

RICE PAPER.

Shaved From the Snow White Pith of Trees in Formosa.

The so called rice paper is not made from rice, as its name implies, but from the snow white pith of a small tree belonging to the genus aralia, a genus represented in this country by the common sarsaparilla and the spikenard. The tree grows in Formosa and, so far as is known, nowhere else. The stems are transported to China, and there the rice paper is made. It is used, aside from a number of other purposes, by the native artists for water color drawings, and sometimes it is dyed in various colors and made into artificial flowers.

The tools of the pith worker comprise a smooth stone about a foot square and a large knife or hatchet with a short wooden handle. The blade is about a foot long, two inches broad and nearly half an inch thick at the back, and it is as sharp as a razor. Placing a piece of the cylindrical pith on the stone and his left hand on the top, the pith worker will roll the pith backward and forward for a moment until he gets it in the required position. Then, seizing the knife with his right hand, he will hold the edge of the blade after a faint or two close to the pith, which he will keep rolling to the left with his left hand until nothing remains to unroll, for the pith has, by the application of the knife, been pared into a square white sheet of uniform thickness. All that remains to be done is to square the edges.

If one will roll up a sheet of paper, lay it on a table, place the left hand on top and gently unroll it to the left he will have a good idea of how the feat is accomplished.—New York Herald.

Sawze Sawge.

Here is the old King Richard II. way of making sausage: "Pyggs in sawze sawge," or pigs with sage sauce. "Take pyggs yskaldid (scalded) and quarter them and seeth them in water and salt; take them and let them kele (cool); take parsel (parsley), sawge (sage) and grynde it with brede

and yomes of tyren (eggs) narze ysode (boiled); temper it with vinegar somewhat thick, and lay the pyggs in a vessel and seve onward (the sauce over them), and serve it forth." "Take pyggs" is pretty good. Size or number seems of no consequence.—New York Press.

A Hard One.

"Father?"
"Well, what is it?"
"It says here, 'A man is known by the company he keeps.' Is that so, father?"

"Yes, yes, yes."
"Well, father, if a good man keeps company with a bad man is the good man bad because he keeps company with the bad man, and is the bad man good because he keeps company with the good man?"—London Punch.

Why He Wept.

Spartan Mother—What's the matter? What are you crying for? Stung Hero (who has been taught never to cry for bodily pain)—Oh, I—I've sat down on a bee, and—I'm afraid—I must have hurt it!—London Punch.

Books and Their Care.

Books on shelves may be seriously injured if packed too tightly. When quickly pulled out for use the top of the book is likely to come off. Moreover, the constant pressure, if too great, will loosen the whole back in time and the friction in putting upon and taking from the shelf mars the covers. On the other hand, a reasonable amount of lateral pressure is necessary. If placed on the shelves too loosely the leaves tend to open and admit dust, dampness and consequent mildew. In the case of heavy volumes the weight of the leaves will be found resting on the shelves if the books are placed too loosely. This is likely to make the backs concave. Badly painted shelves are another source of injury to books. Care should be taken when paint or varnish is used that the surface is perfectly smooth, hard and dry when the books are put in place and that the surface will remain so during variation of temperature or humidity.—House Beautiful.

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POWER OF A WORD.

Why France Changed the Name of the "Life Saving Belt."

A vivid illustration of the power of mere words over human beings was once brought to the attention of French people by Francisque Sarcey.

After the wreck of the Bourgogne many passengers were found floating drowned with life preservers on. These life preservers were fastened upon the bodies, but round the middle instead of under the arms, and the greater weight of the upper part of the body had tipped the head under water and the person of course was inevitably drowned.

Now it appears that the greater number of the persons so drowned were French. The French term for life preserver is ceinture de sauvetage, or "life saving belt." This word ceinture suggests to the mind in its moments of disorder and unreadiness, such as a great catastrophe brings, the idea of putting on a belt, and as a belt is put round the waist and nowhere else the frightened person instinctively adjusts the life preserver close about the hips.

The result is that as soon as the person so provided falls into the water his body tips over, with the heavier part downward, and the head is plunged beneath the surface.

The word "belt," therefore, was the cause of the loss of many lives in the Bourgogne disaster. Sarcey accordingly proposed to counteract the fatal effect of the French word by renaming the article and calling it a brassiere, which is a kind of waist, and by bringing the word bras, or arm, to mind to teach people to put a life preserver on just underneath the arms.—Chicago Record-Herald.

The Cooling of the Worlds.

All bodies in space are gradually approaching frigidly. When a redhot cannon ball is taken out of a furnace and suspended in the air it parts with its heat and keeps on parting with it until it finally reaches the temperature surrounding it. And what happens to the cannon ball is happening to the sun. The sun is steadily losing its

heat and contracting, and the same is true of the planets and of every other body in space. Just as the arctic circle is ever encroaching upon the temperate and equatorial regions, so the final chill is steadily advancing upon the warmth everywhere.—New York American.

A Modest Poet.

There is a story told of a French poet who inquired of a friend and flatterer what he thought of his last work. "I have arrived at the fifteenth canto," he replied with enthusiasm, "and think there is nothing more beautiful and harmonious in the language."
"Pardon me, there is one thing," said the poet.

"Ah, perhaps you mean Chateaubriand's 'Atala?'"
"Certainly not! I mean my sixteenth canto."

Little Pitchers.

In a certain small town there are two young women whose favorite occupation has been to discuss the affairs of their neighbors. Having met for that purpose one afternoon, they found themselves blocked in the indulgence of their pastime by the presence of the small daughter of the hostess. A slight indisposition of some sort prevented sending the child out of doors, so they were forced to put up with her presence, doing their best, however, to nullify it.

Something eatable was produced and an absorbing new game invented which she could play quite by herself, so they breathed freely and began.

The talk at length reached a point involving the latest scandal of the neighborhood and the retelling of some inside information which must not become public property. A hurried look at the child on the floor found her apparently so occupied with her game that it seemed quite safe to go on if one observed a decent discretion. Voices were accordingly lowered and direct allusion veiled, but when the matter had been thrashed out to their satisfaction the child raised her eyes and remarked with deliberation and emphasis:

"I hear, I know, I understand, and I'll blab!"—New York Herald.



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