AN OLD PHYSIC GARDEN.

It Was Loaned to the Apothecaries' Company in 1673 and Still Exists.

The proposal to hand over to the builder the Apothecaries' Physic garden, facing the river of Chelsea, has had one good result. It has elicited the fact to the great relief of all lovers of picturesque London, that the conditions of its bequest save it from the fate which has overtaken Gresham's garden in Holborn, and Tradescant's garden at Lambeth, its older rivals. The garden, which is the oldest of its kind in England, was leased to the Apothecaries' company by Lord Cheyne in 1673, and in 1722 was finally presented to the company by Sir Hans Sloane, whose statue, erected eleven years later, still adorns it.

Evelyn alludes in his diary to a visit to "the Apothecaries' garden of simples," "well stocked with plants under Morgan, a skillful botanist," and he mentions among the curities he saw there "the tree bearing jesuit's bark, which has done such wonders in quartan agues," a "tulip tree and a tea shrub. Evelyn's friend Pepys, too, must have delighted in the wonders of the garden.

He records with patriotic pride that "we have the best walks of gravell in the world, France having none, nor Italy, and our green of our bowling alleys is better than any they have," and he approves the setting "fashion of gardens to make them plain," "only with a little statues, or pots, which may be handsome, and so filled with another pot of such or such a flower or greene as the season of the year will bear."

Here at Chelsea was made, in 1684, one of the earliest attempts to overcome the English seasons, and rear the flowers of sunnier climes by the aid of artificial heat, which was obtained by placing charcoal embers in a hole in the floor of the greenhouse. During the management of Philip Miller, "the Prince of Gardeners" (from 1722 to 1771), the garden acquired an almost unrivalled reputation throughout Europe. We are happily safe in the custody of the Apothecaries' society, by whom they are maintained for the use of the medical schools of London.—Black and White.

When a Man Talks Best.

Among the chief social conditions necessary for conversation are these: The members of any social group must neither be too intimate, too numerous, nor too unequal. In family life, men and women, long familiar, are apt to know too much and to hope too little. Yet, indeed, are the strictly domestic circles in which mental energy would be found for such sustained or animate conversation of the right sort. Some may be too selfish to exert themselves there. Others are chilled by their surroundings. They find themselve underestimated; or, worse, they know every one there so well—again and again have they traveled over each other's minds; or they perhaps remember the disabling saying that "there is in every man or woman something which, if you know it, would make you hate them." For purposes of conversation a man will often find himself more at home when away from home, and among those who, as distinguished from relatives on the one hand and acquaintances on the other, are to be called friends.—Gentleman's Magazine.

The Bread Englishmen Eat.

J. W. Balch, a grain broker, of Detroit, says: In England the bread making is not done in the family, but by the baker. The Englishman does not buy his flour by the barrel, but gets his bread from the baker. The baker uses several kinds of flour. He takes three barrels of Duluth wheat—hard spring wheat containing a good deal of gluten. In this strong flour he can mix a good deal of water, and he prefers to sell water, when he can. Then he adds a barrel of ordinary spring wheat flour and one of white flour (to give good color) made from wheat grown on the Pacific coast. The time was when Michigan used to supply this soft wheat used to make the bread white, but white wheat is running out in Michigan and also in New York. So the world is looking to the western fields.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Ammonia Poison.

Many people are slowly absorbing ammonia poison without knowing it. The use of ammonia in the manufactures has greatly increased of late, and it is unquestionably used as an adulterant in certain food preparations. Official analyses have plainly showed its use even in such cheap articles of every day consumption as baking powders. The continued ingestion of ammonia in even minute quantities as an adulterant in food is injurious not merely from its effect upon the complexion, but because it destroys the tooth of the stomach and causes dyspepsia and kindred evils.

Professor Long, of Chicago, is authority for the statement that if to fifty million parts of water there is one part of ammonia the water is dangerous.—St. Paul Globe.

He Was the Boss.

At an evening party given by the Prince of Wales was a young lord. It was his first invitation and his royal highness showed him particular attention, which so incensed the young [illegible] that he came to regard him well as a particular favorite of the prince. He even went so far as to boast that he would get the prince to sit upon him in person. He was judged if he his prince, then a bet was proposed and accepted. After dinner, when all the gentlemen had retired to the billiard room, the "lord" suddenly called out:

"Look here, Wales! Be good enough to ring for a glass of punch!"

Everybody was thunderstruck, but the prince, with a genial smile, walked up to the bellrope and rang. When the footman came in he quietly said:

"Get this gentleman—his carriage."

Conversation in France.

