

## QUEERLY INSPIRED

Sickness Also an Aid to Literary Inspiration

Mrs. Howe, who wrote "The Battle Hymn of the Republic," one of the finest national hymns in the world, got the inspiration in bed. Someone had suggested to her that she should set some fine words to the tune of "John Brown," but though she tried repeatedly she could not compose anything that would pass muster. One night she dreamed she had composed the poem, and waking up got out of bed, went to her desk, and wrote the whole poem as it stands to-day.

Swinburne told Mr. Edmund Gosse that "Baudelaire" was written in a Turkish bath. This poet is often a little tropical, and he evidently wanted to get the right atmosphere. A famous playwright lately confessed that almost all his best ideas came to him while rushing about in a motor car. The swift motion seemed to excite thought. So much was this the case that he had his car fitted with a tiny writing table, so that he could jot down all his happy thoughts as they came rushing on the wings of the wind into his brain. When the engine stops the inspiration stops too.

It is a remarkable fact that that poem of spring and flowers, "Oh, to be in England now that April's here!" was written during a bad attack of seasickness in the Mediterranean by Robert Browning. Mark Twain speaks of a man who had the "Oh, my's!" very bad in similar circumstances, but Browning's "Oh, my's!" turned to poetry of the highest order.

## PUTTING THE FIRE OUT

Finding Fires Is Not Sole Task of Forest Ranger

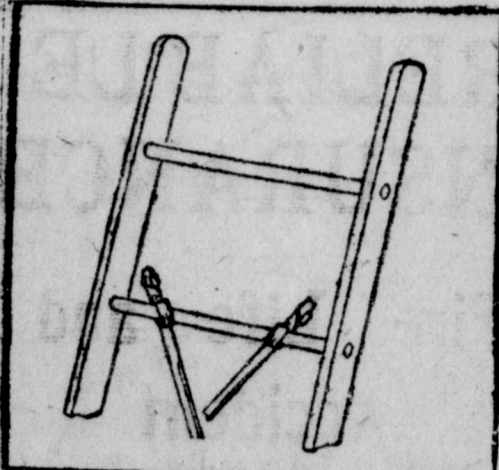
Where there are no known trails time is wasted trying to stop a forest fire at no particular vantage point, until probably hours, and days, in some cases, afterwards when some one has had a look over the ground. This vantage point should be known beforehand, and a concentration made there, with a line of retreat to the next defence, already known, in case of a sudden fall back. With good maps, artificial water supply where natural supplies fail, not a very difficult or costly matter, and some attempt at organization, a portable fire pump would be a very useful and valuable weapon in the hands of the men in the field. There is too much talk as to what should be done and too little action taken in the field. What is wanted is more of this talk put into action. The average forester seems to think that when a decent map and estimate is made that all is done. Both are extremely useful, but do not go far enough.

## Good Butter Helps Demand

Good butter is an essential asset of the dairy business under any condition. Each pound of good butter sold increases the consumptive demand of butter. Quality is the most effective advertising medium; in fact, it is an absolute necessity for the permanency of the business. The better the quality of butter the greater its consumption; the more brisk and the more favorable the butter market, the larger the returns. Quality is also the only really effective means to successfully compete against butter substitutes.

## When Using a Ladder

It is often desirable to have a ladder propped away from the wall or surface on which work is being done. This is very difficult to do with a ladder alone, but it is not so hard if a pair of props are made as shown



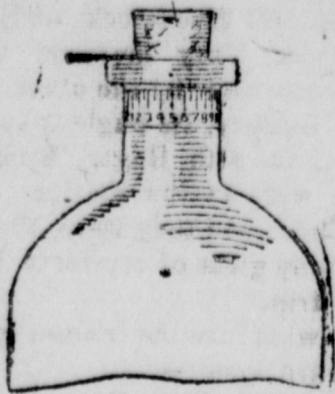
In the sketch and attached to the rungs of the ladder in the proper place.

These props may be made long enough to hold the ladder up from the ground and there may be a second pair made which can be used to force the ladder out from the wall surface. Any blacksmith can make them.

## SICK ROOM HINT

Time Marker in the Medicine Bottle Saves Lots of Worry

This time indicator on a medicine bottle is a convenient thing to have so that the hour when the next dose



is to be taken can be known. A small strip of paper is marked with figures from 1 to 12 and pasted around the neck of the bottle so that the figures will plainly show the hours and half hours. A pin is then pressed into the cork of the bottle.

When a dose of medicine is given the time for the next dose is marked by the adjustment of the pin in the cork over the proper figure. In cases where different kinds of medicines are given at different hours a series of bottles equipped with these markers is a great convenience in the sick room.

