Half an hour later William Ackroyd was still sitting in a corner, thinking it over.

JAPANESE AUCTION IS TAME

Even the Auctioneer Has Nothing to Say, and Bids Are Made in · Writing.

An un-American Japanese auction is a kind of Oriental prayer meeting. People do not exactly wait for the spirit to move them before making a bic, but they go about as silently as if meditating in a Lenten retreat. Nobody has anything to say, or if he has he exercises a powerful restraint over his emotions and refrains from saying it. Even the auctioneer holds his tongue. Every article that he offers for sale is simply held up for inspec-

wondrous vocabulary with Occidental auctioneers proclaim the merits of their wares has no place in a Japanese auction room, the dramatic thrill of "going, going. ne" is never felt. Purchasers write their bids on a slip of paper and send it up by a page. There is no hurry. Everybody has time to count his change and make up his mind how

much he can afford to pay. When the bids are all in the auctioneer coolly turns over the article to the clerk with the highest bidder's offer and takes up the next thing on the list. Unless people wish to talk afterward nobody will ever know what anybody else bid, not even the price paid by the successful bidder.

Churchgoers Near Panic.

An extraordinary panic occurred recently in St. Woolas church, Newport, Monmouthshire England, when during the rendering of a sacred cantata by the choir, the electric light suddenly failed and the building was plunged in darkness. The startled singers were silent. Then women screamed with alarm, and made for the doors. A serious panic seemed likely, though the vicar assured the congregation that all would be right within a few minutes. The fears of the people were finally quieted by the choir beginning to sing again: through the darkness the old hymn, "Aberystwyth." Meanwhile churchwardens groped their way to the emergency gas burners, and gradually one by one lights sprang into brightness, and the service was quietly resumed.

-Word to Be Avoided.

Recovery of a letter which had been sent to a little town in Germany and never delivered to the person addressed cured one writer of the custom of adding "Esquire" to a name on the superscription of mail matter. The letter in question would probably have been promptly delivered had the address read simply. "Mr. John Brown," But the sender had addressed it "John Brown, Esquire" and the communication rested comfortably in the "E" compartment of the post restant department waiting to be called for by "Mr. Esquire." One of the popular guide books warns against the use of "Esq.," saying that it might be mistaken for a name.

No Dust No Light.

Diffusion of light through the atmosphere is due to thousands of millions of dust-atoms floating in it. The finest dust floats highest, and imparts the tint of blue to the heavens. Were it not for dust the sky by day would annear black and the moon and stars would be visible. All shadows would then by inky black. Everything would appear differently. It is not "the light" we see, but simply reflections caused by motes of dust, as when a ray of sunlight enters a dark room through a hole in the shutters. Millions of dust particles catch the light. reflecting it back and forth from one another, so making the atmosphere lu-

BUILT A KITCHEN CABINET

Handy Man Worked at It Sundays, but Forgot to Measure the Stairway.

He is the meat man in a street grocery. Besides being handy at trim-·ming spare ribs with a safety razor he is also an adept with carpenter's tools. About a year ago he decided to build a kitchen cabinet for his wife. He chose the basement as the place of construction, ordered a lot of lumher and other accessories and went to

The only time he had to give to the kitchen cabinet cause was on Sunday, as he had to work early and late during the week. He closed all basement windows tightly in order to muffle all the noise he made with saws and hammers. He even had a set of signals arranged with his wife that she was to stamp on the floor when the minlater or some plous friend was passing. Sunday after Sunday he tolled away on the kitchen cabinet, picturing in his mind how pretty and how useful it would be in the kitchen.

Finally the cabinet was finished and the builder asked two or three of the boys at the store to drop over on Sunday morning and help him carry 'it upstairs. The boys, anxious to see the product of so many days of toil, accepted the invitation and went over. It was a Jim Dandy kitchen cabinet. It was the best ever-even better than the store kind.

Well, boys, let's hike upstairs with it " said Fritz, the cabinet constructor, The boys took hold, tilted it and started for the stairway. Fritz groaned.

The boys smothered a laugh. It was nine inches too wide for the stairway.

The cabinet has departed this life via the furnace. It is unlikely that Fritz will build another.

DIPLOMACY IN THE HOTEL

Some People Might Call It Lying, but the Guest Was Quite Batisfied.

"Sometimes it is an awkward matter to get a temporary tenant out of a suite that has been promised for a certain day," a hotel manager said, "and you have to use diplomacy in such a case. Occasionally lying is necessary.

"A man from San Francisco came to us in the busy season and the only thing we could do for him was to detach a room with bath from a suite that was promised for the next day. He was to stay over only one night, anyhow, we understood. But he did not leave and the family we expected came in. I was in a quandary, but as the San Franciscan was downtown had his clothes and baggage moved out to a room upstairs that fortunately fell vacant. When he came in I thought for a moment and then I said: 'I am sorry, Mr. X, but I have had to move your things out of that

"'Why was that?" he demanded, flaring up.

