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A Miser's Career.

Said Archbishop French in one of his lectures, "the man who enslaves himself to his money is proclaimed in our very language to be a 'miser' or a miserable man." On Wednesday, December 10th, a death occurred in the Toronto General Hospital, the circumstances of which tend to make one think the derivation of the English noun "Miser" from the Latin adjective miser, meaning pitiful, woeful, in a sad plight, and in another sense, very stingy, miserably covetous, not inappropriate. Some days ago a man of 70 years, dressed in unseemly and malodorous rags, presented himself at the hospital and, representing that he was a pauper, very ill, was admitted. His case proved to be one of pneumonia, and he promptly died. In disrobing for bed he showed some concern about a red handkerchief, which was knotted; and he also displayed something like affection for his vest. These articles of his attire were therefore put aside. After his death, a hospital nurse found \$17,000 worth of securities or scrip in the handkerchief, and there was discovered \$14,000 more sewed into the lining of his vest. Further investigation revealed that he was a holder of shares in various mortgage and other companies to the extent of close upon \$100,000.

This wretched object of civic charity, Ed. Hyman, who gave at the hospital the name of Henry Zolinski, a ragpicker, and who had also prevailed upon his Jewish confreres of the city to grant him for a time an allowance from the synagogue fund, was a walking example of miserly hypocrisy. He had lived in Toronto for some thirty years. Not only did he get meals and money by imposing on his church, but he went about the outskirts of the city asking and receiving alms from poor people, under the guise of poverty, while he had shares in a dozen different financial concerns, and his income was probably \$5,000 a year. He had shares in the Canada Permanent, Canadian Loan and Agency, Dominion Savings, Union Savings Loan companies, the Western and British American Assurance companies, the Dominion Telegraph, the Toronto Electric Light and the Canada Cycle and Motor companies. Illustrations of the niggardliness of the wretched man are given in his buying newspapers and then appealing, at night, to the passer-by to give him an extra cent or two for them, as he was starving. Time and again he used to call, at dividend periods, at the Western Canada Loan and the Canada Landed Credit offices, and say: "Have you an envelope for me? Yes. Ah, I will take the letter; you need not mail it." And thus he would save and hoard the stamp of the letter. Such men, of no use to themselves, and leeches upon the community, are not fit to live. No wonder, therefore, that regret is not expressed at the death of this poor miser, in whom love of gold appears to have extinguished natural feeling and affection.

Why Women Age Quickly.

Women become old in appearance more quickly than the members of the sterner sex. The most important factor in this fading of the bloom of youth among women is worry. Speaking generally, a woman has to depend upon a man for her living.

A man, if he be worried, has to throw it off and turn his attention to current business duties; the wife's duties are confined to the household, and are chiefly mechanical, thus leaving her mind free to occupy itself with any subject of uneasiness that may arise.

If a woman is to protect herself from the ravages of worry, and so retain her youth for a longer period, she must come into more frequent contact with other people—as her husband does—and read good books; she must relieve the monotony of her duties and the limiting influence of confinement within four walls by taking outdoor exercises—a walk every day or a spin on a bicycle; in short, she must exercise the body and mind in a healthful manner, and she will find the bloom of youth and health remain with her for years after it has faded in other women

of the same age.

"The ordinary woman," says a celebrated physician, "leads such a monotonous existence that her mind has no occupation but worry. What she needs is to come out of herself much more than she does. She must have intercourse with more people and take more exercise. This can be done without neglecting the home, and every right-minded man will do his best to secure for his mother, or his sister, or his wife, these aids to the retention of youthfulness of body and mind."

The Yucatan Toe.

The toes of civilized people have lost much of their cunning as helpful members of the body in any work that requires skill. The Maya people of Yucatan, however, have kept the free and easy use of the toes in doing many kinds of work. It is said that the Maya women, who always go barefooted, will pick up a pin from the floor as easily with their toes as with their fingers. An archeologist who has spent some time among that people in the interest of the Peabody Museum, of Harvard University tells the following anecdote of his landlady at Chichen Itza:

Coming into the house on day, the American noticed that the pig had been rash enough to trespass upon the domain of the mistress of the house. The woman was in close pursuit of the intruder, but piggy would look in any direction other than toward the door.

Had she been compelled to stoop and seize the animal with her hand, the outcome of the chase might have been doubtful. Mayan training, however, gave her a great advantage. She reached out her foot as the pig ran by, seized him by the tail between her great toe and her second toe, and with a graceful swing of the leg she loaded the pig some yards beyond the threshold.

When told by the American that he had never seen the thing done in his own country, the Mayan woman replied that it was as easily done with the toes as with the fingers.

He Asked a Conundrum.

It was on board an Atlantic liner, and every night a few of the choice spirits among the male passengers would assemble in the smoke-room, consume the spirits of their choice, and tell one another stories. There was one fat, stolid man, however, who never spoke a word. On the last evening he was appealed to.

"Tell us a story," they said. "You have always been silent."

And then the fat and stolid one spoke. "I cannot tell you a story," he said; "but I will ask you a conundrum. 'What is the difference between me and a turkey?'"

They all gave it up. Some saw a resemblance, but none could tell the difference. "The difference," said the stolid man, "is that a turkey is not stuffed with chestnuts until he is dead."

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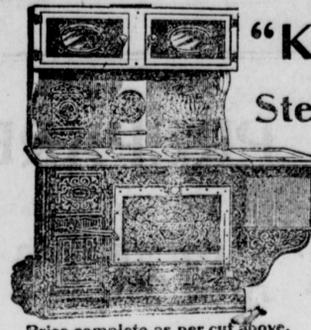
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Curling-Irons at Sea.

For many years most steamship companies have had as one of their most rigid laws the rule that no contrivance for the purpose of heating curling-irons should be taken on board ship by passengers. Notwithstanding this rule, says the writer of an article on "Dangers Courted by Women," in Cassell's Saturday Journal, the heating of irons on shipboard continues.

Women take with them a small spirit lamp and a bottle of methylated spirit or alcohol, for the purpose of heating tongs, thus endangering their lives and the lives of others. When lighted these lamps give forth a large and brilliant flame. On top of them, in the middle of this flame, there is a little rack for holding the irons. Now let the ship give a sudden lurch, and over goes the lighted lamp, falling, perhaps, upon a chair or a sofa or bedding, so that the setting fire to the contents of the stateroom and afterward to the whole ship may be but the matter of a moment.

It would be impossible to conjecture the number of ship which have caught fire because of the determination of a woman passenger to curl her hair in defiance of the rules, but it is certain that fires have started on many a ship in this way. The writer knows three women who have confessed to having started small fires in their stateroom, which fortunately they were able to put out themselves.

A few years ago, at the time of a terrible disaster to a certain ship, a bottle of methylated spirit was found near the body of one of the victims. This had the effect of starting a sort of crusade against the curling of hair by means of heated tongs; but the reform lasted only a short time, and brought about no permanent change in the manner of hair-dressing. Women still clung to the heated irons. The recent announcement that the proprietors of one great line of ocean steamers have placed in every stateroom of their newest ship an electrical apparatus for the heating of curling-tongs is a curious illustration of the tenacity of fashion, to follow which many women will even endanger their own lives and those of others.

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