





tall and head visible Irritation appears to be the chief factor in causing these curious creatures to inhale air until they swell almost to bursting. The bellies of both the males and females are nearly pure white and are covered with spines which give that portion of their anatomy the appearance **4**' a well ripened jimson bur. Persons who understand the "swell toad" and know what an irritable little rascal it is catch it and rub the spines on its belly, when it swells up until it is utterly helpless. Another curious point about the creature is that as long as it is kept on its back it is unable to expel the air so as to reduce the swelling.

HUMAN QUALITIES. ding to This Writer, Women

Are More Civilized Than Men. Havelock Ellis in his study of "the most interesting beings in the world" -namely, men and women-formulates the conclusions that there is hardly an organ of the body or quality of any kind that is not unlike in the sexes. A man is a man even to his thumbs, and a woman is a woman down to her little toes. Let man, with his vaunted superiority in everything, cultivate a proper feeling of his real standing in view of Mr. Ellis' statement that women "are unquestionably superior in general tactile sensibility and probably superior in the discrimination of tastes," with (to be perfectly impartial) no advantage either way in the other senses, but they have better memories, read more rapidly, bear pain better, recover better from wounds and serious illnesses, are less changed by old age, live longer and have relatively larger brains, especially in the frontal regions. Women, to put it in a few words, are more civilized than men. On the other hand, Mr. Ellis finds men are slower in mind, with greater strength of body (they are two, three and four times as strong as women), quicker in movement, with much greater lung capacity, more blood cor

puscies and exhale twice as much car-bon dioxide, but these last qualities are rather drawbacks than otherwise, since men are less able to endure confinement and bad air.

Be Kind Today. Loss spent on the dead and more spent on the living would bring about many happy results. Hearts are breaking, loved ones wait and tears flow all

because of the withholding of kind words unspoken and letters never sent. The aged father and mother far off in the country would often be cheered did the son or daughter more frequently send them a letter. Behold the sad mistakes of others, their remorse, and profit by the same before it is too late. Today, now, speak the loving word,

end the tender message, write the let-GTHE COURIER"----all the NEWS wait until you forget it or until bitter

be a contrast more striking, says a young woman who makes a fair living writer in Cage Birds, than that by calling at the homes of electricity 'twixt the modern crested canary, with victims and dosing them with a few its wonderful head feather, or the giant Lancashire and the greenish yellow lit. slaves to the habit have their own battle creatures who fluttered and sang teries, but they are afraid to apply the in the orange groves of the sunny is. treatment to themselves. That is praclands whence they take their name, tically a groundless fear, for there isn't The writer sees no reason why canaries may not become the size of the song giving himself an overdose. Still they thrush.

## THE DIAMOND TREE.

A Plant Whereon It is Alleged the Precions Stones Grow.

"I haven't a diamond tree," said the jeweler. "Smith, over the way there, has one, though. At least, so I've been told."

"What is a diamond tree?" "It is a tree where diamonds grow, of course."

"No; seriously. What is it?" The jeweler smiled. "Well," he said, "a diamond tree in

a swindle, a very profitable swindle, and one that can be carried on forever with mighty little risk of detection. I'll explain it to you.

"I am a jeweler and you bring me diamond ring for repairs. I take the diamond out of your ring and put back in its place a similar diamond that is a little, a very little, smaller. You naturally don't discover the trick that has been played on you.

"The same day a brooch is brought to me, and since the central stone of the brooch is a little larger than your diamond, I get rid of yours and keep the bigger gem. In this way, four or five times in one day, I make diamond exchanges, keeping always a better stone than I part with.

"On good diamond trees diamonds as small as pin heads have been known to grow to the size of peas in two days. A good tree, too, won't have only one diamond growing on it at a time. A dozen stones or more will be simultaneously increasing in size and value as the days pass."-Chicago Chronicle.

Revised Version.

"It's curious that women are never great poets or great musicians," said Mr. Meeken

"What did you say?" asked his wife belligerently.

"I was merely remarking that wom en are too sensible to squander their energies on poetry and music to the extent that some men do."

His Terrible Accident.

Admiring Young Listener-And how did you lose your leg? Old Salt-Well, young man, one night in the dog watch, while I was carryin' the baby jib, I stepped on a starboard tack, and blood pisin ensooed.-Pittsburg Dispatch.

## Pormanent.

Jokoe-Charlie told me she made s regular fool of him two years ago. Jinks-Well, hers is thorough workmanship, for the job seems to be per-

shocks from a galvanic battery. Most one chance in a thousand of a person prefer an experienced hand to manage the current. Not all the electricity flends are invalids by any means. Many of them are now as well as they ever were, yet they have become so addicted to the habit that they require the weekly, semiweekly or possibly daily electric thrills to tone them up." New York Post.

THE KISS IN THE TUNNEL.

The Way a Man Had Revenge For an Act of Discourtesy.

"Courtesy always pays; discourtesy never does," said a famous Frenchwoman. "Let me tell you a story of an actual happening:

"Two women occupied a compartment in a railway carriage with one man, a stranger. They were extremely rude to this man. In whispers that he could overhear they criticised his costume, his figure and his manner. He, to be revenged, did a singular thing. "The blackness of a tunnel envel-

oped the car, and under cover of the darkness the man kissed the back of his hand loudly and repeatedly. Then when the train entered the light again he looked from one woman to the other with a significant smile.

"They exchanged glances of suspi-

"'Was it you he kissed?'

"'No; of course not. Was it you? "And neither lady would believe the other's denial, and each in her inmost heart believed the other had encour aged the kiss. The man looked cool and complacent. . When finally he rose to go he said, lifting his hat with a

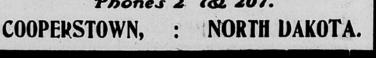
jocular air: "'Have no fear, ladies. I shall never bell which of you it was.' "

## The Sago Plant.

Sago is a nutritive, farinaceous substance obtained from the pith of several species of palms growing in such hot countries as Java and Sumatra. The stem, about fifteen to twenty feet long, is cut into pieces and the pith dug out and placed in a vessel having a sleve bottom. Water poured into the sleves washes the flour thus exposed into a second vessel. When the water is poured off and the residue becomes dry it is known as sago flour. The pith left behind forms what is known as common brown sago.

The worst men often give the best advice. Our thoughts are better sometimes than our deeds .- Bailey.

A brave man is sometimes a desperaso, but a bully is always a coward .--



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