"We discovered that the ceiling was leaking." "'Good gracious! My clothes didn't

get wet, did they?" he demanded. "He was much relieved when I assured him that they didn't; so much so that he made no kick at all."-New York Sun.

Last Thought Was His Mother. To prevent his aged mother from being shocked by his terrible injuries sustained in an accident, John Grady of Belfast, when carried to his home the other day, began to sing with apparent light-heartedness. He was a lineman, and while repairing some wires a current of 4,000 volts was accidentally turned into them. Both of Grady's arms were burned off near the elbow, and one leg was burned to the bone before he was rescued. As he was being carried into his home he sang "Top o' the Mornin'," a favorite song of his aged mother. She came down to meet him, and he called to her cheerily that he had been slightly burned, and spared her the shock as much as he could. He died a few hours later.

Josh Billings.

The quaint spelling that helped to make "Josh Billings" famous was natural to him. "Josh" was not an educated man in the academic sense, and was a poor speller to the last. When he started out in the humorous line he' observed that the way in which he put together his words—a style that he followed simply because he knew no other-tickled the people and helped to sell his writings, and like the wise, sensible man that he was, despite hisliterary deficiencies, he stuck to it to the end. Of course, had there not been the keenest, wit, humor and satire behind the "outlandish" spelling, 'he would have twisted the king's English in vain.

Wherefore "Teres."

"Terme" is a word that has an understood meaning nowadays. Shadweil in the fourth act of "The Humordata" (1671) put this question into the mouth of one of his characters: "Must I stay by the strength of terse claret you have wet yourself into courage?" It is probably an allusion to what is still sometimes called "Dutch courage" -bravery inspired by alcohol. Claret was in those times imported in "tieroes," and "terse" may be a condensed form of that word. Also "terse may be a condensed form of that word. Also "terse claret" may have been a drink that did its business without any circumiocution, like the terse speaker or writer.

ANCIENT OUARREL IS OVER

Two Old Sardinian Families Publicly End Feud That Had Lasted for Centuries.

A ceremony the like of which had not been seen for centuries has just taken place in Sardinia, the cradle of the Italian vendetta. It was a solemn public reconciliation of two ancient families, the Orecchioni and the Cardi, who had been in feud since the middle ages.

A dispute over a question of family honor between these widely ramifled houses has led to countless acts of vengeance and those who shirked fighting had to take refuge abroad.

In 1844 a reconciliation committee was formed by the bishops of Tempio and Ozieri, the prefect and the commander of the carabinieri and many other notables of the island, but it effected nothing.

It may be that even the Italian vendetta is influenced by modern notions; at all events a solemn reconciliation of the families has been effected before the bishops in the cathedral of Santa Teresa. The present heads of the two families, Advocate Orecchioni and Cavaliere Cardi, publicly embraced amid cheers from thousands of Sardinian throats.

From all parts of the island came congratulatory messages. To break this peace would be in the eyes of the people an act of sacrilege.

HARD TIMES FOR DOCTORS

Their Fees Were Small in Babylow and Fallure to Cure Meant Torture.

Babylonian surgeons four thousand years ago had not the easy time of their modern colleagues. The French archaeological commission has just discovered there a tablet containing some interesting facts about the Babylonian Bob Sawyer. For all operations "performed with a knife" patients were to pay twelve silver shekels, which is about \$3.75 of American money. A broken leg or arm must be set for \$2, and teeth were drawn at the uniform rate of seventyfive cents.

All the same, this must have been pretty good pay for the time, because the tablet in question goes on to enumerate the punishment meted out to surgeons who made professional mistakes. These would appeal even less to the modern medical man than the low fees.

When an operation caused the death of a patient the unfortunate surgeon had both his hands cut off; and when he did not cure his patient in reasonably quick time, the tablet tells us his fee was confiscated by the government. It does not mention what was considered a reasonable time for healing.

Value of Fade.

Whatever our occupation or profession in life may be, it is most desirable to create for ourselves some other special interest. In the choice of a subject anyone should consult his own instincts and interests. I will not attempt to suggest whether it is better to pursue art or science; whether we should study the motes in the sunbeam, or the heavenly bodies themselves. Whatever may be the subject of our choice, we shall find enough, and more than enough, to repay the devotion of a lifetime. Life no doubt is paved with enjoyments, but we must all expect times of anxiety, of suffering and of sorrow; and when these come it is an inestimable comfort to have some deep interest which will, at any rate to some extent. enable us to escape from ourselves .-Sir John Lubbock.

Dust Disease.

