

OBITUARIES OF THE LIVING.

Instances Where People Who Are Expected to Die Live a Long Time.

There are many obituaries pigeon-holed in newspaper offices the writers of which will never see them in print, for they themselves have died before the subjects of their biographical essays. A curious instance of this is afforded by the case of the Times obituary of Earl Russell (better known as "Lord John Russell"), who died in 1878 at the ripe old age of eighty-six years sixty-five of which were spent in public life. The obituary was written twenty years before the Earl's death. It was added to as time went on; but—strange fatality! every one of its contributors died before the subject himself. In the end, notwithstanding the general freedom from superstition of journalists, no one could be got to touch the biography until the time came for its publication.

To take another instance. There is not a daily newspaper in the kingdom that had not in readiness for years an obituary of Mr. Gladstone. Twenty years ago, in 1875, the aged statesman wrote to Lord Granville resigning the leadership of the Liberal party, as, he said, he was too old for public affairs, and it was time for him to turn his thoughts to the other world. But, as every one knows, he came back to public life after a few years of retirement, and since then has made more history than in the previous forty years of his public career. When he goes, what excitement and confusion the event will create in the newspaper offices of the kingdom!

Such an event occurring late at night would completely upset the internal economy of every newspaper office in the country. At midnight, the next morning's paper is practically all in type and from five to ten columns of the matter in type would have to be discarded from the account of Mr. Gladstone's long and eminent career.

The dangerous illness of the Prince of Wales in December, 1871, was the cause of events curious and amusing—which will ever find a place in the history of British journalism. The death of the Prince seemed inevitable; for the doctors began to despair. One day the announcement went forth that His Royal Highness could not survive many hours, and accordingly every daily newspaper in the Kingdom had its obituary of the Prince "set" or put into type. But the expected telegram announcing the death never came, and so at midnight, when the hour for going to press was close at hand, many a newspaper editor who had relied on his biographical sketch of the prince filling six or eight columns of his paper, was compelled to fill up the blank columns with "standing" matter of all kinds, such as old advertisements and older news. The principal newspaper editors subsequently sent the Prince, at his own request, "proofs" of the obituaries; and pasted in a bulky scrapbook, they now form one of the strangest and most curious objects to be seen at Marlborough House.

But probably the most extraordinary circumstances in connection with this subject were two recent libel actions against London evening papers for statements contained in obituaries. In one case a man fell from a train in motion on a Welsh railway and was killed. There was nothing on his person to lead to his identification; but as some sketch books belonging to an artist connected with a London weekly illustrated paper were found in an empty carriage of the train, it was presumed the dead man was the artist, and a telegram to that effect was sent, in the ordinary course, to the London newspapers.

One of the evening journals published a sketch of the artist's life, in which it was said that if the deceased had only had more application and steadiness he would have a far higher position in illustrated journalism. But the artist was not dead at all; he had simply forgotten his paraphernalia in the railway carriage, and on returning to London, brought an action against the evening paper for libel which he alleged was contained in the comments in the obituary notice. The action was settled out of court by the payment of substantial damages.

In the other and more recent case, the person who claimed to be slandered in an obituary was a music hall artist. The notice of his death was complimentary to him as a singer, but it intimated that he was agent of the Irish-American dynamiters, and as such, frequently travelled between London, New York, Paris. The newspaper in question got the news from an outside contributor. It was sent, probably, as a stupid or malicious practical joke; but the music-hall artist was handsomely compensated for its publication.

Not Unanimous at Time.

Passenger. Conductor, we seem to be going at fearful speed.

Conductor. Trying to make up time. Rolling off 'bout sixty miles an hour now.

Passenger. Gracious? I notice that some of the passengers appear to enjoy it and others look scared.

Conductor. Yes, some have accident insurance tickets and some haven't.

His Explanation.

During the war old Rastus was asked by a Federal soldier why he was not out fighting for his rights. After pondering for a moment he replied:

"Did you eber see two dogs a-fighting over a bone, sah?"

"Yes, oh yes!"

"Did you eber see de bone fight?"

Quite Correct.

