

# THINGS WORTH KNOWING

Spaniards have a saying that water in May is bread all the year.

Pan is a Greek word meaning all. Thus the phrase Pan-American Congress means a congress of all the nations of America.

New York city consumes about 3,000,000 eggs every day, about \$2,000,000 worth of which are annually sent from Canada.

The ocean cables of the world now stretch over 120,250 miles. In all there are over 1,000 cables, nearly all of which are of English manufacture.

Cold iron has been rolled so thin that 18,000 sheets upon one another would measure only an inch in thickness; 1,200 sheets of tissue paper make but little more than an inch in thickness.

The main signal-box at Euston station on the London and North-Western line is the largest in the world, and contains 288 levers. At London Bridge station there is a signal-box containing 280 levers.

Japan has now a school system quite similar to that in the United States. It has 38,000 schools, of which 26,000 are elementary; 72,000 teachers, and 3,410,000 pupils; and the total expense of the system is about \$7,000,000 annually.

The title "Mrs." was, in olden time, applied to unmarried as well as to married women in England, and to young as well as to old. Although it was not perhaps so universal to address quite young children, as it was those over twenty-one by the title of Mrs., yet it was frequently done.

The total extent of British Africa is estimated to be 2,470,000 square miles. The only other European country which controls a million square miles of Africa is France, which owns the desert Sahara, 1,550,000 square miles, and 1,400,000 square miles besides, including Algeria, part of Guinea, part of Congo and Madagascar.

Honey statistics indicate the number of what the early English lexicographer, Nicholas Bailey, calls "mansions for bees." The hives are estimated: Greece, 300,000; Denmark, 90,000; Russia, 110,000; Belgium, 200,000; Netherlands, 240,000; France, 950,000; Germany, 1,450,000; Austria, 1,558,000. In the United States 2,800,000 hives produce 61,000,000 pounds of honey.

Pepsin is prepared from the gastric juice found in the stomachs of hogs, and the ability of the hog to digest anything and everything that will pass down its throat is probably what led to the somewhat peculiar idea of concentrating the fluid which makes digestion so easy in the porcine race. Hogs that are kept without food, or water for twenty-four hours before being slaughtered yield an immense quantity of gastric juice and correspondingly of pepsin.

There are now more than 500,000 almond trees actually bearing in the United States; there are hundreds of thousands of bearing coconut trees; there are more than 250,000 olive trees, producing fruit equal to the best Mediterranean varieties; there are more than 500,000 bearing banana plants, 200,000 bearing lemon trees, 4,000,000 orange trees, and 21,000,000 pine-apples, and the value of tropical and semi-tropical fruits grown under the American flag is nearly \$20,000,000.

The regular standing army of Chili is about 5,000 men, divided into 800 artillery, 1,000 horses, and 3,200 infantry. Every able-bodied citizen is liable to military duty. There is a national guard which is supposed to number about 50,000 officers and men, but it rarely numbers more than 30,000. The navy consists of thirty-one vessels, including one turret ironclad battleship, three armored cruisers, fourteen torpedo boats, and thirteen unprotected vessels, including corvettes, gunboats and dispatch boats.

Blonde hair is finer than that of any other color. By actual count it has been ascertained that four hundred hairs to the square inch grow upon the head of a blonde beauty. The brown comes next with three hundred and fifty, then comes the black with three hundred and twenty-five, and the red with two hundred and fifty and two hundred and sixty. After counting the hairs growing on an inch square it has been estimated that on the head of a blonde there will be about 140,000 hairs, while a brown suit of tresses will have 109,000, a black 102,000, and a red 90,000.

In Norway it is the custom to charge married couples when travelling one fare and a half. There are nearly a thousand miles of railway in that country, which, with the exception of forty-two miles, all belong to the state. In Austria and Hungary, where the zone system of railway travelling was first introduced, a wife who is accompanied by her husband can travel at half fare; children under six years of age, if with an adult or their parents, travel free; children of the same family from six to twelve travel at one-third fare, if more than two only one-fourth fare is charged; from twelve to twenty they travel at half fare.

According to standard time, which was adopted by agreement at 12 o'clock on November 18, 1883, by all of the principal railroads of the United States, the continent is divided into five longitudinal belts and a meridian of time fixed on each belt. These meridians are fifteen degrees of longitude, or one hour's time, apart. The time divisions are called intercolonial time, (only partially used in certain provincial cities) eastern time, central time, mountain time and Pacific time. The railways in Eastern Maine, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, New England, the middle states, Virginia and the Carolinas use the seventy-fifth meridian, which is that of Philadelphia; Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Texas, Kansas, and the larger part of Nebraska and Dakota use the ninetieth

meridian, which is that of New Orleans; the territories go by the time of the 150th meridian, which is that of Denver; and the Pacific states employ the 120th meridian. This new system has reduced the time standards from fifty-three to five.

## "PROGRESS" PICKINGS.

"My lord," said the foreman of an Irish jury, when giving in his verdict, "we find the man who stole the mare not guilty."—Tid-Bits.