## CLEVER FILM ACTOR

This Man Plays Parts on Screens all Over the Country

After all, there's no one quite so interesting and versatile as a character man in a stock company.

William West, for instance, who is one of the best known of the actors in the moving picture business plays almost as many parts as there are days in the year. Sometimes he is a dear old, dreamy musician whose outlook on life is through the windows of an artist's soul.

Sometimes he is a tramp, dirty, poverty-stricken, and grotesque; viewing all things from the standpoint of the hungry under dog.

Occasionally he is just an old man, benign, tottering, and content to live



William West as a Tramp and—



As Nature Made Him

The life of one who has done his work and earned a rest.

He says makeup helps him to hide his own personality as well as his looks.

As he makes the face of the old man he is to play and dons the clothes of that particular, he gradually grows into the atmosphere of the part.

When the last touches have been put on his mobile face, the highlights in the character as he proposes to portray it are fixed in his mind.

## The Largest County

Next to Yorkshire, Lincolnshire is the largest county in England; whilst Lancashire can claim a bigger population than any other county.

## THE COMPOST HEAP

Successful gardening operations necessitate the possession of a good compost heap. It is easily made and a wonderful convenience and help. It stimulates growth in flowers and produces bigger and more brightly colored blooms. For roses especially it is unequalled. A compost heap of manure from cow barns is used by all big rose growers.

The foundation of a compost heap is manure which is best obtained from a cow stable. In case this is not available, strawy manure from horse stables or dropping from poultry houses will serve. Pile the manure about a foot deep, then alternate layers of soda, lawn clippings, weeds and any other vegetable material with manure. In dry weather the heap should be watered and should then be left until the material begins to decay. Turn the heap over occasionally and add some fertilizing material; also some additional clippings, weeds, leaves and other similar material.

One advantage of a compost heap is that it affords a means of converting almost every kind of garbage into valuable fertilizer. A compost heap of this character should stand a year to be really most valuable as a fertilizer. If, however, it has been kept damp and turned frequently it can be used in the course of two or three months. In a year's time a compost heap should be mellow, fine and black and sufficiently moist to make a ball when squeezed in the hand. It should not be wet nor should it emit an offensive odor.

## London Motor Cars

No fewer than 85,941 motor cars of all sorts are registered in London; of these, 22,110 are motor cycles.

## French Champagne

As many as 111,000,000 bottles of champagne are stored in the vaults of French producers.

A patent has been granted in Germany to the inventor of a talking machine connection for dairy machinery, the noise of which, he claims, is so monotonous that it impairs the efficiency of butter makers.

## A REVOLVING HOUSE

You Can Regulate Wind and Shade According to Desire

The newest things in summer houses and outdoor sleeping shelters are the revolving kind. These are made easily.

Design the sort of summer house you want, only don't attach it permanently to the foundations. Build a platform of good stout timber on the usual foundations. Fasten a steel rod at least an inch in diameter in the center. The rod can be as long as desired.

Get a dozen or more substantially built steel casters and attach them to the bottom of the house. In the center of the house fasten a block



to the floor and pierce the block to receive the steel rod.

The idea is that the open part of the house can be revolved so as to catch the breeze or avoid it. Also the occupants can get a change of scenery as often as they like.

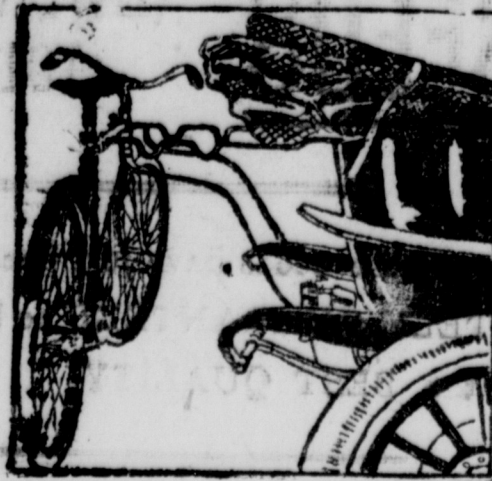
If the casters are well made and the platform on which they run smoothed properly, the house is easily revolved.

## PARIS POLICE METHODS

Criminal Has Small Chance of Escape Once Trail is Taken

The Parisian police department is the admiration of the world when it really busies itself to obtain information. While it takes some time to set the machinery of justice in motion, once the department gets after a thief it keeps up until somebody is arrested.

