

FUN FOR LITTLE ONES

Some Little Tricks to Amuse the Children Indoors

Amongst all sorts of amusing experiments which can be made with tumblers, sticks, forks, and spoons, perhaps one of the most favorite ones with children is the penny and tumbler trick.

If you fill a tumbler with water—so full that it is possible without overflowing—and observe the line of the water you will find that in the middle of the tumbler the water is slightly concave—that is, forms a depressed line just as if it had been scooped out. This, which is caused by the natural weight of the water, is however, not apparent to the usual uninitiated, and although the water might, on the edge of the glass, be almost on the point of overflowing, any child can challenge a grown-up person to put in it many coppers without spilling a single drop of water.

To perform this little trick, the copper must be put exactly in the centre and dropped very gently, first inverting the edge in the water. Great will be the surprise of all concerned to see that, according to the size of the glass, five or six coppers can thus be put in until the water in the centre comes level with the sides, when, of course, the water will flow over.

A most amusing experiment might be tried with a lighted candle. Take a tumbler half full of very cold water and, having lighted the candle, hold it sideways over the tumbler. The hot wax will pour in drops into the water, when the coldness of the latter will congeal the melted wax immediately it touches the surface of the water, thus creating a rough-edged little ball strangely like the flower known as the "lily of the valley." After a good many of these flowers are produced in this way they are threaded one at the time on a long thin piece of wire, a small knot preventing the flower from slipping through.

The wires are then twisted lightly over each other to form the spray of "lilies," which, when mixed with strips of green paper cut and twisted to imitate the long pointed leaves, makes a most charming and interesting ornament.

TABLOID INFORMATION

France has about 40,000 acres planted in almond trees.

Nine experimenters in X-ray work have died from its effects.

Telephones are used to teach parrots to talk in a London bird school.

The port of Genoa is to be enlarged and improved at a cost of nearly \$7,000,000.

A corkscrew has been specially designed for lifting paper caps from milk bottles.

New Zealand will make wireless compulsory for passenger carrying vessels.

The United States is officially estimated to have 20,567,000 horses and 43,000,000 cattle.

LOOKING UP THE TOWER

Quaint Ceremony Conducted on Nightly in Old London

Very few people are aware of an ancient custom which is still kept up at the Tower of London. Just before midnight a beef-eater and the chief yeoman porter secure the keys from the governor's house to "lock up." Having received the keys, they proceed to the guard-room.

"Escort for the keys!" calls out the porter, and a sergeant then marches off, and the sentries they pass issue the usual challenge of "Who goes there?" to which the answer is "Keys." Arriving at the entrance to the Tower grounds, the Lion's Gate, the porter locks the gates, and the party returns to the guard-room, the sentry challenging as before and receiving the same answer. However, on arrival at the guard-room again, the sentry stationed there stamps his foot, at the same time giving the usual challenge.

"Keys," replies the porter. "Whose keys," the sentry asks. "King George's keys."

"Advance King George's keys, and God's will." The porter then says, "God bless King George," and all present respond with "Amen." The keys are then returned, and returned to the governor's house, where they remain until the next night's ceremony.

Kaiser's Night Sign

The Kaiser has adopted a novel style of displaying the Royal Standard on his motor cars. A flag, on which is emblazoned the words "God with us," is painted on transparent glass, which is electrically illuminated at night when he is in the car so that it will be recognized from a long way off.

Noiseless Shooting Gallery

Recent developments in the art of shooting have led to the invention of a noiseless shooting gallery. The inventor, a Canadian, has provided the gallery with a special arrangement of mirrors and lenses, which enables the shooter to see his target without the usual noise of a bullet striking.

RED ROSE TEA "is good tea"

FACTORIES IMPROVING

Question of Abolishing Whistles is Now Raised

In commenting upon an order of the Board of Railway Commissioners forbidding the railway locomotive engineers to use the steam whistle within cities except for the purpose of warning people in danger, a paper advocates that city councils should pass by-law absolutely forbidding the use of steam whistles in factories. "That senseless and useless custom originated at the time when towns were so small that all employees in a factory could be reached in this way and warned to begin work for the day," says the paper. "There are thousands of helpless invalids in every large city to whom the sound of scores of steam whistles is a fearfully torturing infliction."

The desire to exterminate the steam whistle is so radical that it is suggested as an alternative that manufacturers be advised to consider how necessary a steam whistle is to a factory. It is no doubt a fact that the increase in the use of timepieces and time recording devices has reduced the necessity of a steam whistle to a great extent. Factory employes now leave home guided by their own timepieces or by the many public clocks which can easily be seen in all large places, while the stimulus of the time recording clock which punches their time cards is probably as effective as the blast of a steam whistle. In some places, however, for example, where a large number of the employes in a factory are foreigners, the language of the steam whistle is easily understood.

The point raised is only one of many connected with the problem of reducing the number of unattractive features of industrial life. The old idea of a factory was that it was a dirty place, poorly ventilated, unsanitary and disagreeable, but that these were necessary evils. A factory town was considered to be a most undesirable place to live in. Industrialism as applied to a community was a reproach. Of late years a great change has been taking place. The object now is to make a factory attractive. Many factories in Canada are surrounded by beautifully kept grounds, and lawns well planted with flowers; the walls are covered with vines, the interior of the buildings are well ventilated, well lighted and equipped.

Canada's Egg Production

The value of Canada's annual egg production is officially placed at \$23,509,000. The hen coop, therefore, is a great deal more to the nation than a hobby of the farmer's wife. It is one of the big agricultural industries of Canada, as the following comparative figures indicate: Value of eggs.....\$23,509,000 Value of barley..... 14,605,000 Value of corn..... 14,510,000 Value of fruit..... 12,233,000 Nevertheless Canadians do not produce nearly enough eggs for themselves.