Old Fruity (offering his visitor a glass of wine): "There, my boy, that's what I call honest wine." Old Crusty: "Um—yes poor, but honest."

Special Measure Required—"Housewife: "It seems to me that your pint of milk is very small." Milkman: "My cows is the small kind, mum!"

Pope Revised.—It was a Boston girl of uncertain age who is reported to have said that "Where singleness is bliss, 'tis folly to be wives."—Harvard Lampoon.

A Grand Success—She in satin: "Are you glad that you got married?" She in silk: "Of course I am. Why, I got three hundred and forty-seven presents."

A priest asked of a condemned criminal in a Paris gaol: "What kind of a conscience have you?" "It is as good as new," replied the prisoner, "for I have never used it."

"Your beau stays quite a while when he calls?" "Yes." "I should think you would find the time go slowly." "Oh, we manage to squeeze through it."—Yarmouth Register.

Scadds (pere)—"You want to marry my daughter, you say, young man?" Hunker—"Yes, sir." "What are your prospects, sir?" "That's what I am waiting to hear, Mr. Scadds."

"That young minister will never succeed; he is too easily confused," "I never noticed it," "I did. At Emma Harkins' wedding he kissed the bridegroom and shook hands with the bride."

Mrs. Wickwire—Let me have half of the paper, Henry, please. Mr. Wickwire—Which half do you want? Mrs. Wickwire—The better half, dear. And he handed her the "woman" half, of course.

Lawyer (drawing will): "Your estate is much smaller, sir, than is generally supposed." Sick Man: "Yes; but keep that quiet till after the funeral. I want a good show of grief-stricken mourners."

## IN THE SPRING.

He puts down a half dozen carpets, And with woe his life is replete; For he hasn't a nail to his fingers, But numberless tacks to his feet.

At a trial held some time ago in Ireland one of the jurors asked to be excused from serving on the jury. Judge—For what reason? Juror—My Lord, I've got the itch. Judge (to clerk of court)—Scratch him.

Prudent Mother—"I trust, my dear, that you do not encourage young men in their attentions." Daughter—"Oh, dear me; no. I threaten to tell you every time any one of them kisses me."—New York Herald.

First Case of the Kind on Record.—Mrs. McSwat: "There goes that unhappy incubate again. Poor Chumlow! Have you any idea what drove him to drink?" Mr. McSwat—"Yes, my dear. Thirst."—Chicago Tribune.

Mamma—"Didn't I tell you not to take any more preserves out of the closet?" Johnny—"Yes'm." Mamma—"If you wanted some, why didn't you ask for them?" Johnny—with confidence—"Because I wanted some."

Bobby (whispering)—"Didn't I hear Clara tell you, Mr. Featherley, that she was sorry, but she really couldn't give you a lock of her hair?" Featherley—"Sh—Bobby—er—yes." Bobby—"Well, you just wait a day or two and I'll get some for you when she's out."

Friend—"What on earth are you doing to that picture?" Great Artist—"I am rubbing a piece of raw meat over this rabbit in the foreground. Mrs. De Shoddie will be here this afternoon, and when she sees her pet dog smell of that rabbit she'll buy it."—New York Weekly.

At the Masked Ball—Male Dancer: "I know who you are, my fair partner?" Female ditto: "Who am I then, pray?" Male ditto: "Oh! I am quite positive; I recognize you by those lovely white pearly teeth!" Female ditto: "Why, I only got them this morning. Ha! Ha!"—Seifenblasen.

George Was Kept Busy.—Jess—"Why did George break his engagement with Ethel?" Bess—"He couldn't stand it; she treated him like a servant." Jess—"How was he like a servant?" Bess—"The only time he had to himself was Thursday afternoons and every other Sunday."—New York Truth.

First Yankee: "You say you saw everything in Rome in three days? That's impossible!" Second Yankee: "But you must remember that there were three of us. My wife took all the churches, I visited all the picture galleries, and my son went for the restaurants and cafes. Then we met in the evenings and exchanged experiences."

At the Chemist's.—An old servant stepped in and laid on the counter a prescription for a mixture containing two decigrammes of morphia. The chemist weighed the dangerous medicament with the utmost care. "What a shame!" then said the old woman, nudging his elbow. Don't be so near: it is for an orphan girl!"—Le Siecle.

The Paradox Explained.—Mrs. Greyneck—Now, Johnny, I want you say your Sunday-school lesson to me. Johnny—"I can't." Mrs. Greyneck—You wretched boy; have you forgotten it so soon? Johnny—No, ma'am, I ain't forgotten it. Mrs. Greyneck—What do you mean by telling me you can't say it, and then that you haven't forgotten it? They can't both be true. Johnny—Yes'm, they be. I never knew it.—Boston Courier.

## MEN AND WOMEN TALKED ABOUT.

George Eiffel is said to have made \$1,000,000 as his share in the Eiffel Tower.

Charles H. Reed, the lawyer who died in Baltimore recently, is said to have lost his law practice and to have become moody after his unsuccessful defense of his brother-in-law, Guiteau.

