"HAPPY NEW YEAR!"

We welcome '98---Here's to it.

May the New Year witness the greatest shoe selling ever seen in this house; may we do better by you and may you do as good by us; may the shoes of '97 see you safely into '98; and may they lead you to come here for the next pair needed.

H. B. MERRITT,

17 N. Saginaw St., Pontiac, Mich.

Ha, Ha, Ha,

Old Santa Claus is tickled under the fourth rib to see the crowds going to his **headquarters**, W. R. Owen's Bazaar for their Xmas presents, where he dropped so many suitable presents for the Holidays in his pilgrimage over the country. Many thanks kind friends for your kindness to my agent.

W. R. Owen.

Losee Bros. & Co.,

WHITE FRONT SHOE HOUSE,

20 North Saginaw St., - - - Pontiac, Mich.

Leaders in Fine and Medium-Priced Footwear.

We would be pleased to have you visit our store and compare our prices.

Our Ladies' fine Kid Shoes with stock and patent leather tips from $2.50 to $4.00 can't be beat.

A complete line of Children's School Shoes, all warranted, prices from 75c to $.

For Gentlemen's fine wear we are showing the best $3.00 shoes on earth.

All our razor and needle toe shoes for Ladies' and Gentlemen's wear will be closed out at less than cost. Great bargains for some one—out of some sizes.

Losee Bros. & Co., Pontiac.

BIG BARGAINS AT

SPARLING'S.

Bargains at one-half price to close out stock.
This is our last season in Fancy Holiday Goods.

One-half Price. *One-half Price.*

Fancy Baskets
Celluloid Toilet Sets
Collar and Cuff Boxes
Hand Painted Vases
Photograph Frames
Metal Figures
Perfume Atomizers
Pocket Books
Hand Bags

Art Linens
Stamped Doilies
Pillow Shams
Dresser Scarfs
Laundry Bags
Sterling Novelties
Veloures Table Covers
Stamped Tray Cloths
Fancy Ribbons

Handkerchiefs from 5c to $8.00 each.
Gloves and Mittens from 10c to $2.50 a pair.
Umbrellas—$1.00 specials at 83c each.
Wash Goods—10 yard dress patterns extra at 59c, 75c, $1.00.
Dress Goods—Special line of dress patterns at 2.19, 2.69, 4.13 and $4.89 each.
1000 yards Spotted Curtain Muslins at 10c yard.
Special cut prices on Blankets and Rugs.

J. SPARLING & CO.,

155 and 157 Woodward, - Detroit, Mich.

ROYAL OAK OBSERVATIONS.

Miscellaneous Items Pertaining to the Proceedings of our People in General. Our Sick Ones—Social Events, etc.

Fred Muhm was tendered a surprise Wednesday evening.

Mrs. Bert Russell spent Xmas with Birmingham relatives.

Miss Laurla Partridge and niece Miss Viola, spent the holidays in Detroit.

Mr. and Mrs. Robt. McClure, of Warren, spent Christmas at S. Alger's.

Mrs. L. H. McDowell is recovering, after a two week's illness of pleurisy.

Miss Angie Brock, of Beddow, spent New Years with her aunt, Mrs. Wm. Rose.

Our streets are alive with the small boy and his sled during the holiday vacation.

Miss Winnie Truesdell is a guest of her cousins, Misses Ida and Mabel McDowell.

Mrs. Frank McDowell and Mrs. Theo Bernier, made a business trip to Detroit Monday.

Mrs. J. M. Lawson entertained guests from Detroit, Birmingham and Clawson Christmas.

The entertainment in the Congregational church Xmas eve was an enjoyable affair.

Bert Campbell and family, of Birmingham, were guests at Andrew Campbell's last Tuesday.

R. Russell; Mrs. L. C. Phelps and daughter Maggie celebrated Xmas with Detroit friends.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Connor have been spending a few weeks with their daughter in Detroit.

Lester Wright, of Birch Run, was a recent caller on Miss Grace Rose, on his way to Pennsylvania.