Teacher. "Why are the days so short in the winter?"

Dull Boy. "Guess it must be 'cause the nights are so long."

"He's bilious!" your friends say when you are irritable. Take Hawker's liver pills, they cure biliousness.

Safe and pleasant to take, sure to cure, Hawker's Bismuth and Wild Cherry.

A quick and pleasant cure for coughs and colds is Hawker's Bismuth and Wild Cherry.

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WILLIAM CLARK

GLASSES AT ALL PRICES.

They Come High In Some Cases and In Others are Cheap and Good.

It costs from 75 cents to nearly as many dollars to be fitted with a first pair of eyeglasses in New York, says the Sun. Those that go to the oculist for a prescription as preliminary to putting on glasses must pay him from \$10 to \$25, or if the eyes need treatment from \$25 to \$100, according to the nature and length of the treatment and the accustomed charges of the oculist. When the patient is ready to buy his glasses he takes the prescription of the oculist to an optician and orders them. Being made to order especially for the patient, they may cost anywhere from \$2.50 to \$15. Persons with complicated disorders of the eye really wear from two to five pairs of glasses in one. Some prescriptions call for two separate pairs, and no prudent man is content to have only one pair of glasses by him, since the loss of his single pair may mean the loss of a day's work or considerable injury to the eyes.

The most expensive way to purchase glasses is through the oculist and the optician. Some very careful persons always visit an oculist before making a change in the power of their glasses. Others simply go on increasing the strength as need seems to direct. It is a good deal cheaper to buy of the oculist-optician, and some persons believe it to be quite as safe as the most expensive method. It is entirely probable that the ordinary conditions of the eye the oculist-optician serves well enough. Most persons that do not guess at their own needs in the matter of glasses either go to an oculist-optician and have him fit them out at from \$2.50 to \$15, or consult a friend. This last is the cheapest method, and it is a favorite one with thousands. The friend, who wears glasses, learns that the other is having some difficulty of sight, and offers his own glasses on trial. If they seem to serve the need the borrower goes to an optician or some other dealer in eyeglasses and gets a like pair. He thus saves the fee of the oculist or that of the oculist-optician.

Many persons buy eyeglasses of the dry goods shops. They sell them at from 50 cents to \$1, and they look just like those that the opticians sell for \$2.50. They are, perhaps, as safe for those whose affections of the eyes are not complicated, but they do not last as long as those of the opticians. They break at the delicate joints. The frames, if they have any are brittle, and the tiny screws are weak, or are put in so badly that they crack the lenses. The dry goods shops, however, cannot compete with the corner stands for the trade of a great many persons. There are plenty of old fellows that have been buying their glasses for almost nothing at corner stands any time these forty years. They never spent a penny on an oculist, and they despise opticians. The fact is that science of the eye has grown up since they began to use glasses, and, having started without its aid, they keep on in like fashion. It is only because they are not troubled with complicated affections of the eyes that they are able to preserve their sight in defiance of the modern specialist.

The eyeglass or spectacle case is furnished free by the opticians, but the dry goods shops charge for them odd penny prices. Those furnished by the opticians are made by young girls in large factories, and cost at wholesale only a few cents each. Those of special forms cost more, and are not furnished free by the opticians unless the patient purchase an expensive pair of glasses. There are gold mounted and silver mounted and tortoise shell eyeglass and spectacle cases at prices as high as \$50 each.

Why He Wanted the Tiger.

At a sale of animals from Barnum's hippodrome in the American town of Bridgeport, a tiger was being offered. The highest bid was made by a man who was a stranger, and to him it was knocked down. Barnum, who had been eyeing the stranger uneasily during the bidding, then went up to him and said—

"Pardon me for asking the question, but will you tell me where you are from?"

"Down South," responded the man.

"Are you connected with any show?"

"No."

"And are you buying this animal for yourself?"

"Yes."

Barnum shifted about for a few moments, looking alternately at the man and the tiger, evidently trying his best to reconcile the two together.

"Now, young man," he finally said, "you need not take this animal unless you want to, for there are those here who will take it off your hands."

"I don't want to sell," was the quiet reply.

