

ATTEMPT TO INSURE GUTEAU.

Joke that Helped to Kill Insurance in Pennsylvania.

For the first time the story of the pretended effort to insure Guteau's life has been made public in Reading Pa. The scheme was conceived by two young lawyers, and, although they began it as a joke there were many who took it seriously. One of the results was to help to kill "deathbed insurance" in the eastern part of the United States. Guteau was shot in July, 1881, and the trial of the assassin began in November, 1881, and ended with a verdict of guilty on Jan 25, 1882. Guteau was hanged on June, 30, 1892. At this time the deathbed insurance craze was at high-water mark, many of the companies taking all kinds of risks. One evening in February, 1882, two young Reading attorneys were talking of Guteau, for whom an application for a new trial had just been made. One of the attorneys suggested that they attempt to insure Guteau's life as a means bringing ridicule on the graveyard companies. They talked of it to a resident of Reading who at that time held a political office in Washington. He entered into the joke and thought he could arrange the Washington end of the affair. Going back to Washington the Berks County politician told a newspaper man there of the business of the insurance companies in Reading and also of the scheme of insuring Guteau. Meanwhile the attorneys made written application for \$100,000 insurance on Guteau's life. The application nearly got the jokers into trouble. Among the many life insurance companies in Reading at the time was one that did not properly come under the designation of deathbed company. By accident a blank of this particular company was filled out in due form and forwarded to the Washington newspaper man. His part was to take it to Guteau and try to secure his signature.

The reporter visited Guteau and told him that a firm of insurance agents in Reading, thinking that he might secure a new trial and eventually escape the gallows, considered him a good risk, and wanted to insure him for \$100,000. The reporter gave Guteau to understand that neither he nor his friends would have to pay any of the assessments; that would be attended to in Reading. Guteau was also told that the agents would make it worth his while to sign the application. Although no figures were mentioned, he was left under the impression that his heirs might expect \$25,000 should he be executed. Guteau listened to the scheme and then smiled. He knew the newspaper man and told him he thought the entire matter a joke. The reporter knew it was, but did not say so. Guteau declined to sign them. The following day Washington newspaper appeared with a long article, saying that a graveyard insurance company at Reading wanted to place \$100,000 insurance on Guteau's life. The name of the company was given. The article was in the form of an exposure, and said that large sums of money had been offered to secure Guteau's signature, and that a large sum was to go to the assassin's heirs. The news was sent all over the country subsequently.

By this time the Reading originators of the scheme were beginning to find that they had succeeded beyond their expectations. The officers of the company whose name was connected with the affair went on a still hunt for the schemers and lawsuits were threatened. Then the New York and New England papers took up the subject. Long articles appeared, calling attention to the deathbed or graveyard insurance companies doing business in eastern Pennsylvania, and especially in Reading. Next the insurance papers of England took up the matter. They cited the Pennsylvania deathbeds as samples of American life insurance. One daily paper in San Francisco called the attempt to insure Guteau a disgrace on humanity. It is said by those conversant with their affairs that the Guteau episode, as much as anything else, assisted in wiping out deathbed insurance concerns.—New York Sun.

TO UTILIZE SEA WAVES.

Many Remarkable Projects of Science in This Line.

Among the ideas for utilizing the energy of the sea waves recorded at the patent office is one by Terence Duffy, of San Francisco. He proposes to harness the ocean so as to make it store compressed air. The rolling and pitching of a ship built according to his plan operates a number of air pumps which force air into reservoirs. From the reservoirs it is conducted by pipes to the engines as required for propelling the vessel, for general electricity for lighting, etc., and for taking in and discharging cargo. P. S. Delvan, of Newark, N. J., has patented a plan for surrounding a vessel with floats. The floats are connected with the plungers of air pumps in such a manner that the motion of the waves compressed air in receivers.

The compressed air thus accumulated is used to propel the ship.

A California inventor named John Gambetta proposes to swing from the mast of a ship a gigantic pendulum, the oscillations of which are expected to drive the propeller. Another genius has designed a boat that is built like a gigantic screw, with a sort of continuous spiral fin enveloping it. The action of the waves causes it to screw itself literally through the water. The scheme of A. F. Yardell, of San Francisco, is to suspend a huge box, or tank, above the keel of the ship. This is to be loaded with freight or ballast, and, as it swings to and fro, it actuates the propeller. Another idea, calculated to revolutionize navigation, is a vessel built in two sections, which are hinged together amidships. As the waves alternately rock the opposite ends of the craft the energy is utilized by means of rocking beams and suitable gearing, and in this way the ship humps itself along.