Now that we have the "typhoid fly" and the "malarial mosquito," science may soon order that not a few of those who experience a blue Monday be described as sufferers from "dust depression." Good physicians assert that much of the mental and physical languor which many people of indoor life report on Monday is due to their tremendous intake of dust on the day before. This powder is full of physical peril. It may actually have those disease germs which set up systematic disturbances, the effects of which we commonly call colds: it may, by merely piling in dirt and filth, so irritate the mucous membrane as to do other serious harm. It is a troublemaker in any form.—Boston Herald.

Dream of Wealth Dispelled. A sad but illuminating, commentary on the futility of human hopes when applied to getting rich quick is furnished by an advertisement which recently appeared in one of the San Francisco daily newspapers in the classified columns. Here it is: "I will sell-I have 5,000 shares of a once well-known mining and leasing company; will exchange same for one setting hen and thirteen fresh eggs (Leghorn preferred); only permanent investors need apply. A. J. Moore, Rooms 20-21 Bacon Block, Oakland."

On a Pinch.

Rivers (erasing something he has written)-I want to speak of a baldheaded man and I don't want to use the billiard-ball comparison. Can't you think of something not quite so hackneved?

Brooks-You might say he's as bald as an eggplant.

Rivers (rattling away on his typewritter)-Thanks; that'll do fairly

GREAT THRIFT IN BUYING

Instance of the Persistent Housewife's Economy in Purchasing Haif a Dozen Eggs.

"Just to show you how the small economics practiced by thrifty housewives may sometimes be carried too far," began the driver of the pie wagon, "well, I see a lot of it along my route, but this happened down at the market house. My wife was scouting around among the neighbors and one of them told her that there was one stand at the market where they were selling fresh eggs for fifteen cents a dozen. So she hiked right down there. The market was crowded and she had a hard time, but she pushed along till she came to a butter and egg shop. 'Eggs, sixteen cents,' the sign said, so she plunged along for the next. But eggs were sixteen cents there, too, and at the next place and the next. A little thing like that didn't lick her. though. She hunted for about a half an hour, and at last found the place she was after. The sign cheered her

up a lot. "Your eggs are fifteen cents a dozen here?" she asked, just to make sure. "Yes. ma'am."

"'Well, give me half a dozen.' "And she lays down her eight cents

and walks out satisfied with her morning's work. She got mad when I tried to tell her that half a dozen of the 16-cent eggs would've been just as cheap."

GREATEST MAN IN THE CITY

How Sherlock Holmes Knew Important Individual Was Brought Up In the Country.

"Hah!" exclaimed Sheriock Holmes,

"Very well, Sherl," said Dr. Whatson, "if you wish it I will hah! But

what is the occasion for hahing?" "Have you noticed that man with the grayish hair and the important manner?"

"Of course. I could not very well help doing so. He would attract attention anywhere."

"He was born in the country and spent his boyhood either on a farm or in a small town."

"What is his name?"

"I don't know." "If you don't know his name, how have you found out that he was once a country boy? There is no hayseed in his hair, and I can see nothing about him to indicate that he has not always been used to city ways."

"Of course you can't. There isn't anything of that kind about him. But didn't you hear that man who pointed him out a moment ago say he was the greatest man in this

"Ah, Sherlock, they can't beat you as a deducer. Since you explain it the whole thing is as plain as day."

Her Part in the Task.

It is a wise child who never provides unwitting fun for his elders, but it is a rare child who never makes remarks that set these elders thinking. A devoted leader of the suffrage eause sometimes illustrates a possible point by the story of a little country boy set to picking early strawberries for the family table with the strict injunction: "Now, I want to hear a steady whistle coming from the patch all the while you are at work."

At supper time the strawberries were portioned out, and the smiling boy received an extra share. His little sister thereupon protested that she should be served as liberally as her

"But Willie picked the berries," she was gently reminded. "You didn't help to pick them, did you, dear?" "No." was the unexpected answer. "but I whistled while Willie did!"

Derivation of Word "Caucus."

As to the origin of the word "caucus" there is much diversity of opinion. It has been traced to a North American Indian word "kaw-kaw-kas," meaning to talk, giving advice or instigate, whence came "caucorouse," a chief. More often, however, it is explained, as English, a corporation of "calkers' meeting" and here again there is a variety of choice. One version tells of meetings of the Boston dockyard calkers to elect delegates to represent their grievances against the English soldiers. Another makes it a term of opprobrium, "calkers" standing for humble folk generally. A third explains that it was in a calkers' meeting place that the Boston. politicians assembled.

Forgotten Foods.

