

UNEQUAL ANATOMY.

Strange Differences in the Size and Other Parts of the Body.

Some curious features are noted in the inequality in size and influence of corresponding parts of the human body, says an exchange. The ears on the same head are probably more alike than any other of the twin organs of the body. Nevertheless, they vary as regards thickness, length, shape and position most remarkably in different individuals. If the ear, however, on one side is delicate in size and contour, the other will be the same, while if the one looks like a dried fig the other duplicates it in form and color. But with the eye it is different. To say nothing of the fact that one eye is generally more open than the other, all oculists agree that the cases where the seeing power of the two are equal in the same head are very rare. Usually men use the right eye the most. Watchmakers, engravers, microscopists and mariners using the telescope apply their right eye to the instrument and generally overwork that organ. There is no good reason why both eyes should not be equally strong, but they are not. Tailors agree that the right shoulder is almost always lower than the left. This they account for by the universal habit men have of resting the left elbow on the desk while writing, and to the equally prevalent practice of those who carry heavy burdens resting them on the right shoulder. As regards the arms and legs, there is generally but slight difference. In the size of the hands and feet there is commonly a great variation, and, curiously enough, while it is the right hand that is generally bigger, it is the left foot that often requires a larger sized boot or shoe. Glovemakers give the proportion of large right hands as 900 to 1000, which, by the way, approximates to the proportion of right handed persons in the community. The size of the hand is generally increased by labor. If ladies are to be trusted as to the size of the gloves they wear, the human hand has grown smaller within the last twenty or thirty years. But gloves tell a different story. They confess to making all ladies' gloves a half size smaller than they really are. This, they say, is because ladies almost invariably ask for a size smaller glove than they should wear. There is nearly always a difference in the size of the hands. This is so marked that the glove that fits the right hand will wrinkle on the left, looking in fact, too large. The left foot, as a rule, is the larger. While the right hand and arm are generally better developed and stronger, the opposite leg corresponds in those particulars. It is found that in athletic persons the advantage of strength is often with the left foot. That is the foot we habitually stand upon, and it is the left foot that leads off in the walking. A man uses the left foot most on the bicycle, and even more so in mounting a horse. While the constant use of the right hand is a matter of training (monkeys use both equally) the more frequent use of the left foot would seem to be a general habit, hence that foot is in many cases the stronger.

A Smart Arithmetic Man.

A Chinaman died, leaving his property by will to his three sons as follows: "To Fuen-huen, the oldest, one-half thereof; to Nupin, his second son, one-third thereof, and to Ding-bat, his youngest, one-ninth thereof." When the property was inventoried it was found to consist of nothing more nor less than seventeen elephants, and it puzzled these three heirs how to divide the property according to the terms of the will without chopping up seventeen elephants, and thereby seriously impairing their value. Finally they applied to a wise neighbor, Suen-punk for advice. Suen-punk had an elephant of his own. He drove it into the yard with the seventeen, and said: "Now, we will suppose that your father left these eighteen elephants; Fuen-huen, take your half and depart." So Fuen-huen took nine elephants and went his way. "Aow, Nu-pin," said the wise man, "take your third and go." So Nu-pin took six elephants and traveled. "Now, Ding-bat," said the wise man, "take your ninth and begone." So Ding-bat took two elephants and vanished. Then Suen-punk took his own elephant and drove him home again. Query: Was the property divided according to the terms of the will?

A Rare Stone Burned for Lime.

"While up near the Point of Rocks, Frederick County, Md., some days ago," said a prominent geologist, "I visited the quarry from which the stone that constitute the famous pillars in the old hall of the House of Representatives, otherwise known as the National Statuary Hall, was quarried. The stone is known to geologists as breccia, though the common name is 'pudding stone,' from its peculiar formation. It is a limestone conglomerate, though nearly a true marble. It is a handsome as well as a remarkably interesting formation to geologists as well as to others. Strange to say, however, there is no demand for it, though it is easily sawed into slabs for table covers, etc. "The day I was there I saw great quantities of it broken up and thrown into kilns and burned into lime. It makes a very desirable lime, and particularly for a fertilizer. What made me feel sad was that this wonder of the world, for it is found nowhere else in the world in such perfection, can not be turned into other uses. It seems a pity to have to burn it into lime, when there are any quantity of limestone that will do so well for such uses, though there is but one such find of breccia in this wide world."

An Object Lesson.

Teacher—Now, if I take your slate pencil, what can I do with it? Little Boy—You can't curl your hair.

ON THE PRAIRIE.