Relish for conversation has always been shown among the Greeks and the French—that is to say, among the races which have produced the most refined society. Aristotle, when writing on morals, found it necessary to describe even the voice and speech of his ideal "high minded man." It is felt to almost droll to read how for the Greeks in their best age carried it. They appear to have expected a doctor fee to persuade and then to prescribe for the patient. Nay, we are told of one most persuasive orations who was taken round by the physicians to persuade the patients to adopt the prescriptions.

As to France, if Mme. de Staël is to be believed, conversation exists only there. De Quincy, who is one of the few who have written upon conversation, says truly enough that the French, by temperament and qualities of their language, are prompted to rapid and animated exchanges of thought. Montaigne, the most gossiping of Frenchmen, confesses to his love of the society of "diverse and alide men." "The conversation also of beautiful and well bred women," says he, "is for me a great concourse. He adds a quotation from Cicero to the effect that he "Montaigne" has large experience in this matter. Montaigne must have had a pleasant time, for if he were put to it he would, as he tells us, sooner lose his sight than his hearing and speech. The study of books he holds a "languishing and feeble motion that heats not, whereas conversation teaches and exercises at once."

Who, too, that has read Mr. John Morley's brilliant sketch of the social life of Diderot and the Encyclopedists doubts the high place that conversation held in France in the last century? "All is lost," said one, when Raynal appeared at the court of Louis XVI without buckles in his shoes. Yet such recent pictures as Mr. Orchardson's Salon de Madame Recamier, and such recent books as the "Life of Mme. Mohl," show that these social traditions were not lost with the shoe buckles. French literature and life, in truth, from the time of Montaigne to our own day, are full of proofs of the large place which conversation held and still holds in their ideas of enjoyment.—Gentleman's Magazine.

Toughening Lamp Chimneys.

A correspondent of a trade journal lately asked, "Has the tendency of hardened glass to break spontaneously yet been overcome?" The reply to the inquiry states that "this great difficulty with hardened glass has been overcome by Frederick Siemens, by placing the hardened cold plates in boiling water and allowing them to cool very slowly, and that he has made some very interesting experiments before the Berlin Polytechnic society, showing the power of resistance of such plates. A plate about eight inches square and more than an inch thick was supported at its corners and on it was dropped a weight of more than eight pounds, from different heights up to six feet, without breaking. A second and a third test were made, the third plate breaking under a weight of one pound six ounces falling eleven and a half feet, while the same weight falling two feet broke an ordinary plate of the same dimensions. In applying this principle of toughening the glass to lamp chimneys we should prefer to place them at first in cold rather than boiling water. If the water is heated slowly to the boiling point, kept there for some time and then cooled as above, cheap chimneys can be used for months or until some accident befalls them. We can testify from experience that the plan is a successful one.—Hall's Journal of Health.

Wonders of the National Park.

One of the wonders of the National park of the Yellowstone are the barren and oddly shaped rocky columns known as the "Hoodoos," because of their resemblance at a distance to fantastically dressed human beings. Hoodoo mountain lies about fifty miles to the southeast of the grand canyon of the Yellowstone, and forms a distinct attraction by itself. High up on the side of the mountain and observed from view at a short distance, lies a low, flat tract or basin, containing large numbers of rocky pillars, shafts and spires, worn into the most grotesque shapes by the action of the elements.

The forms of animals, human beings, churches, and a multitude of animate and inanimate objects can be traced in the rocks, the variety being limited only by the imagination of the beholder. The storms of ages have worn deep channels among the rocks, through which the visitor wanders as in a bewildering labyrinth. It is a weird spot, and one never tires of threading its rocky mazes and gazing upon time's sculptorings.—West Shore.

Curing a Practical Joker.

In a country house in which practical joking has fall away one of the guests was walking down stairs to resume to the gang, which had rang for dinner. The chief farceur of the party was a small guardsman, who seemed to be happy only when tormenting other people. The guest in question was a peaceful man, on whom the farceur had had his eye for some time. Calculing up with him as he was going down stairs he seized the tails of the evening coat and, with a jerk of the wrists, tore them right up to the collar. The guest did not lose his temper, but quietly seized the joker by the nape of the neck and proceeded to kick his with deliberation and penetration down stairs into the hall, where the other guests were considerably astonished at the unceremonious entrance of the practical joker.—New York World.

Extravagant.

Some Japanese real estate speculators went out and founded a town and advertised as a leading feature "a great avenue, fifteen feet wide, running the length of the town." This extravagant width of land was reported to the government, and the speculators were ordered to lessen down or go to prison.

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The Interior Land and Immigration Company, Denver Colo. Pueblo, Colo. Butte, Mont. Ogden, Utah.

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