

## THINGS WORTH KNOWING.

Nearly 1,000 children are born yearly in London workhouses.

The Indian rhinoceros has the thickest skin of any quadruped.

No one can breathe at a greater height than seven miles from the earth.

Soldiers in the Italian army are allowed cigars as part of their daily rations.

About twice as much power is required to stop an express train as to start one.

Diamonds are found in every color and shade, from the purest white to jet-black.

One pound of cork is amply sufficient to support a man of ordinary size in the water.

More mushrooms are raised in the vicinity of Paris than in any other place in the world.

The bones and muscles of the human body are capable of over 1,200 different movements.

Out of a total of 513 known species of animals in Africa, 472 of them are to be found in no other country.

Dr. Oppel, the great German geographer, says that 1,700,000 square miles of the earth are still uninhabited or ownerless.

The seed of the common annual sunflower is largely used in some countries as food for fowl, and is found to be very nutritious.

Moselle has 9.6 per cent. of alcohol; Rhine wine, 11; champagne, 12; sherry, 10; maraschino, 34; brandy, 53.4; whisky, 54.

On the banks of the Lahn, a river between Bingen and Coblenz, there is an echo capable of repeating a sentence seventeen different times.

The reason pigs are proof against snake bite is that the poison rarely, if ever, reaches the circulatory system, owing to the fat carried by the pig.

In the two years 1891-92, the paper used in the public departments of the government amounted to 768,680 reams, with a gross weight of 7,870 tons.

Fifty millions sterling are supposed to be lying at this moment in the hands of banks and banking companies in Scotland in the shape of unclaimed deposits.

There are over one hundred and fifty issues of periodicals devoted exclusively to electrical subjects published monthly in the English, French and German languages.

It has been estimated that a bell of common size, whose sound would penetrate a distance of three to five miles on shore, could, if submerged in the sea, be heard over sixty miles.

The flounder lays 7,000,000 eggs annually; several others from 1,000,000 to 3,000,000, while the turbot is credited with depositing from 11,000,000 to 12,000,000 during each breeding season.

Without doubt the Australian aborigines are dying out. Last year the number in Victoria was under 500. In the twelve months there were 13 births, 29 deaths, and 1 marriage of aborigines in the Colony.

If an imaginary circle be drawn around the kingdoms of Russia, Germany, Austria and the Republic of France, it will inclose in this relatively small space more armed men than there are in all the world besides.

The first day of spring is the day on which the sun enters the sign Aries, March 20, at the hour of nine in the morning. The so-called mid-summer day is not mid-summer, the maximum heat not being attained until six or seven weeks after.

It is customary, in Japan, for children to be named after the first article on which the father's eye alights after the children are born. Some, therefore, bear the names of flowers, and others the names of furniture or kitchen utensils, as Lily, Chair, Frying Pan, etc.

There are some very long-established houses of business in England, but nothing to be compared with one in Japan. A dancing-master there has just been celebrating the thousandth anniversary of the death of the member of his family who first started the business.

The smallest holes pierced by modern machinery are one-thousandth of an inch in diameter. This drilling apparatus, which was the invention of one John Wennstrom, is designed to make 22,000 revolutions per minute and is used in boring sapphires, rubies, diamonds and other gems.

One hundred million tons of water pour over Niagara Falls every hour. This is said to represent 16,000,000 horse-power. Some idea of this enormous amount of water may be had by understanding that all the coal produced in the world would not make enough of steam to pump a stream of equal size.

Science has at length invaded the heretofore unexplored depths of the soap bubble and can give to a nicety the exact thickness of the walls of that peculiar structure. For instance, a bubble showing a violet shade is one-fourth the thickness of a violet wave of light, or, to be more explicit, 1-240,000 of an inch.

It is a fact not generally known, but made of honor to the Queen, although their duties are wearisome and the salary a small one considering the inevitable cost of their costumes, have one golden chance. If a maid of honor marries during her term of duty, the monarch gives her the handsome little present of £1,000.

"No living germ of disease can resist the antiseptic power of essence of cinnamon for more than a few hours," is the conclusion announced by M. Chamberland as the result of prolonged research and experiment in M. Pasteur's laboratory. It is said to destroy microbes as effectively, if not as rapidly, as corrosive sublimate.

Quicksilver miners follow the most unhealthy trade in the world. The fumes of the mercury produce constant salivation, and the system becomes permeated with the metal, the teeth of the unfortunate men drop out, they lose their appetite, become emaciated, and, as a rule, seldom live longer than two years. Chloride of lime, employed by bleachers, frequently destroys the enamel and dentine of the teeth. But phosphorus, used so largely in the manufacture of lucifer matches, affects a very large number of persons—women, girls and children greatly preponderating. People who work in soda factories are affected by the teeth becoming soft and translucent; they break off close to the gums.