It is well to remember that many miants which once were used as vegetables have been allowed to drop out of our bills of fare. Our forefathers, for instance, sometimes dined off elder top and burdock root, and the early shoots of the hop were considered a great delicacy and were cooked and eaten as asparagus. Walter Jerrold, in his "Highways and Byways in Kent," recalls a time when Kentish children could "tell of many pleasant hours spent among the hedges in search of the wild hop top and of the wholesome suppers made upon the well earned treasure ere they learned to think their food the better for being rare and costly.

Complex Accomplishment. "I understand you speak French like

a native." "No," replied the student; "I've got the grammar and the accent down pretty fine. But it's hard to learn the gestures."

ART OF SMILING IMPORTANT

People Do Not Care to Associate With an Animated Vinegar Cruet, Says Writer.

Why is it that most people, as they walk along the streets or ride in the cars have such an unpleasant expression? If one will observe even' casually the people he meets in a day he will be impressed with the pained; and sullen and disagreeable countenances. We live in a rush, and the average person is bent on some errand or business and is absorbed in that; we are all rushing to get something or somewhere. With this absorbing our attention we haven't: time to attend to our facial expression. We are not sure, however, that this is a matter of permissible indifference. If one does not believe that his countenance adds to or detracts anything from the lives or expressions. of others, let him pause for a moment before that now celebrated "Billiken." It is almost impossible to look at the little imp and not smile. The Japanese teach their maids in the hotels and those also in the higher walks of life the art of smiling. They are compelled to practice before a mirror. One cannot stay long in Japan without being inoculated with the disposition to "look pleasant." The "looks pleasant, please," of the photographer goes deeper than the photograph plate.

No one wants to associate long with an animated vinegar cruet. A disposition is easily guessed from the angle of the corners of the mouth; a disposition is molded by compelling those angles to turn ap or down. If a merry heart maketh a glad countenance ft is also true that a glad countenance makes a merry heart-in the one who has it and in the one who beholds. "Iron sharpeneth fron. So m had man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend."-Baptist Commonwealth.

RANGE OF RACHEL'S VOICE

In Speaking, the Famous French Aotress Had a Compass of Two Full Octaves.

A Prussian prince, a cousin of the German Emperor William I., has left some curious notes upon Rachel, of whom he was a great admirer. These have been quoted in a lecture upon the famous actress. The prince studied her elocution from a musical standpoint and took down notes of her voice as she delivered some of her most effective speeches. He found, for instance, that in a passage of Racine's "Bajazet" she went down to F in the bass. In one of "Andromaque" and another of "Adrienne Leconvreur" her voice spoke a word on the upper E, and uttered a cry on upper F sharp. Her speaking voice thus had a compass of two full octaves. But, as a rule, he observed. that she used only seven notes, comsisting of the first seven ascending notes from the bass of the scale of F sharp minor, but with the D sharp-

ened. It would be curious to know-but the prince does not seem to have ascertained-whether this musical notation of Rachel's speaking voice is rigorous and invariable, and it would be worth a musician's while to apply the same study to some contemporary actors and actresses.

Natural Indignation.

A cautious German, who keeps & pawnbroker's shop in Sydney, is in the habit of leaving his daughter in charge while he attends sales to pick up bargains. A Chinaman entered the store the other day to buy a watch. The girl placed four on the counter, and, while her back was turned. John changed the places of the highest and lowest priced watches. He then said he would take the cheapest one, for which he paid and departed. It was not until he was clear away that she discovered the fraud, about which, on her father's return, she told him with many tears. "Never mind, never mind, mine tear," he said; "dose watcheswas all de same price. But wat a scoundrel dot Shinamon must po, don'd he?"

The Sacred Czar. It is not only the Russian Court

Journal which has a circuitous way of referring to the czar. Even in conversation Russians never call a czar a cear. It is not incorrect to use the terms egar, csaritsa and csarevitch, but in practice they are beard only in the Liturgy of the Orthodox church and sometimes from the lips of people. of revolutionary views. In ordinary conversation the czar is called Gosudor, a word which means Lord or Sir. In the Court Circular it is the practice to term the Sovereign Gosudar Imperator, the Lord Emperor. Nobody ever speaks of the czaritsa; she is always Gosudarinya, the Lady, or Gosudarinya Imperatritza, the Lady Empress.

Tall Australian Trees. Australia claims to have the tailest tree in the world. It has long been thought that to California belongs. this distinction, but while California trees are of gigantic dimensions they do not come up to Australia's eucalyptus trees. The tallest tree in California yet discovered was found by actual measurement to be 340 feet high. Australia's record tree can beat this by 140 feet. Baron Mueller (formerly government botanist of Victoria) recently measured the giant. where it grew at Blacks' Spurten miles from Healesville, and founds it to be 480 feet. This tree was, \$1. feet in girth near the root.

L'ABEILLE DE LA NOUVELLE-ORLÉANS