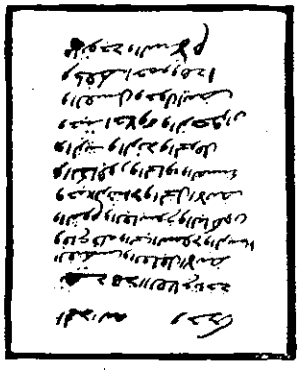
ODDMENTS FROM EVERYWHERE.

Prescription of an Arabian Physician.

Medicine is supposed by the followers of Islam to possess some supernatural power, and this popular notion enables many Arabian physicians to acquire a great reputation for wisdom at a very small cost.

A physician of this type is not well educated. He knows how to read and write his own tongue and he is acquainted with the properties of a number of plants, which he uses at haphazard in the treatment of all diseases, but beyond this he knows nothing. In his opinion the most effective prescriptions consist of verses which are selected from the Koran and written on coloured bits of paper. These bits of paper are then to be swallowed by the sick persons, who are assured that they will speedily become convalescent.

Sometimes the prescription is placed in water until it is at the point of boiling, and then it must be drunk by the unfortunate patient. No matter how



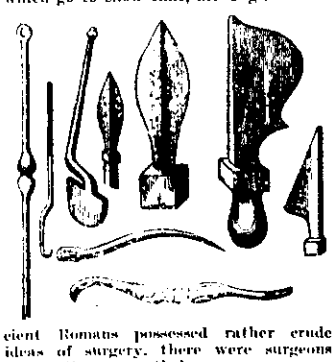
absurd they may seem, the patients faithfully follow the prescriptions, and never hesitate to pay a high price for them. Nay, at the bidding of their physicians they even perform the most foolish antics, and if they are not dead by that time, they are next obliged to swallow doses composed of plants, roots and metals.

In case of fever, a more extraordinary method is employed. The physician writes on an egg certain vereses from the Koran, and then bids the patient hatch the egg, informing him that if a chicken comes out he will certainly be cured.

Patients suffering from other maladies usually make a mixture of mercury and ferrocyanrue of potassium, which they place over a fire so that they may inhale the vapour. Among other substances used in prescriptions are fat, codfish oil, garlic, aniseed, pepper, salt,, angelica, asafoetida, orange water and vinegar. The druggist does not prepare prescriptions, but delivers the ingredients, the quantity of each being solely designated by its monetary value, and the patient himself is expected to mix them.

Roman Surgery.

Excavations recently made in Pompeii brought to light a variety of surgical instruments like those presented above, which go to show that, although the ancient Romans possessed rather crude ideas of surgery, there were surgeons among them nevertheless.



Curious Marks on Men's Coats.

The general lack of picturesqueness about the present-day male attire is frequently lamented, yet how many people are aware that the average man carries on his coat at least two historical relics, one of which dates back to feudal times?

This relic of the times of William the Conqueror consists of the two buttons worn at the back of a morning or frock coat. The buttons are, of course, useless for any practical purpose; and, inasmuch as they are certainly not decorative, you may naturally ask what they are there for.

Sartorial historians now tell us that these two buttons come down to us from the sword-bearing age, when they were placed at the back of the coat for the purpose of supporting a sword belt, which, together with the sword, has long since been discarded, save by military men, the sole remaining evidence of its existence being the two buttons. Thus, to this day they remain on our coats as mute witnesses of the days that are gone.

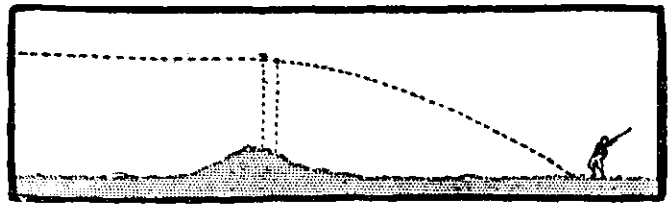
The other historical relic which still survives in our modern coats is the nick in the lapel.

Though you have been wearing coats and waistcoats ever since childhood's early days you have probably never thought to inquire whether or not there is any reason why tailors should continue to make this nick.