A new system of using the bicycle in conjunction with the automobile has recently been developed. A squad of policemen are started out on a chase for a thief in an auto. When they

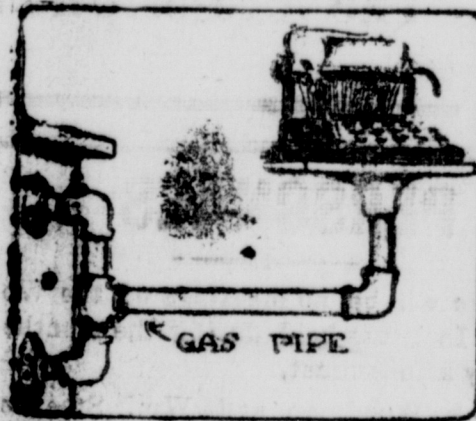


reach a point where the trail divides a man is set on the new trail on a bicycle. Provision is made for carrying bicycles on the rear of the automobile, the hangers adopted having accommodations for as many as three machines.

TYPEWRITER STAND  
MADE OF GAS PIPE

A typewriter is an unsightly thing to have about a room and a typewriter table takes up much space. There is a device that will permit the typewriter being provided with a standing stand that can be attached to a wall or desk or close up against the wall is a real convenience.

Due to the heaviness of a machine it is necessary to make the stand of good stout material and the very best thing imaginable for the home workman is gaspipe. Pipe not small-



er than three-quarter inch should be used. Three three-inch flanges, a T joint and three elbow joints with necessary lengths of pipe and wooden rest for the machine are all that are necessary. The pipe should be screwed into the joints far enough to permit it to turn at least once without weakening the fastening.

The general pattern of the stand is shown in the sketch. The fastening should be done with at least four long, heavy screws to each flange and care should be taken that the screws go into a piece of studding in the stand is fastened to the wall. The entire stand should be painted.

MUSHROOM LOVERS  
UNITED BY EXPERT

Ontario Society Studies Economic Possibilities of Fungi—Millions Wasted But Danger Lurks

A Toronto journalist wrote: Dean of mushroom enthusiasts is Mr. W. B. Raymond, president of the Mycological Society of Ontario; a man who enjoys such a close friendship with 57 commonly found varieties of edible fungi that he hesitates not at all should the spirit move him to stoop, pluck a white or a tan or a beautifully pink mushroom as he walks the field and eats it on the spot—raw. The suggestion of such a feat would make the greatest daredevil among a gang of hero-worshipping small boys blanch with apprehension. Mr. Raymond has been twice poisoned in the pursuit of his pleasantly exciting hobby and tastes a new variety of fungus with circumspection.

For an entire summer Mr. Raymond used mushrooms as a staple article of diet. He is a chef extraordinaire when mushrooms are to be prepared, and from May until October of the summer in question his meat bill was practically nothing. At times he had as many as 33 varieties of the fungi in his refrigerator. Mr. Raymond strongly urges the use of mushrooms to supplant meat to a large extent. He quoted the statement of a scientist to show that the delicacies have as high as seven per cent. nitrogen value.

## Hunt the Forests

He began the study of fungi about 1900, when he wanted a hobby which would take him out of doors. At that time he could not find another person in Toronto interested in the subject

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from a scientific standpoint. A few years later when the meeting to organize the Mycological Society was called, 50 enthusiasts responded. The purpose of the organization was to study edible and poisonous fungi, with special attention to mushroom and toadstool growths in regard to their economic features; their economic value and the injuries which they may bring to forests.

It has been discovered that thousands of trees are killed annually by bracket fungi which drain the life of the tree. This is to be combatted. On the other hand, tons of edible mushrooms go to waste each year because there is not a sufficient demand to have them gathered. At one dollar or more per pound, which the housewife pays the grocer when she wishes to purchase the distinctively flavored umbrella formations, the economic loss is enormous.

## Beware of These!

Woods and meadows abound with fungi, but beware the Amanita Muscaria with its insidious, fatal muscaria. Muscaria looks surprisingly like a harmless meadow mushroom which is quite edible. But the powerful alkaloid which it contains produces death. Likewise, do not become friendly with Amanita Phalloides, which contains the equally deadly amanitine.

The moral is this: Don't wander thither and yon by yourself, gathering in every attractive fungus convenient to you. Take along a competent person, and submit your specimens to him. Mr. Raymond ventured forth collecting unaccompanied by anything except a textbook on his first trip. But he ate very sparingly of the fruits of his labors, and escaped poisoning.

The supply of common sense never exceeds the demand.

## Helping Defend the Empire



English girls at work upon war munitions. Thousands of women who were used to hard manual labor responded when the call came to release the men for active service and keep them supplied with shells and cartridges.