Mrs. H. Kimmel leaves tomorrow for Greenfield, where she will spend New Years with her sister.

Mrs. Will Burgess left Tuesday for a short visit with her parents at Owosso.—Willie, how do you like washing dishes now-a-days.

Rev. Ostrander has accepted a call from our Congregational church and moved his family here from Dixcoe this week. They have taken possession of the Hurlburt residence.

The interior of J. H. Heavener's house has been much improved by paint and paper recently and J. H. has been right hand man during the process, but is now ready to go on the road again.

Theo. Bernier and wife of Pontiac, spent Christmas with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. David McDowell. They were accompanied home by little Theodore McDowell to spend the holiday vacation.

Christmas eve will long be remembered by those who attended the exercises in the M. E. church. The distribution of presents was one of the principal attractions of the evening, being drawn from what appeared to be a well, in an old fashioned bucket. The design was very unique. The cantata entitled "The Frost King" was admirably presented and brilliantly depicted.

BEDDOW BOOMINGS.

Small Talk Concerning the Proceedings of our Citizens—Miscellaneous Items.

Will Miller and Jas. Miller, jr., are home for the holidays.

Miss Virgie Beatty has returned to her home near Judd's Corners.

Rev. Mr. Kyle of the U. P. church, has asked to be released from his charge.

Mrs. Porter left last Friday morning for Ohio, called there by the sudden illness of her sister, Mrs. Ingam.

A Christmas tree was held at the Jackson school house last Wednesday night; teacher Miss Lizzie Greer, of Pine Lake.

The Missionary meeting at Miss Mary Miller's was not largely attended, on account of bad roads and stormy weather.

The Fancy Fair held at the town hall last week was a great success in every way; plenty of chicken pie and a good sale of fancy work. Over thirty dollars were raised. The next meeting of the society will be at Mrs. Jos. Croft's in January.

Married, at the parsonage on Tuesday, Dec. 14, Dr. E. H. Smith, formerly of this place, and Miss Emma Beatty, of Bloomfield. Mrs. Jas. Harmon, sister of the groom, gave the bridal supper. A few friends and relatives were present. Mr. and Mrs. Smith left the next day, for their new home in Bay City. They have the best wishes from a host of friends for a prosperous and happy life.

COUNTY LINE LISPINGS

Columnicated by our Chatty Correspondent of that Clime.

Mrs. Cranch is on the sick list.

John Willson is convalescent.

Alpha Parks and N. Ames returned to Wolverine last week.

John Walker is helping in the Mason store during the holidays.

Christmas trees at both the Lutheran and M. E. churches in Warren.

Captain Rathbone and wife, of Algonac, visited relatives in Warren lately.

Geo. Smith, the clock-maker has returned after an absence of several months.

F. Redick wife, and son Fred, with his best girl, attended the wedding of a niece in Detroit last week.

O. Stevens was taken suddenly ill while attending church Sunday evening. He was all right the next morning.

Geo. Bun has sold his land and tile plant to our worthy supervisor, Jacob Hartrick. We hear G. is going to live in the village the coming year.

Village Marshall McBride got a judgment for $27, amount sued for quarantine services. The council would not allow a bill for the whole cost, which will probably come close to $100.

W. McBride secured a judgment against the village for the full amount of his bill, some $27. The expense will be a hundred dollars or over to the corporation. Experience is a good school but a dear teacher.

BIG BEAVER BILLOWS.

Bringing Breezy Blasts from that Bonny Little Burg—Visitors Twitterings of Proceedings in General.

Dr. Anderson and wife spent Saturday with his cousin in Detroit.

S. L. Robbin's and family spent Xmas with Jason Scott's family.

Henry George has gone away to spend his vacation with his relatives.

C. S. has lost his little dog, Prince, his whereabouts are not known.

Don't forget the grand ball to be given in the K. O. T. M. hall tonight.

Robt. Pallister and family, of Detroit, visited his brother, Wm. Pallister, the first of the week.

The K. O. T. M.'s have their stage fixed with a $900 scenery. Look out for plays soon.