It is now recalled by sartorial experts that when Napoleon first felt the sway of boundless ambition he tried to implicate General Moreau in Richegreu's conspiracy.

As you will doubtless remember, Moreau had been the Man of Destiny's rival, and was an exceedingly popular soldier; but, in the circumstances, with Le Petit Caporal in power, it was not safe to publicly express sympathy with Moreau. So it came about that his admirers and supporters secretly agreed to nick their coat lapels to show their fellowship, the outlines of the coat, after the cut had been made, forming the letter M.

It would be interesting to learn if men carry any other marks about their dress which have historic origins or associations.



KILLING A BIRD IN MID-AIR WITH A GOLF BALL.

FINE DRIVE, WHICH SENT THE BALL INTO THE HOLE AT A SINGLE STROKE

Remarkable Golf Feats.

To the achieving of remarkable feats in golf there is no end. The other day a modest-looking Scotsman—for some Scotsmen can look modest even when they are playing golf—stepped up with a driver and made a fine drive over a bunker on a golf course near London, the ball going straight into the hole.

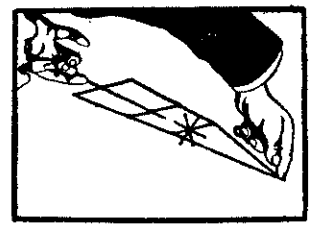
The other day a sparrow happened to be in full flight across a golf course in the Midlands just as a player had sent his ball on a long drive. The bird and the ball came in contact in mid-career; and it is difficult to determine which was the harder hit, since both fell to the ground together.

A correspondent sends us an account of what is perhaps the strangest golfing feat on record. On a northern links a player lately made a drive, and, owing to a miscalculation, the ball struck a boulder and bounded on to the roof of a cottage situated on the links, finally lodging behind the chimney. The player, being of the pertinacious sort, climbed on to the roof, and, sitting astride it, took careful aim, driving the ball from its hiding place, and thereby finishing a long hole in six strokes.

The Windmill.

Do you want to build a windmill without expense, or the help of water and steam power? The illustration shows plainly that we mean only a pretty plaything, set in motion by the power of our lungs.

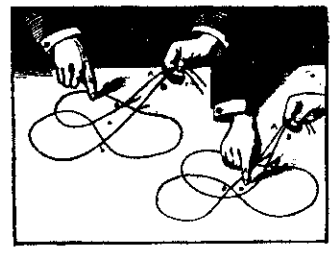
We need several pieces of straw such as are used in summer to suck cooling drinks from a glass. We cut a piece of straw seven inches long. This is going to be the tube by which we set the mill in motion. Then we cut off two pieces of straw of equal length (three inches). We split these two pieces carefully with a penknife in four parts (each two inches long), and bend the split parts back in such a way that they stand perpendicularly like spokes of a wheel. We stick



them, as the wheel of the windmill, on a thinner piece of straw (four inches long) in such a way that the split and bent two parts form a wheel with eight spokes. After this we build a framework of straw, as shown in our illustration. In the middle of this framework we insert the wheel, after piercing the sides of the frame with a penknife. Behind the wheel we insert a bar of straw, to strengthen the frame, and stick the blowing tube through it and the base of the frame. The illustration shows how to hold the windmill and how it is set in motion.

With a Piece of Cord.

Take a piece of cord about two yards long, hold the two ends with the thumb and index finger of the right hand and form the figure shown



on the left side of the illustration on the table. The task is to pull the cord off the table while another person is trying to prevent it by placing the index finger on any spot inside the figure formed by the cord. You may be certain that anyone will select the part of the loop marked with O. When we now pull the two ends of the cord it will slide past the finger that is trying to prevent it.

Let us start over again.

We lay the cord again and declare that if the partner places the index finger on the same spot of the figure the finger will be caught and the cord will not be removed. The partner places the finger on P, we pull, and the cord is actually held fast.

Solution: The partner has not noticed that we have changed the loops of the cord. By comparing the two figures in our illustration you will notice the change. In the figure on the left the right end of the cord forms first the loop a, while in the figure on the right it forms first the loop behind it, so that in this case the loop a belongs to the left end of the cord.