Bare, low, tawny hills, With bluer heights beyond, And the air is sweet with spring, But when will the earth respond?

Prairie that rolls for leagues, Dusky and golden pace, Like a stirless sea of waves, Unbroken by ship or sail.

The hollows are dark with brush And black with the wash of showers And ragged with bleaching wreck Of the ranks of the tall sunflowers.

No cloud in the blue, no stir Save the shrill of the wind in the grass, And the meadow lark's note, and the call Of the wind borne crows that pass.

Bare, low, tawny hills, With bluer heights beyond, And the air is sweet with spring, But when will the earth respond? —Herbert Boies in New York Tribune.

TREES IN THE STREETS.

A Society in New York City to Beautify the Avenues.

Without doubt the Tree Planting association of New York has undertaken a most beneficent work. So far as it proves to be practicable, it will contribute as much as any other scheme that could be projected for the embellishment of the city. The incorporators are to a considerable extent the same as the incorporators of the Botanic garden—men well known for public spirit and intelligence. Thus the society begins under the most favorable possible auspices, for caution and discrimination as well as for enterprise.

Of course its work will be largely experimental. There are streets, even residential streets, in New York in which it may not be wise to attempt tree planting at all, for the reason that the space cannot be spared, either from the sidewalk or the roadway, for the boxes that must protect the young trees or for the trunks of such as live to maturity. Even in those streets in which there is room enough for trees there are many places in which no trees can thrive by reason of the lack of sunshine, and, indeed, there are scarcely any streets in New York below the park in which trees can be expected to do so well as in a place like Washington, where the streets are so wide and the buildings so low as to give all trees that may be planted a fair chance for life. Almost the only streets in New York that are as favorably situated are the Broadway boulevard and the Riverside drive. The boulevard has been until within the past few months a dismal monument to municipal neglect. Now it is kept in order, but time is required to replace the trees that have been allowed to die, and the double row of trees that were meant "high over-arched to embower" does not embower at all, but presents upon the whole a scraggy and dismal spectacle.

This, of course, comes mainly from neglect, for there is no reason why trees in this thoroughfare should not thrive if they can be made to thrive anywhere in New York. The general introduction of electric lighting will do much for the trees unless gas is still carried through the ground for fuel. It is given out that uncontaminated earth will be used for the setting of the new trees, but judging from what we have experienced in the opening of Fifth avenue for a sewer and the previous openings of other avenues for laying cables, the permeation of the gas through the fresh soil would be a matter of only weeks at the longest. The new association is plainly destined to encounter many obstacles. If it succeeds in gaining even a partial victory over them, it will entitle itself to the gratitude of all New Yorkers.—New York Times.

Musical Recitation.

Although the Quakers, as a sect, do not favor music, regarding it as a profitless amusement indulged in by the world's people, there are occasionally stories told which show that the love of music sometimes steals its way into a Quaker household in spite of discipline. George Thompson, the famous English abolitionist, while lecturing on the abolition of slavery in the British provinces, stopped one night with a Quaker family. He was a great lover of music, and at that time was a good singer. During the evening he sang "Oft In the Stilly Night," which was listened to with the closest attention.

In the morning his Quaker hostess appeared somewhat uneasy. She wished to hear the song again, but it would hardly do, she thought, for her to request its repetition. At last, however, her desire overcame her scruples. "George," she said, with a faint pink color in her soft cheeks, "will they repeat the words of last evening in thy usual manner?"—Youth's Companion.

At His Own Expense.

Mr. Bluff—Look here, young man, you're always going about with my daughter, and I want to know what your intentions are regarding her? Young Man—I really have no intentions, sir. Mr. Bluff (angrily)—Then, what do you mean by amusing yourself at my daughter's expense? Young Man (airily)—I'm not amusing myself at your daughter's expense, sir, but at my own expense. I always pay for the theater tickets and refreshments.—Pearson's Weekly.

Exchanging Compliments.

"I see that you are your own washer-woman," said Mrs. Spitley, who was leading her poodle past the place. "Yes," retorted Mrs. Snapple. "But, thank goodness, I'm not reduced to playing nurse-girl for a dog."—Detroit Free Press.

There are a great many spiders, especially among the tropical varieties, which have three eyes, one on each side of the head and the third exactly in the center of the forehead. This middle or third eye is always the largest.

The book of Job, written about 1520 B. C., describes very accurately several processes of smelting metals.

Trying to be witty is like trying to be pretty.—Fliegende Blätter.

A PUZZLING PARIS HOUSE.

It Has Two Spiral Stairways Which Look Like One at Times.