L. G. Smith and family and Aunt Sally Lamb spent Xmas with Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Clark.

Fred Schultz and wife of Utica, and Chas. Schultz, and family of Troy, spent Xmas with their father Gust Schultz.

FRANKLIN FRITTERS.

Miss Maude Midgely is spending the holidays with her sisters in Saginaw.

Farnan and Pickering, made a large purchase of cattle recently.

Our school is having the usual Christmas vacation and nearly all schools in this vicinity are closed for a week.

A general good time was enjoyed by little folks and big ones at the church, Friday evening, after an entertaining program of music and recitations, Santa Claus arrived on the scene and many useful and beautiful presents were distributed through the audience.

Daniel Broughton has been suffering from injuries received from falling from a wagon.

Here after, Casper Case will ride a wheel. He was the happy winner of Dan McIntyre's wheel on ticket No. 45.

The sudden death of Clara Rainey, cast a gloom over the entire community.

Wedlock's like wine, not properly judged of till the second glass.—Jerrold.

Never marry but for love, but see that thou lovest what is lovely.—Penn.

Take not too short a time to make a world-wide bargain in.—Shakespeare.

A person's character is but half formed till after wedlock.—C. Simmons.

Guaranteed to Cure.

That's rather strong, but we mean it. If your blood is impure, your nerves weak, your stomach, liver, or kidneys wrong, you can buy a bottle of

Dana's SARSAPARILLA

"The Kind that Cures."

with this guarantee, NO BENEFIT—NO PAY. If, after using a bottle of it, you feel no benefit has been received, you can GET YOUR MONEY BACK.

All Druggists Keep It.

Uncle John and His Son Sam.

An Allegory in Three Parts.

PART I.

In ancient times there lived a boy,
We'll call him little Johnny,
Who left his home to see the world
And fill his purse with money.
He was indeed a clever lad,
Brimful of wit surprising,
He thought he'd work his way alone,
Without the least advising.

He wandered on until he reached
An island in the ocean.
He looked around, and thought he'd found
A place to suit his notion.
He settled there and called it home,
And found life's keenest pleasures,
In making dear old Mother Earth
Yield forth her choicest treasure.

His offspring grew and multiplied,
Beyond all calculation,
Until at last he came to be
A great a mighty nation.
He went to church and paid his vow,
With form of deep contrition,
And make his children do the same,
With regular precision.

But Uncle John, as he was called,
At length grew quite exacting,
His children all observed with grief,
And saw how he was acting.
He said his children must support
The church where he attended;
No matter what their choice might be
Or whether they consented.
Some bore it meek and patiently,
While other ones objected,
But all objections proved in vain,
Their rights were not respected,
One cranky lad, whose name was Sam,
Vehemently protested.
He said his right to worship God
Should never be molested.
The old man spent long years with Sam,
Debating and disputing,
And when he found that would not work,
He fell to persecuting.
This persecution grew so strong,
Young Sam conceived the notion
That he would seek another home
Across the foaming ocean.

He knew it was a fearful task,
And showed much dignity,
But yet he bravely steered his course
Across the broad Atlantic.
He found at last his long sought home,
And there his faith he planted
No matter what his hardships were,
He bore them undaunted

His family around him grew,
And thrived beyond all measure
He made as laws to please his God,
And ordered his land's good pleasure
His father sent across the sea
A kind, paternal greeting,
He said, "My son, come home again,
We'll have a friendly meeting."

The son and father met once more
And held a consultation,
Which ended in establishing
A mutual relation.
And, then and there, both parties made
A suitable arrangement,
By which, in future to avoid
All trouble and estrangement.
But Uncle John had some rude boys
Was up in high position,
Who cared not but to gratify
Their merciless ambition.
They told their father, Sam was rich
And thrifty growing wealthy,
And that his burdens were too light
For one so strong and healthy.

They said, "His tax must be increased,
His burden made more heavy,
Before he'd stand a row with us
He'll bear a handsome levy."
The poor, old, childish Uncle John
Believed what they were saying;
He really thought his plan was right,
His heartless sons were laying,

He sent to Sam across the sea
To know if he consented
Says Sam, "I'll gladly pay the tax
When I am represented."
Says he, "I'll always be your son
And give you my affection.
I'll pay you tribute year by year
In turn for your protection."

