

EDITOR'S TABLE

EDITORIAL CHIT-CHAT.

DRYING WILD-FLOWERS.—A correspondent asks us the best way of drying wild-flowers. The first thing to do is to get some blotting-paper; and of this the red kind is the best, at least for succulent plants. If you have not got a napkin-press, you will require two nice smooth pieces of board about the size of half a sheet of the blotting-paper, and four rather heavy square stones, which, for convenience and appearance sake, may be incased in gray linen-bags, the strings of which should form loops. The plants must be spread out in the most natural manner. Small plants of those whose roots are remarkable, like the wood-sorrel, and many species of birches, are best dried whole if the roots are well cleaned and quite free from moisture. It is often necessary to remove some of the leaves and flowers when they are too much crowded. Light weights are useful for keeping parts of refractory plants in position while the other parts are being settled. The blotting-paper, when folded in two, will form pages about twenty-four inches in length, and fifteen in breadth. Place the plants on the sixth page of the blotting-book, which, however, should not be stitched together at the back. Then turn over to the twelfth page (soft, moist plants require more paper over them than this for the first few days, and hard, dry ones, such as ferns, require less,) arrange more plants on it, and so on till the stock of blotting-paper, flowers, or patience is exhausted. Then place the pile of plants and papers between the boards, and lay on one or two of the weights. Leave them undisturbed till the next day; then dry the papers well, replace the plants, and add an additional stone. Repeat the same process for the next two days. After that time it will be sufficient to dry them once or twice a week. When quite dry, the specimens have to be fastened down with strips of paper and classified. Families that contain but few species can all go on the same page. The herbarium must always be kept in a dry, warm room, and under a light weight. There is a kind of paper called botanical paper, but it is expensive, and blotting-paper does very well.

THE WAR OF THE BONNETS.—The strife still goes on, in the fashionable world of Paris, between the partizans of the Empire bonnet and those of the half-handkerchief one. We think the latter will carry the day there, as it has done here. Let the milliners try to introduce the ugly Empire bonnet, with its large, flat brim, if they will, their labor will be lost, few purchasers will be found to patronize them. The small half-handkerchief bonnet is infinitely more graceful, and will continue the popular favorite during this season at least. Somehow ladies contrive to wear these tiny bonnets over the scaffoldings of hair puffed out with frizzettes in all directions. The crowns are altogether suppressed, and over the back hair either gauze, *crepe*, or tulle scarfs, or else long and wide ribbons are allowed to fall.

"RUTH."—Everybody is familiar with the story of Ruth, one of the most beautiful in either Pagan or Biblical literature. Our principal engraving, this month, is a very happy illustration of the heroine. She looks, in her calm beauty, just the one to say, "Where thou goest I will go, thy God shall be my God, and thy people my people."

COQUETTE VS. CROQUET.—In the next number we shall finish "The Missing Diamond," a story that has increased in interest every month. In the October number we shall begin "Coquette vs. Croquet," which our readers will find to be the best, of its kind, ever written by Frank Lee Benedict.

COMES OF THE EMPIRE.—Comes continue, in Paris, to possess all the favors of fashion; but, in fact, in order to conform to the actual taste which prevails, it is only necessary there to rummage in old family jewel-cases, and hunt out ornaments which have not seen daylight for many, many years. The long pendants of both malachite and lapis-lazuli, so fashionable in the days of the First Empire, the black mosaics, with such subjects as animals and groups of flowers, chatelaines with three long pendants, can now all be utilized. Young ladies in France go and ask their grandmothers to select from their old stores of jewelry, as those ornaments which are made to order are now only copies of old patterns. But never, at any previous time, has jewelry been so abundantly worn during the day as at present.

BETTER AND MORE ATTRACTIVE.—The Springfield News says of this Magazine:—"It is no groundless claim which Peterson's asserts in proclaiming itself the best and cheapest of the magazines. For, indeed, we know not where else to look for so much taste, beauty, variety and excellence at so inconsiderable a price. Two Dollars is but a scant remuneration in these times for the labor bestowed on a monthly periodical. As the world goes, we should naturally look for a deterioration in quality as the inevitable accompaniment of Peace prices in war times. But there is not a trace of this in Peterson's Magazine. It is better and more attractive than even of old we knew it."

CHOICE BOOKS FOR YOUNG FOLK.—Mr. J. S. Claxton, successor to William S. & Alfred Martien, No. 606 Chesnut street, Philadelphia, has just issued three very excellent books for juvenile readers. One is, "The Two Friends," by Miss C. M. Trowbridge, a very interesting story, and with a good moral. Another is, "Clifton Race; or, Thou God Seest Me," by the author of "Win and Wear." The third is, "Ida Kleinvoegel," also, like the two first, a well-written tale, calculated to instruct as well as to amuse. All three of these books are handsomely illustrated.

CIRCULATION A TEST OF MERIT.—The Henry (III.) Courier says:—"Circulation is a good test of merit, and during the last year 'Peterson' had about one hundred and fifty thousand subscribers, and this year it will have well on to two hundred thousand. Only Two Dollars to single subscribers, with club rates and premiums, by which it can be had for much less."

WE DO NOT PURCHASE goods, or other articles, for subscribers. We mention this in order to prevent persons sending us such commissions. There is nobody connected with "Peterson" who has the leisure to attend to such matters; everybody, publisher and editors, is busy, all the time, in preparing novelties for our three hundred thousand readers.

THE SMALL NECK-TIES made of unbleached *battiste*, and trimmed with Valenciennes, with lace patterns inserted at the ends, are very fashionable. Lace is now sewn round collars with scarcely any fullness, and black velvet is run in and out of the insertion. The black velvet is tied at the back and falls as low as the skirt.

"A BORN COQUETTE."—The vain little thing is already at the looking-glass, and practicing the airs and graces that, by-and-by, will ensnare her victims.]