The "Holy Rose," which the pope bestows every year upon some Roman catholic princess, fell this year to the Queen of Portugal. The estimated value of this jewel is 50,000 francs.

Salvini, the tragedian, is said to be the only man on the stage who was born in a palace. It was the Palace Capraini in Milan, now called the Grille. Palace in honor of Ristori, who is Countess of Grille.

The late Alexander Mackenzie, ex-premier of the dominion, had few of the graces of an actor, yet he possessed persuasive powers, and was one of the rare speakers whose utterances would bear verbatim reporting.

Tolstoi's manuscript is full of interlineations and erasures, and the handwriting is small, fine and hard to read. The countess transcribes it for the printer, and one year, it is said, she made fifteen copies of one of her husband's books.

On state occasions Queen Victoria rides in a carriage drawn by four magnificent bays, with outriders, but when she is at Hyeres she is quite content with a rickety old basket phaeton drawn by a measly little donkey, whose ears are almost as long as his legs.

Mlle Paulina, a native of Queensland, Holland, is said to be the smallest human being in the world. She is nearly 16 years of age, her height is eighteen inches and her weight seven pounds. Unlike most of the "midgits," she is remarkably pretty and accomplished, speaking four languages fluently.

Ten miles from Lexington, N. C., is a cave once used by Daniel Boone as a retreat and rendezvous and near it stood the mighty hunter's primitive cabin. When this cabin was destroyed some years ago the hearthstone was saved and it will be sent to Chicago to form part of the state's exhibit at the world's fair.

A short time ago the Moorish Kaidas gave the Sultan of Morocco and his son a present of 200 male and female slaves to celebrate the event of the marriage of the heir to the Moorish throne. Girls from 10 to 15 years of age fetch about \$80 to \$120 each, and the slave merchants find the females more profitable from 16 to 20 years of age.

The Prince of Wales's health is said to be exciting alarm among the inner circles in England. Since the death of his elder son he has shown a disposition to indulge in hypochondria, and is especially tormented by fear lest the succession may pass out of the male line of his family. This is one reason for hastening the betrothal between Prince George of Wales and Princess Mary of Teck.

Perhaps the most extraordinary father who ever lived was Ivan Wasielief, a Russian, who was presented to the Czarina some years ago. He was married twice, and was the father of eighty-seven children. His first wife commenced with four, which she had four times in succession, and then had triplets seven times in succession, and wound up with sixteen sets of twins. His second wife had six sets of twins, and two sets of triplets.

Mrs. Montagu, who is now serving a term in prison on a conviction of having caused the death of her child by cruelty, may one day become Duchess of Manchester. This is how it might happen: The present duke is in very poor health. Should he and his only son, Lord Robert Montagu, die, the father-in-law of the prisoner would succeed to the title, and in the ordinary course of events Mrs. Montagu would become a duchess.

A hundred years ago or more there were two boys whose names were Cyrus and Hannibal. These boys grew up and married, and each promised to name his first boy after the other. The boy born to Cyrus Hamlin was named Hannibal, according to agreement. That child grew to be a great statesman and was elected vice president of the United States. Hannibal Hamlin's son Cyrus grew to be a great missionary, the founder of the Robert college near Constantinople, in Turkey.

Mr. Edison, who has done so much to make inaudible sounds audible, is afflicted with an incurable deafness. Mr. Poultency Bigelow once asked him if the inventor who has brought the telephone so near to perfection could not do something for his own hearing. "Easily, if the drum was sound," was his answer. "When I was a boy," he continued, "I sold peanuts and newspapers on the railway trains. One day a baggage porter lifted me from the ground by my ears; the membranes snapped, and that is how I became deaf."

Sir Morell Mackenzie, who died recently, was the owner of the most valuable scarf pin. It is in diamonds forming the figure fifty, surrounded by a crown set in pearls, and is one of a few identical in design that the queen had made in celebration of her jubilee. She presented one to each of her children, their husbands, and their wives. The late Emperor Frederick of Germany, then Crown Prince, received one, and greatly prized it. When he died the empress sent it to Sir Morell Mackenzie, with a note saying she would like him to keep and wear it, since it had been peculiarly precious to her husband.

Probably the highest price ever paid for a paramulator was \$350, which Mrs. Wilson Astor, wife of the millionaire of New York, gave for one which she ordered for a grandchild not long ago. It has wheels of oak, springs of the finest steel, a seat of shell-shaped bamboo, of which the cushion is stuffed with fine hair, covered with white silk and white plush, tilted with white plush buttons. The floor is spread with a Persian carpet of white with pink roses. The parol is of heavy white satin, lined with pink silk, and is covered with the finest Valenciennes lace, while the family crest adorns the sides. There is also a pillow of down, covered with white linen, on which the little heiress reclines, while she is covered with a white china-silk rug, painted in pale-blue asters and daisies, with a border of wild roses and a great bow of pink ribbons in one corner.

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How does he feel?—He has irregular bowels and peculiar stools.—August Flower the Remedy. ®

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