"If you will let me come and help
To run the old plantation,
I'll help support it all my life
I'll own the kind relation.
But if you'll not let me in
You halls of legislation,
So help me God, I'll never pay
One cent of your taxation."

Old John sent back a quick retort,
And shouted all the louder,
"I'll blow you straight to kingdom come
With just one sniff of powder!"
And thus the war of words went on,
Each word their temper rolling,
Till John struck Sam a fearful clip
Which set the pot to boiling.

A war of seven years ensued,
And Uncle John got worsted.
He found his bubble of concert
Most gloriously bursted.
He went back home with deep chagrin,
His lips with anger biting,
And said, "I'll be revenged on Sam,
Some other way than fighting."

Good Uncle Sam, as he was called,
Now thought his struggles ended,
He thought his liberties achieved
And settled down contented.
But liberty, that tender plant,
Must be securely guarded,
Or it becomes a loathsome thing,
Just fit to be discarded.

And thus it was with Uncle Sam,
He did not guard his treasure,
It well-nigh slipped from his grip
And grieved him out of measure.
Old Johnny's slave-trade tyrants strove
To rend his home in sunder,
A million lives were sacrificed
Before they were brought under.

And then he settled back once more,
In vain self-satisfaction,
And let his freedom slip away
By criminal inaction.
While his brave sons were fighting hard,
Their home from crime redeeming,
Old Johnny conniveed their pa
By his infernal scheming.

The paper money then employed
Was wonderfully handy.
A business seemed to prosper well,
And everything looked "dandy."
But when old John with envy saw
This happy household rising,
He set his heel upon it then,
With promptitude surprising.

(To be Continued.)

FLOTSAM AND JETSAM.

Only 30 per cent of the robberies committed in London lead to a conviction.

The average age at which women marry in civilized countries is 23½ years.

A Greenwich (Conn.) minister has resigned his pastorate because some of his parishioners would play golf on Sunday.

A well-known society woman of London has an album containing photographs of all her costumes for the past ten years.

Colorado expects to receive not less than $6,000,000 from the state's big fruit crop this year, the greatest the state has ever known.

Instances of extreme old age are more common among those who exercise themselves with gardening than in any other employment.

Maine towns are making preparations to receive the winter visits of tramps. Jails are being put in order and woodyards opened up.

One Franklin (Me.) man has it all figured down fine. There will be just eighteen snow storms this winter. He figured it out by cat tracks.

An enormous slab of granite, weighing fifty tons, and destined for the tomb of a New York millionaire, was quarried at Hallowell, Me., last week.

Japan has at present fifty-six cotton factories, with 760,000 spindles. They have been greatly benefited by the loss of competition through the plague in Bombay.

The rate at which the Zulus can travel upon emergency is astonishing. Some will cover as much as fifty miles in six hours. Eight miles an hour is an ordinary pace.

The captain of a big Atlantic liner, after many calculations, has come to the conclusion that the general size of a fog in the Atlantic is about thirty miles in diameter.

PARAGRAPHS WITH POINTS.

The wise man learns from experience, and also a good deal from his wife.

The man who passes around the hat does not expect to contribute anything himself.

Dr. Swallow, the Pennsylvania prohibitionist candidate, made the expected homeward fly.

The reports that Mrs. Luetgert is still alive are doubtless unfounded. No live woman could have remained silent so long.

A Boston woman died, leaving her entire estate to her parrot. With a good income to spend that parrot will doubtless be a bird.

The Louisville Courier-Journal asks Kentucky democrats to stand by their guns. This seems to be unnecessary advice to Kentuckians.

Ella Wheeler Wilcox has written a poem on "The Traveling Man." This proves that the drummer falls into easy lines occasionally.

The question arises, will the Pullman sleeping car porters follow the example set by their late employer in dividing their vast estates.

