

WEATHER SIGNS.

In evening a red-tinted horizon—bright and dry.
 Dazzling sun at mid-day—rainy.
 Ring around moon—rain.
 Thin vapor before moon—rain. If fog rises—clear.
 Fog heavy—wet.
 Vapor over horizon—stormy.
 New moon lying on back—a drought.
 If sun goes down in bank of clouds—snow or rain.
 Red sunrise—wet weather.
 Clouds in east in evening—fair day.
 Clouds in west at sunrise—pleasant.

CRUELTY TO PAUPERS.

Stitch, stitch, stitch, went the village bootmaker's industrious needle, as he sat in his dim little shop hard at work. He was particularly anxious to finish the pair of boots he was repairing, for, they belonged to his best friend, the village postman.

Consequently it was with a feeling akin to vexation that he saw Mrs. Chinwag enter his shop and ask for a strong pair of laces, but he got up at once and produced them.

"I can recommend these," he said, with conviction. "You'll find them as strong as steel, for," he added, "they are made of porpoise skin."

"What!" she shrieked. "You inhuman creature! I've read in *Oliver Twist* of the cruelties them wretched paupers have to suffer, but I didn't know that bootlaces was made out of their skins!"

And so long did it take to explain matters that the unfortunate postman had to wait till the next morning for his boots.

THE INVENTION OF NECESSITY.

He had been born tired, but Nature had not supplemented this characteristic with an immunity from the pangs of hunger.

He had been cowering under the thatched roof of a little cottage for some time, wondering how he could procure a meal for himself, while the rain pelted down, a continual reminder that his boot-soles were of the thinnest.

At last the rector's wife here in sight, hurrying along under the cover of a huge umbrella, and the hungry man accosted her with his well-practised whine.

"Spare a copper, kind lady," he begged. "I have an aged mother dependent on me."

"But surely," said the good woman, "you can find some means of supporting her? Necessity, you know, is the mother of invention."

"Not as regards me, lady," replied the tramp. "I'm hungry, and I don't mind confessing that in my case, mother is the invention of necessity!"

SMILE RAISERS.

"Yus! -an' I says to 'im: 'You shove any more water in my milk an' I'll like it down ter the 'Town. 'All an' 'ave it paralysed by the local Anarchist."

Circus Manager: "So you want a job as circus attendant, do you? What steps would you take if a lion were to escape?"

Applicant: "Good long ones, guv'nor!"

The Wife (in disgust): "You'd be much better off if you followed my advice."

Husband (losing heavily): "What's that?"

The Wife: "Don't back horses that don't win!"

He: "I will be your slave for life. I will rise in the cold grey of dawn and minister unto you, my angel, until the moon sets her lamp above. And, moreover, I will lay my fortune at your feet."

She: "How much have you got?"

He: "Ten pounds."

Political Agent: "Well, Mr. McPherson, and how are you? And how is Mrs. McPherson? And the children, how are they?"

McPherson: "Thank ye, they're a' weel. But your man will no' get ma vote even if ye wur tae speir hoo ma gran'mither was!"

PILES

Can be instantly relieved and quickly cured by the use of **BAXTER'S PILE OINTMENT**. This excellent remedy has been a boon to hundreds of sufferers all over New Zealand. Sent post free on receipt of 2/6 in stamps or postal notes by **WALTER BAXTER :: CHEMIST, TIMARU.**

SCIENCE SIFTINGS

(By "VOLT.")

For Better Weather Forecasts.

A new solar watch tower is being built by the Smithsonian Institute in the Hala Mountains in the Arizona (U.S.A.) desert from which great things are expected. In this region the sun shines from a cloudless sky almost every day in the year so that daily observations may be made of the amount of solar radiation. This information will make it possible to forecast the weather and the temperature more accurately than ever before. The same institution has for some time maintained a similar station at Calama, Chili, where conditions are especially favorable for such observations. The Weather Bureau of Argentine has received daily telegraphic reports from the Chili station and as a result has enjoyed remarkably accurate weather forecasts, as well as advance information as to the amount of rainfall. By combining the observations made in Chili and Arizona the weather prophet expects to greatly increase the accuracy of his forecasts.

The Hand Grenade.

The hand grenade is by no means a modern invention; in fact, the French used it as early as 1594, naming it after the pomegranate because of its resemblance to the fruit. After a long period of disuse it made a reappearance during the siege of Port Arthur. Since then there have been many developments, and the grenade as used to-day is of very complicated and delicate mechanism.

The Americans have paid particular attention to it—their patents office has considered no fewer than 300 designs. At the beginning of the great war the Russians used crudely-made grenades that cost little over a shilling apiece. But the casualty lists of the users being nearly equal to the enemy's it was not a popular weapon, and was soon dropped.

The grenade used by the British is known as the Mills pattern. It is operated by a timing device set for five seconds. After being thrown it works in this way: A lever is automatically ejected, letting go the striking-pin, which releases and fires the cap igniting the fuse. This burns for five seconds and ignites the detonator, which explodes the charge of powdered ammonal. The fragments of the grenade, numbering about 60, scatter in all directions, and are effective within a radius of 100 feet.

The shell of the grenade is of cast iron, and is lacquered on the outside with a solution of gum shellac and methylated spirit to prevent rust.

A Chinese Secret.

You have noticed, on an old plate, the network of cracks in its surface. They are there because the glaze has cracked, and can be seen because the dirt has worked into the earthenware through the cracks.

You also know that the colored pattern on some kinds of pottery wears off after a time, while that on other kinds, especially on some porcelain, will remain there for ever. Why is this?

There is a kind of pottery and metalwork made in China and Japan which, for permanency and beauty surpasses anything European manufacturers have ever been able to produce. It is commonly known as Chinese and Japanese enamel-ware. The Chinese have known how to make it for about 2,000 years; we do not know how to do it to-day. Such consummate skill is required, and the ingredients of the pigments used have been so well guarded, that although we know the process we have been unable to duplicate the work.

Life is the pitch of the orchestra and we are the instruments. The discord and broken string of the individual instrument do not affect the whole, except as false notes; but I think that God, knowing all things, must discern the symphony, glorious with meaning, through the discordant fragments that we play.

"WOMEN'S WORK IS NEVER DONE."

So the old proverb says, and there is a good deal of truth in it. One way of making the work much lighter is to do the weekly washing with "No Rubbing Laundry Help." It takes the dirt out of the clothes as if by magic, and no hard wash-board rubbing is needed. 1/- packets. Refuse imitations.