One of the greatest curiosities of Paris is the house with the double staircase. It does not figure in the guidebook and is not among the places of interest that are photographed, but, for all that, it is of greater interest than many of the things that come within this class. This house has entrances at 35 Rue Radzivil and at 18 Rue de Valois. It is in the quarter of the Palais Royal—that palace now given up largely to restaurants and cheap jewelry shops, and once the residence of the most licentious of French princes, the regent d'Orleans. The quarter is one of the most central in Paris, and all Americans who have been in Paris know it, but the house, which is a few steps from the Palais Royal, the Rue de Rivoli and the Louvre, escapes general attention because it faces on dark and narrow streets.

Each staircase begins on opposite sides of the central space of the house and is continued separate right up to the roof. They are in a graceful spiral form. The house is nine stories high, a very considerable height for one so old. As you look up the wall you can hardly realize that there is more than one stairway.

The result of this arrangement is that one stairway takes you to the first floor apartment on the right, the second floor on the left, and so on. The other stairway takes you to the first floor on the left, the second floor on the right, and so on. You must be very careful to choose the right stairway when you are going to an apartment, otherwise you may mount as far as the sixth floor and find yourself on the wrong side of the house. It is just as well then to go to the top and come down by the other stairway.

It is difficult to describe the puzzling effect of this contrivance on those who see it for the first time. No more ingenious contrivance for exciting profanity and causing confusion was ever designed by architect. The beauty lies in its simplicity, which gives it an advantage over secret doors and such laborious devices.

It is a favorite trick with those who know the house to take moderately intoxicated friends to see it. The man who knows tells his friend to go up stairs. Then he goes up himself by the opposite stairway. When he has gone up about two stories, he leans over the balustrade and tells his friend to join him. The inebriate endeavors to do so, running up and down stairs, but never able to catch the other.—New York Journal.

GREAT GRAPE INDUSTRY.

The Shores of Lake Chautauque Supply Half the Country.

The management of the vineyard is an interesting study and one which to be successful requires technical knowledge. In the large vineyards, as a rule, the owner himself gives personal supervision to every detail. Sometimes a manager or overseer performs these duties. One of the largest growers in this section tells me that the most successful grower is the foreigner, who, with his family of eight or ten, comes and leases or buys 25 or 50 acres of land, each member of the family having his or her part in the work to perform from spring until picking time, while the winter is devoted to the making of the baskets. Thus no outside expenditure is incurred, and when the grapes are sold the proceeds return to the family as the profit on the individual labor of each member, quite in contrast with the large owner, who is compelled to hire help to do each little thing in addition to buying his baskets.

The Concord grape is the only variety of any consequence raised in this region, and some idea of the magnitude of the business carried on may be had when it is known that the shipments for one year from Chautauque county alone will amount to 8,500 carloads, 8,000 baskets of 10 pounds each in each car. These are taken from the grower by some one of the numerous growers' associations, whose business it is to find a market. Strange as it may seem, it is nevertheless true that three-fourths of them go to points west of Chicago, while the other one-fourth travels eastward.

The making of baskets is an important item. Many factories are employed. The price ranges from 2 to 2½ cents per basket. Thus the grower who would find his business in any way profitable must, in addition to the cost of the basket, realize at least 1 cent per pound for his grapes, while today it is a common thing to find a ten pound basket on the retail market sold at 10 cents. Thus we find that the utmost care must be taken in the management of a vineyard to make it profitable.—Chautauque.

Her Train.

"How did the queen of Sheba travel when she went to see Solomon?" asked the teacher of her Sunday school class of little girls.

No one ventured an answer. "If you had studied your lesson, you could not have helped knowing," said their teacher. "Now look over the verses again."

"Could she have gone by the cars?" asked the teacher, beginning to lose patience as the children consulted their books, but appeared to arrive at no conclusion.

"Yes'm," said a little girl at the end of the class. "She went by steam cars."

"Did she, indeed? Well, Louise, we would like to know how you found that out?"

"In the second verse," responded the child, "it says 'she came with a very great train.'"—New York Advertiser.

Before the Effects Wore Off.

"Say, you're the fourth feller that has come here to try to trade horses to-day," said Farmer Shortcor. "What's got into you all?"

"W'y," said the visiting farmer sheepishly, "the story got out someways that you'd got religion at the revival last night."—Cincinnati Enquirer.

A ROYAL CORNER.

How the Sacred, if Lonely, Precinct Was Invaded by an American.

An American attending a wedding reception in a great house in London congratulated bride and bridegroom and passed the usual compliments with the host and hostess.