Then Barnum said in his desperation—

"What on earth are you going to do with such an ugly beast if you have no show of your own, and are not buying for someone who is a showman?"

"Well, I'll tell you," said the purchaser.

"My wife died about three weeks ago. We had lived together for ten years, and—and I miss her."

He paused to wipe his eyes and steady his voice, and then added—

"So I've bought this tiger."

"I understand you," said the great showman in a husky voice, as he turned to hide his emotion.

In Sporting Circles.

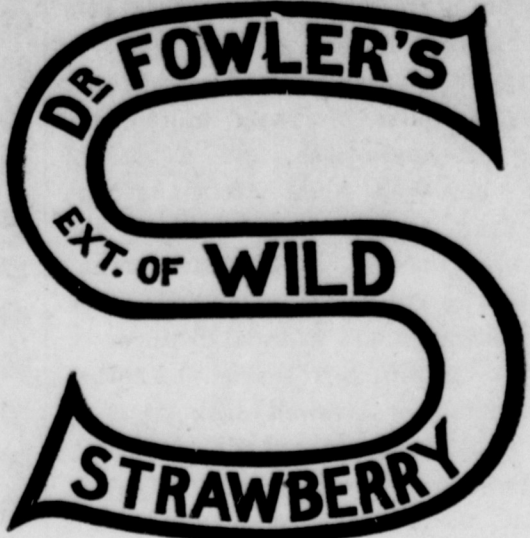
Lacrosse, baseball, cricket and tennis players are rapidly being weaned from alcoholic drinks. "Monterrat" Lime Fruit Juice is the principal substitute. Clear, fragrant and delicious, it seems to cut the phlegm and cleanse the throat in a way that no other drink can. One glass of "Monterrat" will have more effect than three of iced claret or ten of lager beer. Of course, it needs to be diluted with aerated or even plain water, and sweetened to the taste.

At Her Very Best.

Squidgy. "I would rather look at Miss Plane when she is paying for a ride in the street car than at any other time."

McSwilligen. "Why?"

Equidgy. "Then she is passing-lare."



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Age no barrier. Failure impossible.

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"Well, I tell you that the first day is one I'll never forget. I just bubbled with joy. I wanted to hug everybody and tell them my old self had died yesterday and my new self born to-day."

Why didn't you tell me when I wrote that I would find it this way?"

And another thus:

"If you dumped a cartload of gold at my feet it would not bring such gladness into my life as your method has done."

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IT WAS A PLUCKY OYSTER.

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"One of the most exciting contests I ever saw was between an oyster and one of the most deadly enemies of the oyster family, and I am glad to say that the oyster won the fight. The enemy was a starfish, and if all of its kind were as fresh and indiscreet as this one was they wouldn't be a source of so much dread to the oyster farmer."

"Every person who has anything to do with raising oysters has seen many a battle between them and starfish. These destructive enemies of the oyster grow fast, but seldom attempt to attack the bivalves before they are six months old, and then their inexperience and overconfidence are apt to get them in a heap of trouble. A starfish that has cut its eye teeth, so to speak, will get the best of an oyster every time, for it will mount the shell, drill a hole through it, inject its stupefying liquid into the oyster, and envelop the whole thing with its capacious and elastic mouth-stomach before the poor shellfish knows what has happened to it.

"A school of starfish can go through an oyster farm almost as quickly as a tornado can wipe out a wheat farm in Dakota. Starfish are virtually walking stomachs, and I have found them stretched over clams, shell and all, that were a great deal bigger than the natural dimensions of the starfish. When one of these rapacious marauders envelopes a clam or an oyster it simply turns itself wrong side out and pulls itself over its victim, as you would pull on a pair of new socks.

"This fight I was speaking about occurred in shallow water, and I had a good sight of it. I saw the starfish work warily along over the oyster, and then settle down upon it. The bivalve was on the lookout though, and when the starfish was near enough the oyster's shell closed like a steel trap on one of the starfish's five rays and cut it off as slick as if it had been done with a knife. A starfish doesn't mind the loss of a ray or two; in fact, it can stand the loss of four of its rays and then make its way off, in a short time spreading and growing the lost members again. But if the starfish loses all five of its rays its doom is sealed. It will die almost immediately.