Charles W. Cahoon, of Portland, Me., would so utilize the undulatory movements of a vessel as to actuate pumps. The pumps imbibe water at the bow and eject it at the stern, thus forcing her ahead. Yet another invention in this line is a floating hydraulic ram, which is operated by the impact of the waves. It is claimed there is hardly any limit to the height to which water may be elevated by this device. A few years ago an experiment was made near San Francisco by an inventor who secured the backing of Mr. Sutro, of Comstock tunnel fame. His machine was anchored out in the ocean not far from shore, and was used to pump water up to the top of a bluff some hundreds of feet high. Unfortunately, a storm came and swallowed up the apparatus, together with \$15,000 which has been invested in it. This catastrophe put an end to the enterprise.—Boston Transcript.

The Dangers of Kissing.

Some time ago a metropolitan newspaper contained a large account of a society, said to have been established somewhere in Indiana, the object of which was the discouragement of the habit of kissing at social parties. Membership in this society was limited strictly to women; perhaps it was feared that there would be too many backsliders if men were admitted.

The writer of the article might have employed his imagination more usefully had he described a society of matrons established for the protection of babies against the oscillations of every chance acquaintance or visitor in the family, or even passers-by in the street.

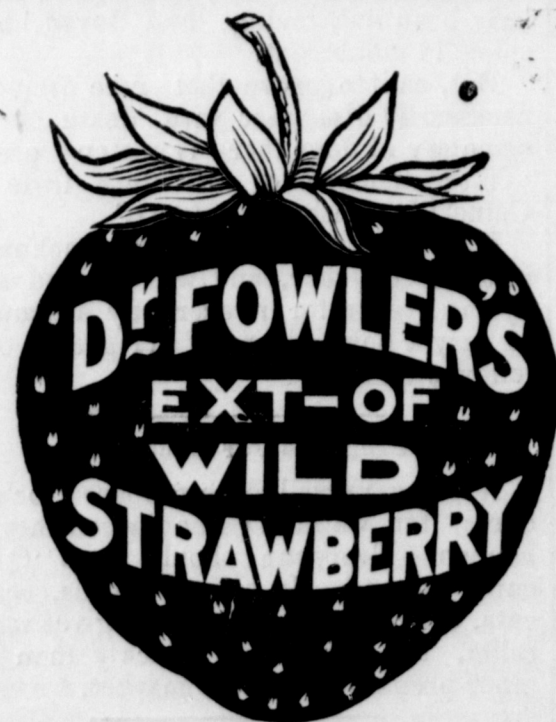
Babies, at least most babies, are very lovable,—when they are in their happy moods,—but that is no reason why they should be subjected to treatment that they would surely resent were they old enough to appreciate the indignity. And there is not alone the indignity, for the custom, when so promiscuous, is distinctly unesthetic, and worse than that, dangerous to health.

There is no more effectual means of conveying the contagion of disease, apart from actual inoculation, than by kissing. Medical literature is full of instances of the transmission of diphtheria and other dangerous diseases in this way. And it is not the baby alone that is in danger through this custom, for it has happened more often than one could believe, that the child has been the one who was ill, and has spread its malady through a wide circle of hysterical oscillators. If the anti-baby-kissing society were ever established, this is a fact that should be made the subject of its first tract.

There is another habit of older children, and even grown up people, which is as dangerous as it is nasty,—and that is the kissing of dogs and cats, or the allowing of one's self to be licked by them.

A form of ringworm, very common in children, is attributed, probably with a good deal of justice, to contagion from the cat; and dogs are often infested with worms, the eggs of which are wiped from the tongue of the animal on to the child's face, and so may get into the mouth and be swallowed. Let the baby and the puppy be taught to "shake hands."

"Barrin' me landlady and me washerwoman," said Mr. Horrigan, with honest pride, "O' owe no man a cent."—Indianapolis Journal.

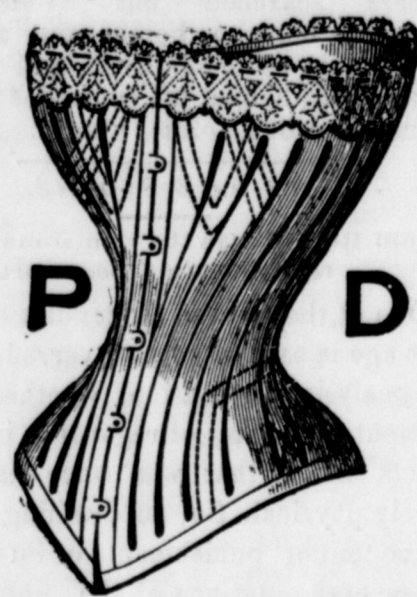


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C. CREIGHTON, Asst. Supt.

MARKETING IN PARIS.

People buy in Homoeopathic Quantities in Many Different Places.

As it is more and more the tendency among Americans to select some specialty of profession, the same proclivity is displayed in Paris in a rude way among provision dealers. The butcher sells only beef, mutton and lamb. The triper has sole claim to the head, brains, liver, heart, feet, etc. If one wishes fowl he must go to the fruiter, and there are others who have the monopoly of game. If two men hire a room in the same building the goods of one cannot be like those of his neighbor. With this brief suggestion of the divisions it is easy to see that marketing becomes something more than giving an order over a telephone wire.

