

she opened the first she danced for joy, on seeing herself in a beautiful hand mirror. Underneath the clear, bright glass was written: 'As you are.'

Her overflowing joy being restrained by her desire to examine the other parcels, she opened the second. What was her horror on beholding an empty skull—hideous and terrible it appeared to her—a cruel witness of the insignificance of life.

She burst into tears as she read the words written underneath: 'As you will be.'

How sad for one who has centred all her happiness in this world's pleasures, to think she will one day come to an end so bitter. The poor girl was disconsolate, and with great reluctance opened the third parcel. What a contrast! It contained a beautiful picture of our Blessed Lady, who smiled upon her. Underneath were the words: 'As you ought to be.'

'Yes, beautiful Lady! dear Mother Mary!' she exclaimed, drying her tears, 'I will begin to serve her faithfully from this moment, and I shall think more of that bright Land where true beauty never fades, because it is of the soul and where all the saints rejoice forever. And she kept her word.'

FOR CHILDISH HANDS

There are numbers of small jobs around the house that boys and girls can do (remarks the *Sacred Heart Review*). Fathers and mothers should insist on these little things being done by the children. It helps the children to have something to do. It trains them to do bigger and better work later on in life. Parents who through mistaken kindness do not insist on their children taking some part in the work of the household are doing their offspring no service. They are, in fact, injuring them.

ODDS AND ENDS

Johnny came home the other night in high glee, wearing the arithmetic medal. 'What is that for?' asked his mother. 'That's the prize for doing examples!' said Johnny. 'I did this one: "If our new baby weighs eleven and a half pounds, and gains an ounce each day,"—cause you told Mrs. Smith she did yesterday—"how much will she weigh when she's twenty years old?"' And the answer was four hundred and sixty-six pounds. And the teacher said I earned the prize!

Lady Visitor—'I've just had a letter from my son Reggie, saying he has won a scholarship. I can't tell you how delighted I am. I—'

Rustic Party—I can understand your feelings, mum. I felt just the same when our pig won a medal at the agricultural show!

'Physical culture, father, is perfectly lovely. To develop the arms I grasp this rod by one end and move it slowly from right to left.'

'Well, well,' exclaimed her father, 'what won't science discover? If that rod had straw at the other end you'd be sweeping.'

FAMILY FUN

Twirling an Egg.—To execute this little experiment you need a hard-boiled egg and a smooth china plate. To be sure that the experiment is going to be successful keep the egg in a perpendicular position while it is being boiled. Place the plate upside down on the table, allowing it to stand out a little over the edge of the table, to be able to catch it quickly with your hand. Place the egg in the centre of the plate, and putting the thumb of the left hand on both ends of the egg, give it a sudden twirl, causing it to turn around in quick motion. The egg will gradually stand on one end; then you grab the plate, and all you have to do is to keep the egg in motion, which is not difficult.

How they Crossed.—A father and his two sons wish to cross a river, which it is impossible to do without a boat. They have a boat which will carry only sixteen stone (224 pounds), but the father weighs eight stone. Yet in less than half an hour they are all across the river. How do they manage it? The riddle is an old one, but a new answer, offered by an English paper, is more ingenious than the trick solutions that the reader probably remembers. Here it is: The two sons cross in the boat. One comes back to the father. The father then crosses. The other son goes back again with the boat, and then the two sons cross together.

All Sorts

A Russian does not become of age until he is 26.

For every ton of gold in circulation there are 15 tons of silver.

The average amount of sickness in human life is nine days out of one year.

The coal consumption per head is greater in England than in any other country.

A snail student has ascertained that it takes the little creature 14 days to travel a mile.

It requires 50lb of candle to produce as much light as one thousand cubic feet of gas.

He: 'Do you think it would be foolish of me to marry a girl who was my inferior intellectually?'
She: 'More than foolish—impossible.'

Niece: 'Weren't you shocked, uncle, when you heard that Harry had died and left me a widow?'
Uncle: 'Well, no. That's about all I ever expected he would leave you.'

Sleepy Guest: 'Halloo! is it 7 o'clock? I declare I am so sleepy that I can't open my eyes.'

Head Waiter (who has knocked at the door): 'I'll bring you your bill, sir, if you like.'

'What would our wives say if they knew where we were?' said the captain of a schooner which was beating about in a thick fog. 'Humph, I should not mind that,' replied the mate, 'if we only knew where we were ourselves!'

'Oh, Willie, Willie,' exclaimed his mother, deeply shocked and grieved, 'you have disobeyed me again. How often have I told you not to play with that wicked Stapleford boy?'

'Mamma,' said Willie, washing the blood from his nose, 'do I look as if I had been playing with anybody?'

A French report from China describes a curious way the inhabitants have of obtaining gold. Large flocks of geese are kept to work the gold fields. Periodically they are tested, and those found to be of a certain weight are killed and their crops emptied of their contents. In this way an average of £70,000 worth of gold is obtained annually, all of which is shipped to Peking. The geese killed are afterward dressed for market, and fetch from fourteen to twenty cents apiece.

In the mountains of Tyrol it is the custom of the women and children to come out when it is the close of day and sing. Their husbands, fathers, and brothers answer them from the hills on their way homeward. On the shores of the Adriatic such a custom prevails. There, the wives of the fishermen come down about sunset and sing a melody. After singing the first stanza they listen awhile for an answering melody from off the water, and continue to sing and listen till the well-known voices come borne on the waters, telling that the loved one is almost home. How sweet to the weary fisherman, as the shadows gather around him, must be the songs of the loved ones at home that sing to cheer him, and how they must strengthen and tighten the links that bind together these dwellers by the sea.

Every February 11 is celebrated in Japan the great annual festival of Kigensetsu, the anniversary of the foundation of the empire by the first emperor, Jimmu-tenno, B.C. 660. The Japanese reckon their present era as from this date, and it was on February 11, 1889, that Mutsuhito, the 121st of the dynasty, promulgated the present constitution of the empire, the fundamental principle of which is clearly stated in its first article. 'The empire of Japan shall be reigned over and governed by a line of emperors unbroken from ages eternal.' The organisation of a parliament took place in 1890, which in the Japanese reckoning would be 2550 from Jimmu's setting up his capital at Kashiwara, in the province of Yamato, which is regarded by Japanese historians as the beginning of the empire.

The shipwrecked sailor on the reef
Was captured by the cannibal chief,
Who had a dreadful cold!
The sailor offered him that sure,
Safe remedy: Woods' Great Peppermint Cure!
It saved the savage woolly-haired,
And in his gratitude, he spared
The mariner wise and bold!