

ORBITER DICTA.

Seek the sunlight is the advice of all present day hygienists. Patients on the sunny side of the hospital wards recover soonest. The person who always walks on the sunny side of the street outlives his shade-loving brother by Ten years. Sleep in rooms where the sun has shed his rays all day. Bask in the sunshine all you can.

If the actual rate of increase and present economic conditions of life continue, the population of England and Wales will have doubled itself in the year 1936, and 50,000,000 of human beings will be massed within the streets and lanes of twenty overgrown cities, at the head of which will stand a Babylon of which the world has never dreamed.

It is a strange fact that the right hand which is more sensitive to the touch than the left, is less sensitive than the latter to the effect of heat and cold.

The quantity of meat thrown overboard into the Atlantic is very great. Out of 185 cargoes of animals sent to British ports in one year from Canada—consisting of 61,092 head of cattle, 61,392 sheep, and 75 pigs—658 cattle, 1,170 sheep, and 1 pig were committed to the deep during the voyage. Of the 432 cargoes imported from the United States to Great Britain, comprising 138,661 head of cattle, 30,317 sheep, and 17 pigs, 1,570 of the first and 857 of the second class of this live stock were thrown overboard during the voyage, thus numbering 4,256 animals that were pitched into the sea for the year.

One of the most ancient English customs is that of the "Trial of the Pyx," which is the final trial by weight and assay, by a jury of experts, of the gold and silver coins of the kingdom. There are records of this ceremony as far back as 1281, and frequently in earlier times the sovereign presided in person. Last year the trial took place on July the 1st, and according to law one coin out of every 15 pounds' troy weight of the gold coins of the year, and one coin out of every 60 pounds' troy weight of silver coins, were placed in the pyx, or chest, for the testing by the jury. The coins are tested by melting, by the application of acids, and by weighing in scales so adjusted as to be capable of weighing to the 1,000th part of a grain. The results were highly satisfactory, demonstrating the practically absolute accuracy of the mintage.

Experience shows that accidents are far more liable to occur with the right leg and arm than with the left. Makers of artificial limbs supply many more appendages for the right side of the body than to the other.

The daily income of the principle rulers is said to be: Emperor of Russia £6,000; Sultan of Turkey, £4,000; Emperor of Austria, £2,500; Emperor of Germany, £2,000; King of Italy, £1,600; Queen of Britain, £1,600; French President £1,200; King of Belgium, £400; President of the United States, £35.

One of the largest cheques ever drawn was one for over £3,000,000, paid through the Clearing House. This was drawn on Messrs. Glyn and Co., and was paid to the Bank of England.

The Queen's chief cook is paid £700 a year.

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HORSE BLANKETS,
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A NOVEL in a NUTSHELL, CHAPTER I.

"And why, dear Samuel," asked the lappy girl, who had only five minutes ago brought the tardy, but as subsequent events had shown, better-late-than-never, swain to his knees, "why do you insist upon our marriage taking place the week after next?"

Samuel dropped his voice a note below the octave to give the proper amount of pathos to his reason, and replied:

"Because, dearest of all that is dear to me in this wide world—because life, even though we are but young, is all too short for such love as ours. Because you are mine now—you have sworn so, and sealed the compact with a kiss which I hold sacred; therefore, the sooner we begin to live absolutely for one another, the longer will be the great joy of our lives. So, light of my life, to-morrow week."

CHAPTER II.

The precise nature of the leading event in this chapter, it would be common misdemeanour to inflict upon the reader. With all our faults, we will not descend to bombarding our readers with the old, old chestnut blossoms. Conjure up your own visions of lace veils, white satin rosettes, the air full of showers of rice old slippers, etc.—and pass on.

CHAPTER III.

THREE years have elapsed.

"Well, I say the meat isn't done," yells Samuel, "and you can say what you like. And everything's on the same principle in this house, for sheer want of proper management. If you, for want of home training can't do it, for heaven's sake, let us have a housekeeper who can; my blessed life's not worth living. What! You'll go and consult a solicitor and get a separation? By Jingo! if you only will I'll pay your cab-fare! Cruelty? Bosh! I'm too considerate to you—that's the trouble. It is the fact of my always studying you and your every fad and petty fancy that has developed your innate and general cussedness. I little dreamt that you were so very hot—Colman's mustard is a bald-headed baby to you! You vixen—you vindictive woman—you female Coffee-cooler! Very well, go to your father, but don't with your invariable malevolence take the key of the beer-cellar with you—put that tea-pot down, Jane Emma, put it down—say what you like, but—(crash). Great Jupiter, my eye's out!—Hi—murder—"

Finis.

** We have, during the long evenings of winter, been reading some samples of American novels; and, in order to give our readers an insight into the 'beauties' of the cheap novelette, we have boiled down and condensed a few specimens.

The foregoing may be accepted as the quintessence of a vast amount of trashy literature that is foisted off on the public under the guise of domestic novels.

EDITOR: There are not enough feet in this line, sir.

POET: Feet, sir? Feet! I don't sell it by the foot. It's a poem—not a plank.



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