"The oyster had no sooner clipped off one of its foe's legs than it set its trap again and waited for a renewal of the attack. This was not long in coming. The starfish drooped itself slowly, with so much confidence that I could almost see it, and was soon astride the oyster again. Again the trap flew shut, and the starfish rose with but three of its five rays left. But it was plucky, and, with confidence unimpaired, returned for the third round with the prompt and watchful oyster. The round was a repetition of the other two, and the starfish was bereft of another leg. The persistent enemy of the oyster had apparently set its mind on having that particular one, and without a moment's hesitation turned its crippled body to the fourth assault.

"The oyster was now mad all the way through, and shifted its position, turning its open shell upward as the starfish dropped toward it. This was the last round of the fight, for the oyster caught both remaining rays of the starfish in the trap and snipped them off at one bite. The rayless starfish turned over and sank to the bottom dead."—New York Sun.

To Prepare Frozen Bananas.

Frozen bananas are very nice served as a sweet course at a luncheon in the place of ices or ice cream. Get the best bananas you can find and peel the skins as perfect as possible. Peel one section, that is, turn it back carefully without separating from the rest of the skin, and take out the fruit. Mash the pulp, and to each cupful of it add a pint of whipped cream and sugar to taste. Fill the banana skins with the mixture, shaping it as much like the fruit as possible. Cover so that the skins will not appear to be broken, and pack in an ice cream can. Make a freezing mixture of salt and ice as for ice cream, and let them stand from two to three hours. If you choose the pulp may be colored with strawberry juice, but it must not be thinned too much or there will be trouble in packing the fruit.

Daudet on Englishwomen.

Alphonse Daudet was not exactly complimentary in his references to Englishwomen of whom he met many in his recent trip to prehistoric Albion. "Not only is the Englishwoman not handsome in features," he says, "but there is nothing seductive in her physical form, and, moreover, she is an utter stranger to elegance and good taste. The Englishwoman whom you encounter in Paris, with flattened-down hair and huge feet, differs in no single particular from the English lady of rank whom you meet in salons, on the turf, and at play. It gave me a real thrill of pleasure on reaching Paris to behold our pretty Parisiennes, with their fascinating toilets." The only English word M. Daudet learned in England was "yes."

The Utility of a Hairpin.

Instead of a hook, it buttons boots, gloves, and such like.

Instead of a needle and thread, it will fasten together a ripped seam.

Instead of mucus, it fastens together a woman reporter's sheets of copy paper.

Instead of a corkscrew, it will open a bottle; instead of a paper knife, it will cut open magazine leaves.

Instead of a candlestick, it does good service straightened out, with one end jabbed into a candle, the other into the mantle.

It is so useful, the wonder is how men get along without 'em. And they don't, very well.

His Politics.

The most sensible speech ever made was that of the man who, during one of the Belfast riots, was asked by a mob what his politics were. He did not know which way his interrogators were inclined, but he looked at their weapons, their bludgeons, their flogging-pieces, surveyed all carefully, and answered—"Gentlemen I am of the same opinions as that gentleman with the big axe."



CANCER ON THE LIP

CURED BY

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"I consulted doctors who prescribed for me but to no purpose. I suffered in agony seven long years. Finally, I began taking Ayer's Sarsaparilla. In a week or two I had a decided improvement. Encouraged by this result, I persevered, until in a month or so the sore began to heal, and after using the Sarsaparilla for six months, the last trace of the cancer disappeared." JAMES E. NICHOLSON, Florenceville, N. B.

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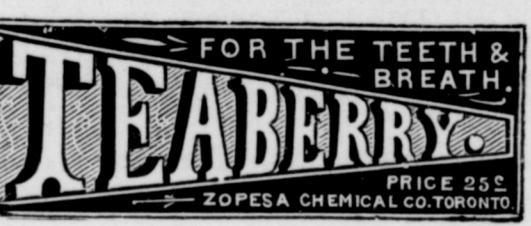
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