The Oldest Presbytery

Nearly a century and a quarter ago the Presbytery of Truro, N.S., was organized and stands in the honored position of being the most ancient in the Dominion of Canada. At the time of its formation, it consisted of five ministers and two elders. Owing to paucity of laborers it could do little to supply the spiritual necessities of the sparse population. Here and there throughout the Maritime Provinces there were several families of Highlanders who had emigrated from Scotland who were not privileged to enjoy the ministrations of the Gospel. One of their own number, after the formation of the Truro Presbytery, the Rev. J. McGregor, D.D., was the great pioneer of the Presbyterian Church in Nova Scotia.

Navigating With no Chronometer

The French sea captains who take their vessels across the Atlantic every spring to fish on the Newfoundland Banks navigate almost exactly as they did in the days of Columbus. Of the 280 French sailing vessels on the Banks last year 240 were fitted out in Brittany and Brittany. Their captains found their way across the endless wastes of the ocean with no difficulty. They take observations of latitude, but they have no chronometers and are unable to tell their longitude except by guesswork.

TO PREVENT FIRES

Place a metal stove board on the wood floor under the stove, and extending at least twelve inches in front of the ash-pit door. Protect all walls and partitions within two feet of any stove with a metal shield, leaving an air-space between the shield and the wall. Leave no kindling or other wood in the oven over light. Do not hang clothes too near the stove or stove-pipes.

See that the lengths of stovepipes are well fitted together, free from rust holes and parted seams, wired firmly and fitted perfectly into the chimney. Stovepipes passing through partitions, walls, floors, attics and roofs are dangerous at best. Where these must pass through partitions, walls or floors, always use a large, ventilated double thimble. You should examine the stovepipes in the attic. They may come apart or rust. Fluff and spider webs are likely to gather on and around them, to be set on fire when you least expect it.

Chimneys should be built from the ground up, and never rest on wood supports. The settling of the woodwork will cause cracks in the chimney. Nor should the chimney walls be used to support joists or other woodwork. Soft brick and poor mortar are often responsible for defects in the chimney. Use a good quality of brick and cement mortar. Chimney walls should be at least eight inches thick, the flue of ample size and lined with fire clay or terra cotta. Never stuff up the flue holes with rags or paper, nor cover them with anything but a metal stock. Chimneys should be cleaned frequently.

Protect all woodwork above and around boilers or furnaces within three feet, with a metal shield, also all woodwork near furnace pipes. It is best to rivet the lengths of furnace pipe together to prevent dis-jointing. The pipe should fit perfectly into the chimney. Examine the pipe frequently for rust holes or other defects. Keep them free from dust, fluff and spider webs, which are easily ignited.

Defective stoves, boilers, furnaces, pipes and chimneys should be promptly repaired or replaced. Beware of overheating stoves, boilers, furnaces and pipes.

Ashes should never be placed in wooden receptacles or bins, on wood floors or against wood partitions, walls, fences, buildings or any other woodwork. Use metal receptacles only, and dump ashes away from all buildings.

QUALITY OF COWS

Government Advice is to Give Each Cow Individual Care

It is still possible to find dairymen who never dig deeper than the surface knowledge of the whole herd giving so much milk, counting simply the total weight sent to the factory one day, or per month, or again simply the average yield per cow for the factory season. A plain fact that cannot be impressed too strongly is that cows have individuality, says a communication from the Dominion Department of Agriculture. What makes two cows yield quite different weights of milk and fat when all conditions are practically equal? Even supposing a cow's interior economy were made visible and luminous, has any man the requisite knowledge to fathom all the mysteries of milk manufacture? We do know this, the yield of milk and its percentage of fat are apt to vary from day to day most strangely. The first half of the milk drawn may not contain more than half as much as the latter half; the cow may have some slight sickness; some of her delicate nervous functions may be deranged temporarily; extremes of weather and undue exposure, excitement, may influence the yield of milk and the test. Hence it is clear that the sensible way to judge a cow's performance is not by any test or weight, but rather on her total yield for the season.

German Casualties

Total 2,730,917

Amsterdam, May 3.—The official German army casualty lists for March have been received here. They include all German nationalities, Prussians, Bavarians, Saxons and Wurttembergers, but not naval casualties or casualties of colonial troops.

The compiled figures for the empire during March and for the entire war to April 1 are as follows:

	March.	war.
Killed and died	14,704	681,427
Prisoners and missing	5,243	333,488
Severely wounded	10,225	372,585
Wounded, still with army	4,675	108,470
Other wounded	28,597	1,224,937
Gross casualties	63,545	2,730,916

City's Distinction

Buenos Aires is the largest city in the world south of the equator.

Prayer.

Stop in the midst of the bustle and hurry and temptation of the day for thanksgiving and prayer. A few minutes spent alone with God at midday will go far to keep you

calm in the midst of the worries and anxieties of modern life.—R. T. Torrey.

He Feeds Five Million People Every Day

In the April American Magazine is an account of Herbert C. Hoover, Director of the Belgian Relief Commission, who feeds five million people every day is responsible for \$100,000,000 a year and distributes from \$10,000,000 to \$12,000,000 worth of food a month through unofficial organizations.

Mr. Hoover does all this with no telegraph or telephone and but scant help from the railroad. Most of the provisions are transported by canal. They are distributed in rations that will just sustain life. In a letter to a friend Mr Hoover said—"It strikes me that trying to feed a Belgians is like trying to feed a hungry little kitten by means of a forty-foot bamboo pole, said kitten confined in a barred cage occupied by two hungry hens."

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