Corbett says that he is living on the fat of the land, despite his defeat last spring. Fitz, however, seems to have thrived fairly well on the scrap.

Washington, in the District of Columbia, was founded in 1791, and was made the seat of government in 1800. The capital was founded in 1793.

If some newspaper jokes were printed on thin paper the reader might see through them.

If a man loves a woman he will give up smoking for her sake, but if she loves him she won't ask it.

If riches do not bring happiness they have at least one advantage over poverty—they don't prevent it.

Modern Treatment of

Consumption

The latest work on the treatment of diseases, written by forty eminent American physicians, says: "Cod-liver oil has done more for the consumptive than all other remedies put together." It also says: "The hypophosphites of lime and soda are regarded by many English observers as specifics for consumption."

Scott's Emulsion

contains the best cod-liver oil in a partially digested form, combined with the *Hypophosphites of Lime and Soda*. This remedy, a standard for a quarter of a century, is in exact accord with the latest views of the medical profession. Be sure you get SCOTT'S Emulsion.

All druggists; 50c. and $1.00.
SCOTT & BOWNE, Chemists, New York.

DENEHOLES.

Curious Underground Chambers Found in Kent and Essex.

Many of those who read the other day of a man falling down a denehole and only being rescued after a lapse of four days must have wondered what such an excavation could be. Deneholes are, indeed, except in the case of similar accidents, seldom heard of outside their own immediate neighborhoods in Kent and Essex. They are huge caverns cut in the chalk, and approached by a vertical, well-like shaft, sometimes 80 feet deep, passing through the sand and gravels in to the chalk beneath, in which are excavated a series of spacious chambers, arranged with the base of the shaft as their center. They are found in various parts of the country, but chiefly in Kent and Essex, along the banks of the Thames. Undoubtedly they are the work of man, but their real age and the use for which they were intended has not yet been discovered. The information so far possessed as to the actual depth, shape, etc., is due to the exertions of the Essex Field Club, which some years ago made a thorough exploration of a group of deneholes at Hangman's Wood, near Grays, Thurrock, in Essex. Here, in a copse of some four acres, are seventy-two of these holes, with entrance shafts about twenty yards from each other. At the bottom of each shaft—say 80 feet from the ground level—is an open space, giving access to half a dozen chambers of crypt-like form, some 30 feet long, eighteen feet high and 12 feet wide. They are nearly always of the same form as that shown in the plan, and arranged in the same symmetrical fashion. At the time of the exploration referred to workmen were employed to drive short tunnels through the chalk from one hole to another, and by this means sixty-five chambers were put in subterranean communication. Each and every chamber was carefully examined. The heaped-up sand was turned over and searched for relics, but those found were somewhat disappointing. There was a queer glass bottle of last century, some squarred flints, which had evidently been used to line the top of the shaft, and a few fragments of ancient pottery. But besides these three were found in great number the bones of men and animals that had fallen down the pit, and died. And yet many of these terrible death traps are left unguarded with the top of the shaft masked—and so rendered all the more dangerous—by brambles and undergrowth. Many and varied are the suggestions that have been put forward as to the uses to which these deneholes were originally put. The theory that they were merely ancient chalk pits may be put on one side, for it is obvious that no people would have dug sixty feet for what they could obtain at the surface close at hand. Some have declared the excavations to be old-time prisons, others that they were designed for religious or devotional purposes. Another suggestion and in some respects a plausible one is that they were places of refuge and concealment used when an enemy invaded the Thames. Anyhow, the archaeologist cannot at present decide the matter, so that there is a chance for anyone to go down to posterity as the discoverer of the origin of deneholes.—English Exchange.

Romance of a Barmaid.