# Cottolene

## A SHORTENING.

Down the street through the busy way  
A lady passed on marketing day.  
Who, pausing at a grocery store,  
Stepped quickly in at the open door.  
With bated breath and anxious mien  
She queried: "have you COTTOLENE?"

The grocer, leaving off his work,  
Interrogated every clerk;  
But none up to that time had seen  
An article called "COTTOLENE."

"What is it?" said he to the dame,  
"That answers to this curious name.  
What is it made of? What's its use?  
My ignorance you'll please excuse."

"You're not the merchant for my dimes,  
I see you're quite behind the times.  
For COTTOLENE, I'd have you know,  
Is now the thing that's all the go,  
An article of high regard;  
A healthful substitute for lard.  
Its composition pure and clean;  
For cooking give me COTTOLENE."

As from his store the lady fled,  
The grocer gently scratched his head—  
On his next order, first was seen,  
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"How does your husband like your new hat?" "I can't say, he hasn't seen the bill yet."

Miss Budd—Have you any sisters? Jack Hoodoo—No, but I have the refusal of several.

Husband—I'll be back at eleven, my love. I give you my word. Wife—I'd rather you'd keep it, my dear.

"Have you a good cook?" "She's very good; goes to church four times a week. She can't cook, though."

"How was it that he managed to pull the wool over your eyes?" "Well, he had fleeced several fellows before I met him."

Dashaway—I have fallen into the bad habit of talking to myself lately. Cleverton—I wondered why you were looking so bored.

She—How was your speech at the club received the other night? He—When I sat down they said it was the best thing I ever did.

Mrs. Spooner—Will you love me just as much, darling, when I am old? Mr. Spooner—More, Lydia; you won't be so silly then!

Miss Naive—It must be great fun writing a joke and sending it in to a paper. Spacer—Yes, it is. It is only when it is returned to you that you find out it is no joke.

Young Man—So Miss Ella is your oldest sister? Who comes after her? Small Brother—Nobody ain't come as yet; but pa says the first fellow that comes can have her.

Jorker—I hear you've broken off your engagement with Miss Prettiface, Munny-secker. M.—Yes; it was her father's fault. J.—How was that? M.—Why, the idiot failed!

Maud—He asked me to marry him, but said he had only a broken heart to offer me. Marie—Did you accept him under those conditions? Maud—Yes; his bank account was intact.

"So his mother intends to make a pianist of him?" "Yes." "Whom has she selected as his teacher?" "She hasn't got that far yet; at present she is simply letting his hair grow."

Cecil—No, Weggy; you must not tempt me—weally you must not. I promised her I would smoke but three cigarettes a day. Reginald—Oh, Cecil, dear boy! How you must love her!

Teacher—If one man can perform a piece of work in six days, how long would it take six men to do it? Willie—About six weeks. Teacher—How do you get that? Willie—Six men would get up a strike.

"John," said the minister's wife, "how many more times are you going to recite that sermon of yours?" "Don't bother me, my dear, if you please," he replied. "I am practising what I preach."

"Sally, they used to tell me, when I was a little girl, that if I did not leave coffee alone it would make me foolish," says Miss Bell, wistfully. "Well, why didn't you?" says Sally, who owes her one.

Fond Mother. (listening to baby's cries) What a sweet-toned voice she has, dear! She'll be a splendid singer. We must send her to Italy and have her voice cultivated. Brutal Father. (trying to sleep) Send her now.

Miss Fyshe—I'm not very prepossessing. I'm sure no one is attracted toward me on first sight. The Hopeless Blunderer (with a compliment in mind)—Quite the contrary, Miss Fyshe; we all like you immensely before we know you.

"No, she said, stating her case to a divorce lawyer, 'I never did love him. I married him because he kept a confectioner's shop, with ices, and he basely deceived me three months later by selling out and going into another business.'"

"They've raked in a pretty tough looking lot this morning, haven't they?" said the stranger to the reporter in the police court. "You are looking at the wrong lot," answered the reporter. "Those are not the prisoners; they are the lawyers."

Mr. Lazarus Slumpure (indignantly)—"I know—I know too well—the reason of your refusal. It's because I am poor. You would marry me if I were rich." Miss Bell Golightly—"Perhaps so; but you would have to be very, very, very rich."