There was a great throng of guests, and he could not linger at the entrance of the drawing room when there were many behind him anxious to offer their greetings.

Perceiving a quiet corner to the right of the bride where a gentleman and a lady were standing apart from the other guests he went directly to it, unwittingly coming to a stop between two royal personages.

The American was not aware of the fact that he was face to face with one of the queen's daughters and had turned his back upon another member of the royal family. He stood quietly looking about, hoping to see some acquaintance in the company with whom he might have a chat, and soon became uncomfortably conscious that he was attracting attention and that the hostess and bride were casting uneasy glances in the direction of the corner where he had taken shelter. While the drawing room was crowded, the company of guests with one consent avoided the secluded corner where he and his two royal companions were stationed.

An acquaintance in the background perceived his mistake, and coming within hailing distance motioned to him. He left his two companions in exclusive occupation of the corner, turning his back upon both as he edged his way through the throng, while everybody stared at him. When he reached the spot where his acquaintance was waiting for him, the stage whisper was breathed into his ear:

"You have been poaching on royal preserves. You are a privileged character because you are an American, but no Englishman ventures to turn his back upon a prince or a princess. People were staring you out of countenance because they took it for granted that you must be a royal personage, yet they were unable to identify you."

The answer might have been made that every American is a sovereign by the divine right of equality of free citizenship, but this would have been a meaningless pleasantry in an English drawing room, where social etiquette has a sanctity superior to loyalty to democratic principle.

The American thanked his friend for rescuing him from an embarrassing position, and then stood by and watched the corner where royalty was isolated from too close contact with the world of wealth and fashion.

No guest approached the royal pair. Their presence was an act of condescension to the host and hostess, and they remained on exhibition as the patrons of this social function without having their corner invaded. Everybody was careful not to approach them too closely, and there was a general sense of relief when they departed and the necessity for backing away from them on side tracks was removed.—Youth's Companion.

NEED FOR SLEEP.

The Most Important Compensation For All Effects of Fatigue.

By far the most important compensation for all effects of fatigue is sleep. Everybody, even the man mentally most inert, develops when awake a mass of mental effort which he cannot afford continuously without suffering. We need, therefore, regularly recurring periods in which the consumption of mental force shall be slower than the continuous replacement. The lower the degree to which the activity of the brain sinks the more rapid and more complete the recovery.

The mental vigor of most men is usually maintained at a certain height for the longest time in the forenoon. Evidence of fatigue come on later at this time of day than in the evening, when the store of force in our brain has been already considerably drawn upon by the whole day's work. If no recovery by sleep is enjoyed or it is imperfect, the consequences will invariably make themselves evident the next day in a depression of mental vigor, as well as in a rise in the personal susceptibility to fatigue. The rapidity with which one of the persons I experimented upon could perform his task in addition sank about a third after a night's journey by railway with insufficient sleep. Another experimenter could detect the effects of keeping himself awake at night in a gradual decrease of vigor lasting through four days. This observation was all the more surprising because the subject was not conscious of the long duration of the disturbance and was first made aware of it incidentally by the results of continued measurements on the causes of the manifestations of fatigue.—Popular Science Monthly.

Officials Without an Office.

The queen's watermen are officials without an office. A waterman without a barge must be something like an editor without a paper. But we must not forget this difference, that while one fattens on the indulgence of the nation the other would starve. There are altogether 36 of this admirable body of do-nothings. For performing their task admirably they receive a solatium of about £5 a year.—Exchange.

All Seasons For Its Own.

"Ice is an awfully ruinous thing," sighed Cholly. "In winter whole towns are bankrupted by ice gorges, and in the summer the young men are bankrupted by ice cream gorges."—Chicago Tribune.

Every man will find his own private affairs more difficult to manage and control than any public affairs in which he may be engaged.—Lord Melbourne.

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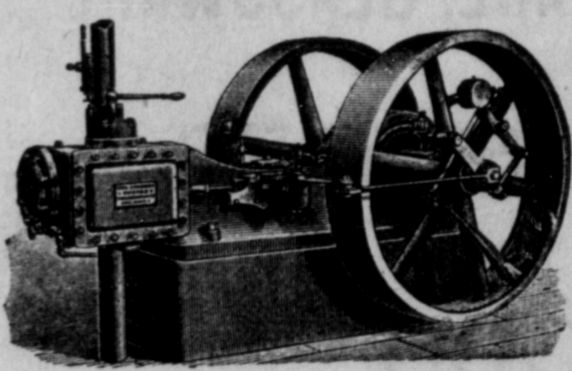
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