The Duke of Chandos, at the beginning of the eighteenth century, was conspicuous for his peculiarities and the magnificence of style in which he lived. Strange to say, at the same time, he was the soul of thrift. His country seat, Canons, had cost him $1,000,000. He dined in public, like the king, with music playing, and was surrounded by his Swiss guards. In 1719 the Duke, while on a journey, stopped at the "Castle Inn" at Marlborough. Just as his gorgeous gilded coach rolls into the courtyard frightful shrieks were heard and a young girl of remarkable beauty, but whose golden locks and white face were streaming with blood, was seen rushing frantically hither and thither, trying to escape from a brutal man, the hostler of the inn, who was striking her with the butt end of a heavy horse whip. The enraged Duke ordered the wretch to stop, but the hostler replied that the girl, who was a barmaid at the inn, was his wife, and he could do what he liked with her, offering, at the same time, with a wicked leer, to sell his right to the Duke. The latter took him at his word, threw down twenty guineas, and when he left the town took the unlucky barmaid with him. The Duke of Chandos had his protege well educated and she developed into an elegant and accomplished woman; she afterward became the wife of Sir Thomas Duval. Sir Thomas, however, lived but a few years, and, dying, left a fortune of £40,000 to his widow. During the interval, however, the Duchess of Chandos also died, and then, in the year 1735 the noble Duke wedded the ex-barmaid, and the chronicles tell us that he never repented the bargain, for he wrote in his will: "I owe the greatest comfort I have enjoyed in this life to my Duchess, Lydia Catherine." And, furthermore, he ordered that in death they should not be divided, and that a double monument should be erected to her.

Veiled Sarcasm.

"Yawa," said young Softleigh, "that dawg of mine is weally a wondah, doncher know. He awctually knows almost as much as I do, bah Jove," "I suppose," replied Miss Cutting, "that it is in accord with the eternal misfitness of things, that he can't express his knowledge in words, and yet is compelled to wear a muzzle."

Washington's Powder Horn.

William Pool, a highly respected citizen of Limestone Hill, Wood county, West Virginia, has in his possession a powder horn which was given to his grandfather by George Washington. The former Mr. Pool and General Washington were adjoining neighbors and very close friends.

Blind English Sportsman.

In Suffolk, England, there is a young man who, though blind, is a good skater, dancer and bicycle rider.

MISCELLANEOUS.

New York Furniture movers came upon a demijohn labeled "pure rye whisky." James Flannigan is dead and Patrick McNulty is dying. The demijohn contained corrosive sublimate.

South Bend, Ind.—Fred Fuerbringer fell dead while watching a Christmas tree. Mrs. John Duey dropped dead while carrying water, and Frederick Altenberger expired while entering a church.

Clarinda, Iowa—Page county has purchased two trained bloodhounds to track criminals.

Wheeling, W. Va.—Joseph Nichols died of hydrophobia. Nichols was bitten in September.

Youngstown, O.—The Lloyd-Booth company is making a pair of shears to weigh 175 tons.

Lima, O.—At Lelpsic, Hallie and Hilda Orem, aged 12 and 15, were suffocated from coal gas from a stove.

Arcola, Ill.—George Conley, a farmer, ordered a lunch in a restaurant and was waiting to be served when he fell dead.

New York—Ex-Vice-President Levi P. Morton has accepted the presidency of the newly formed Fifth Avenue Trust company.

Longmont, Col.—Henry L. Hayward, editor of the Daughters' Ledger, is dead. He was 82 years old and the oldest editor in Colorado.

Valparaiso, Ind.—August Johnson of Babcock was hurt in a runaway Saturday and gave his injuries no attention. Lockjaw set in and he is dead.

Wabash, Ind.—Finder Heckathorn, aged 16 years, disappointed in love, took a large quantity of morphine. She took too much of the drug and will live.

New York—"Aunt Judith" Moore, the first colored woman admitted to membership in Henry Ward Beecher's church, is dead at her home in Brooklyn, aged 74 years.

Youngstown, O.—The Youngstown Library association, which is trying to raise $17,000 to purchase a new building, has received a check from Philip D. Armour for $100.

Sioux City, Ia.—Companies incorporated under Iowa laws must maintain offices in the state. Such is the decision of Attorney-General Remley, under the provisions of the new code.

Melbourne—The Victorian duties on woolen and all materials, wearing apparel and woolen piece goods will be reduced 5 per cent. after Feb. 1, next.