Said a sharp attorney to a rambling witness:—"Now, you must give explicit and exact answers. You said you drove a milk wagon, did you not?" "No, sir, I didn't." "Don't you drive a milk wagon?" "No, sir." "Ah! What do you do sir?" "I drive a boss, sir."

How soon some women change their minds respecting their husbands. Mrs. Spinn was for ever telling her husband that he was not worth the salt that was put in his bread, but when he got killed in a railway collision she sued the company for five thousand dollars.

A lawyer worried a witness with so many questions that the poor man declared he was so exhausted that he must have a drink of water before he could say another word. Upon this the judge remarked, "I think, sir, you had better let the witness go now, for you have pumped him dry."

Little Elvira went to visit at her grandmother's. The country was a revelation to the child. Among other things that excited her wonder was a lamb that came bleating at the door the evening of her arrival. "Oh, aunt Hattie," she cried, running down, "there's a sheep here that can talk as plain as anything; do come out and hear it say 'Ma.'"

Appropos of the lawyers pitching into experts on the witness stand in murder trials, the case is recalled where the lawyer looked quizzically at the doctor who was testifying and said: "Doctors sometimes make mistakes, don't they?" "The same as lawyers," was the reply. "But doctors' mistakes are buried six feet under ground," said the lawyer. "Yes," said the doctor, "and lawyers' mistakes sometimes swing six feet in the air."

An old lady missing two pounds of fresh butter accused her maid of having stolen it. The maid, however, not only denied the accusation, but fastened the theft upon the cat, averring moreover that she caught her in the act of finishing the last morsel. The wily old dame immediately put the kitten into the scales, and found it to weigh but a pound and a half. This mode of accurate reasoning being quite conclusive, the girl confessed her crime.

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## MEN AND WOMEN TALKED ABOUT.

Queen Victoria has taken 447 prizes at English cattle shows for products at her stock farm.

Five court ladies in waiting to the Empress of China are on their way to Berlin, where they will study German and German court etiquette.

James Tyson, the wealthiest of Australian squatters, notwithstanding that he is worth some five millions more or less, is said to dress like a casual docker, and is proud of his ability to live on a shilling a day.

The Duke of Westminster is the father of more children than any other individual whose name figures in the Peerage. There were eleven children born of the first Duchess, and there are six by the second.

Mrs. Humphrey Ward's novel, "David Greave," has been translated into Swedish. It appeared as a serial in the leading Swedish Liberal paper last year, and is now being published in book form in Stockholm.

At Sandringham Hall the Prince of Wales, has a completely equipped gas-works, the electric light not having yet been fitted. During the residence of the Royal Family the amount of gas consumed every day is 40,000 feet.

The smallest conscript in France is Edouard Lomet, a dwarf two feet seven inches in height, who is now being exhibited in Paris. In spite of his diminutive size, Lomet has had to draw a number for military service. He will, of course, be rejected at the medical examination.

Emile Zola, the novelist, was lately interviewed by an enterprising thief who represented himself as a journalist, and during the time that he had to wait in Zola's drawing-room purloined various articles of value. He decamped with the booty after having actually seen Zola and questioned him about his forthcoming book.

Sir John Millais became a pupil in an artist's studio at the early age of ten, and before he was of age had carried off all possible honours from the Royal Academy schools. Fame came as the result of painting the portrait of his wife (the "Portrait of a Lady"), exhibited in the same year as his marriage, which took place in 1855.

Bismarck told an interviewer recently that all he now cares for is to remain at home with his family. He rarely visits Berlin, because he has no house there, and he dislikes unfamiliar beds and hotel accommodation. Moreover, he would not be able to take a single step in Berlin without being the object of popular demonstrations.

Among Queen Victoria's most cherished possessions are three bracelets. In these are mounted thirty-three miniatures of her grand-children, taken in infancy or early youth. Each picture is set in a narrow frame of gold, and the settings are adorned with pearls and coral. One of the most interesting portraits is that of the Queen holding Prince Alexander of Battenberg.

The Duke of Norfolk, who took so prominent a part in the recent celebrations of the Pope's Jubilee, is a small, sallow-faced man. He has, however, very beautiful eyes and possesses a kind heart. It would be difficult to enumerate all the good he does in the course of a year. The Duke is a widower. His only child, the Earl of Arundel, is thirteen years old, and an invalid.

In addition to being a graceful writer upon philanthropic and other subjects, the youthful Duchess of Sutherland, who recently told an Eastern audience that the rich are not growing richer, is a remarkably fluent and self-possessed speaker. Not many years back, before marriage, her name—Lady Millicent St. Clair Erskine—frequently appeared as a prize and medal winner in literary competitions.