

AN ARTFUL RUSE.

Tommy: "Mamma, didn't you say last week you wanted the carving-knife and the chopper sharpened?"

Mrs. Suburb: "Indeed I did. Bless his little heart! How thoughtful you are!"

"Well, I'll take 'em round to the cutler's for you."

"How sweet of you to offer to do such things for your mamma, my little cherub. I'll wrap them up."

"No, don't wrap them up. I want them to show. There's a boy out there waiting to fight me; but I fancy when he sees me coming he'll go home."

GOOD FINANCING.

An eccentric old fellow on the point of death expressed a wish for each of his sons to deposit £10 in his coffin. When they returned from the funeral the family lawyer inquired:—

"Well, did you carry out your father's last wish?"

"Certainly," replied the two eldest.

"And you, my boy?" the lawyer inquired of the youngest. "Of course, you complied with the old gentleman's wish?"

"Oh, yes," responded the son. "But as I hadn't £10 in cash I took out the other £20 and put in a cheque for £30."

SMILE RAISERS.

Visitor: "Is this a good place for rheumatism?"

Villager: "Oh, yes, sir! I got mine here."

Mr. Roberts: "Five hundred elephants are needed every year for making billiard balls."

Aunt Jane: "How strange that people can teach such big beasts to do such delicate work."

Flora: "How very sympathetic Mrs. Brooks is."

Dora: "Yes; she is never happy unless she is feeling sorry for someone."

Elderly Hostess: "So you are the daughter of my old friend, Margaret Blank. I was at your christening 18 years ago; but how you've changed!"

He was—well, very, very careful. Each week he would go over his wife's cash account, growling and grumbling. Once he delivered himself of the following:—

"Look here, Sarah, mustard plasters 1s; two teeth extracted, 5s. There's 6s in one week spent for your private pleasure. Do you think I am made of money?"

The storm was increasing in violence, and some of the deck-fittings had already been swept overboard, when the captain decided to send up a signal of distress. But hardly had the rocket burst over the ship when a solemn-faced passenger stepped on to the bridge.

"Captain," he said, "I'd be the last man on earth to cast a damper on any man, but it seems to me that this is no time for letting off fireworks."

Bobby had been taken by his father to witness the opening meet of the season. One of the horses was very restive. Said Bobby: "What's the matter with that horse, daddy?" "It's balky, Bobby," said his father. "Well, what's the man patting him for?" "Oh, you see, he's coaxing him. Then, perhaps, he'll go." With a somewhat injured air, Bobby replied slowly: "That's not the way you treat me, daddy, when I'm balky."

PILES

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SCIENCE SIFTINGS

(By "VOLTA.")

Photographs of Air.

A new method of photographing rapid currents of air, their size, shape, and direction has been worked out at the Cook Aviation Field, Ohio, and a newly-found means of rendering air visible to the camera makes it possible to obtain pictures of many of the air currents connected with aeroplane flight which have been up to the present chiefly a matter of surmise. By means of a wind tunnel, through which air is forced by a 200-horse-power motor, gales of wind rushing along at a rate of 500 miles an hour can be generated. Not only are instantaneous photographs of wind and air currents obtained, but also cinematograph pictures, which reveal secrets likely to prove of great value in helping with the safer construction of aircraft. The secret of making air visible to the camera is a simple one. Moist air is used, and, by causing it to expand rapidly through suction, the moisture condenses and appears like a cloud. The minute particles of water condense owing to the presence of dust, and fine dust is accordingly introduced into the wind tunnel. Getting clear photographs, once the air is made "cloudy," is an easy matter, thanks to the recent advances in the preparation of photographic plates.

The Camphor Tree.

There are still large tracts of virgin camphor forests in Formosa. Camphor trees grow best on moderate well-drained slopes, not over 4000 feet in elevation, when the sun's rays can reach them. Nowhere else in the world have these trees attained such height and girth. In the past, trees with a basal circumference of from 35 to 40 feet have been noted, but these have inevitably fallen victims of the woodman's axe. Perhaps, in the uncharted forests, where the savage still holds sway, more of these noble specimens still grow unscathed. At present a camphor tree with a basal circumference of 20 feet is considered a very ample specimen.

In point of view of value (explains a writer in the *National Geographic Magazine*), few trees can rival the camphor. An average tree, say with a basal circumference of 12 feet, will yield about 50 picule of camphor (approximately 6600lb), which, at the present market price, is worth about £1000.

Strictly speaking, there are no camphor forests, as the camphor laurel is only one of a number of trees growing together.

Native stills are scattered here and there throughout the districts, where crude camphor is collected, packed in tins, and carried down precipitous mountain paths on coolies' backs to the nearest railway line, whence it goes to the refinery at Tahoku.

The camphor trees are unusually beautiful, with shapely trunks and widespreading branches profusely covered with graceful leaves of a soft green. According to an article appearing recently in a semi-official publication of Formosa, the camphor produced in the island at the present time is obtained entirely from natural-grown camphor trees, the supply of which, it is anticipated, will be exhausted within ten years. For more than a decade, however, the camphor monopoly-bureau has been planting camphor trees at the rate of more than 3000 acres a year. In 1919 its programme was expanded to more than 12,000 acres, and this will be the annual acreage planted in future.

The adze is used in reducing the camphor trees to chips, which can be placed in retorts for the distillation process. As the camphor vaporises, it passes through pipes into submerged vats, which are so arranged that cool water from a mountain spring can flow over them to hasten crystallisation.

In recent months the demand for Formosa camphor has been exceedingly heavy, especially among celluloid manufacturers. For the three months of 1920 the Japanese Government allotted to the United States 379,635lb.

YOU MAY REGRET HAVING MISSED THIS XMAS, BUT YOU CAN MAKE AMENDS NOW BY SENDING A PHOTOGRAPH IN RETURN FOR THE ONE YOU RECEIVED. GO TO: **Gaze & Co., HAMILTON.**