Indianapolis, Ind.—C. C. Franke, a contractor, who disappeared a month ago and was supposed to have been murdered, returned home from Texas.

Galesburg, Ill.—The grocery store of Charles Ridgely has been closed by the sheriff. Liabilities, $2,000; assets the same.

Seattle, Wash.—A careless gunner on the cruiser Oregon lost overboard a costly Whitehead torpedo. It has not been recovered. An inquiry may follow.

Elmira, N. Y.—Rudolph Boericke, aged 33 years, and his brother Edward, of Chicago, were rowing on Keuka lake, three miles from Hammondsport, when the boat was upset. Both men were taken from the water alive, but Rudolph died almost immediately after he was brought ashore.

Lexington, Ky.—Montrose Graham, brother-in-law of ex-Senator Blackburn, is dead. He was a recluse.

San Francisco, Cal.—State Senator Jeremiah H. Mahoney died from the effects of a cancerous growth in his throat.

Beatrice, Neb.—Charles N. Emery, one of the prominent pioneers of Kansas and Nebraska, died here, aged 62.

Oshkosh, Wis.—Mayor Ideson will ask the council to issue a call for a special election to vote on a proposition to buy the city waterworks.

VANITY FAIR.

Pelota may be the next substitute for lawn-tennis in England. It is of Spanish or Basque origin and has long been popular in Spain, South America and (under an Italian name) in parts of Italy. What billiards are to bagatelle and polo to hockey pelota is to tennis (real tennis—not the "lawn" variety). It is played with a heavy ball of leather and India rubber, which is struck by the player's arm. The arm is incased in a solid gauntlet or cestus made of basket work, which gives terrific force to every blow. The game is not for weaklings.

An Indiana woman played a joke on old Dame Nature this summer by inducing a lilac bush to blossom twice in one season. Having heard that picking off the leaves immediately after the bush and bloomed in the spring would cause it to again blossom in the fall, this woman tried the experiment. Regardless of the amusement of her skeptical friends, she stripped her lilac bush of its leaves and succeeded in making the poor shrub believe spring had once more arrived. Accordingly it again leaved forth and by the first of September produced beautiful white flowers, as perfect and fragrant as those which it bore earlier in the season.

Emperor William's long-talked-of visit to the holy land has at last been definitely settled and it is to take place during the coming year. The exact date, however, will depend upon how long they take to complete the new German church at Jerusalem, as his majesty is anxious to be present at the opening. This church, which is being erected on a site granted by the sultan, will be the largest protestant church in Jerusalem. The kaiser will be accompanied by the kaiserin, and it, is not improbable that the crown prince and Prince Eitel-Fritz will also be of the royal party on board the Hohenzollern. The German residents in Palestine are naturally looking forward to the royal visit. Their majesties have no intention of confining their sojourn in Palestine to Jerusalem alone, but have expressed the wish to see Bethlehem, the Dead sea and other places of interest.

THIS AND THAT.

One of the dry-goods stores in Boston has substituted the cry "teller" for "cash."

At Tangent, Ore., a steam plow has been devised, which the inventor thinks will plow fifteen acres a day.

A New Haven man recently received the severe punishment of three months in jail for shooting a robin on Sunday.

Chicago druggists say that the great demand for supposed remedies indicates that the grip is again very prevalent in that city.

St. Patrick's Roman Catholic cathedral at Melbourne, which has been in course of erection for forty years, and has cost £240,000, was consecrated the last Sunday in October.

A Portland dry-goods clerk went to a kissing party in Deering, Me., the other evening and got his mustache so full of tutti-frutti that it had to be cut off.—Lewiston (Me.) Journal.

The fishermen of Iceland now regularly carry oil in their boats to smooth the waves, which enables them to continue at work in weather that before they would not have dared to face.

Old Cairo is changing visibly. By Christmas the electric tramway to the Pyramids will be an accomplished fact, and the eight-mile trip—at present so expensive—will be possible for a few cents.

The chainless bicycle and the tailless horse will next summer go arm in arm, figurative speaking, for the fashion is to drop off more of the horse's tail than ever.—Philadelphia Inquirer.