The streets in the morning are quite filled with women making their daily purchases. Nearly every woman carries a basket or net bag. Since fruit and vegetables seldom have paper, the latter discloses much of her bill of fare. Being obliged to go to each store, she generally carries her groceries. But they may be delivered by a boy who balances a flat basket on his head and often reads a newspaper on the way. He would make a good messenger boy! The greater part of trading is done outside the store at low counters, or with street vendors. To their carts is attached a harness which either monsieur or madame slips over the shoulders. The women's voices, as they call their wares, are fearfully vibrant and heavy. Those must have been terrible sounds given by the starving market women when they attacked the palace at Versailles. The loud cry of one, advertising her goods makes the stranger shudder.

Other women, in contrast to these are those who sell fish in the great wholesale markets. They are rich. They wear a bonnet with real lace, and true diamonds glitter on their unclean, odorous hands. Their dress is of excellent material covered with a white apron.

The baker, with a suit of white, is patronized for bread, at least by nearly every family in Paris. It is found in all shapes and varieties. Just before it is taken from the oven steam is turned in upon it, giving it a very brown crust. It is said that France has been famed for its bread since the seventeenth century. It seems very possible, if one were to judge the date of the make from the hardness of its crust! The French breakfast consists of a roll and a cup of coffee.

The workmen, who have twelve hours a day of labor, take a roll or two for the second meal as well, with a supplement at "the seller of wines." Children at play eat bread as "young America" eats candy and chews gum. Passers-by carry bread, without a wrapping, under the arm or in work aprons, or a child measures his length with a long narrow stick of it. A partial loaf has often with it one thick slice added to make the weight exact. But it must be a fastidious person who insists on having his bread done up in paper.

THE PRICE OF A HORSE.

An Incident Which Illustrates an Effect of the Cycling Craze.

"Speaking of bicycles," remarked the drummer, "I presume is largely in the nature of a chestnut to mention the fact that the bicycle has done more to render this the horseless age than anything else that has happened to it, but I'll say [it and illuminate my statement by an example, which lately came under my notice.

"I was down in a West Virginia town not more than a week or ten days ago, and as I had a jaunt of ten miles to make into the country to see a rural customer of mine I hired a horse at the livery stable and proceeded thither on horse back. The liveryman being a friend of mine, let me have his own saddle horse, a really fine animal, and I felt proud of my mount as I rode out of town. Arrived at destination I soon transacted my business and while waiting for my customer, who was going to ride part of the way back with me, an old farmer came along and hitched his horse near the block where I was sitting on mine all ready to ride away. He took a side glance at my nag and with the usual freedom of the country began looking my animal over."

"What's he wuth?" he inquired when his investigation was completed.

"Oh, about eighteen dollars," I said thinking I would surprise the old fellow and at the same time have some fun with him.

"But he never showed a sign in his face and merely walked around the horse critically."

"I might give you fifteen," he said, great indifference.

"If you do," said I, hanging on, "it will have to be cash."

"I ain't actin' brash these hard times," he explained, "but mebbe we kin do some thin' in the critter bizness. Trot him up the road a piece and let's see what he kin do."

"I hadn't bargained for this exactly, but I was in for it, and I thought I might as

well see it to the finish and rode away as he directed.

"When I returned he took another turn around the horse, shaking his head as if not altogether satisfied with what he was likely to get in the deal.

"Is fifteen yer lowest figger?" he asked.

"Yes, it's the best I can do."

"Well," he said, with the greatest deliberation, "fifteen dollars is a good deal to pay for a horse these days, but ride him up the road a'gin on a run till I holler, an' when I holler swing him 'round and fetch him back on a slow walk, an' I'll git the money somehow."

I thought it was a fine joke and started away on a dead run, expecting to get the call at a turn in the road some three hundred yards away, but I didn't, and when I had passed out of sight an still no call came I tumbled to myself and went right back to where I had started from in the morning without saying a word to anybody.—Washington Star.

Six and Half a Dozen.

In the land where the only wells are artesian, the necessary depth of these sources of water supply is often sometimes appalling. A traveler—commercial, of course—relates that when he was once in a promising section of the arid belt he met a farmer hauling a wagon-load of water.

"Where do you get the water?" asked the traveler.

"Up the road about seven miles," answered the farmer.

"And you haul water seven miles for your family and stock?"

"Yep."

"Why in the name of common sense don't you dig a well?"

"Because it's jest as fur one way as the other, stranger!"

Sightseeing Simplified.

There is always room for an new application of an old principle, even so old a one as that of the division of labor.

Millicent—How long did your Easter trip to Rome occupy?

Madeline—Oh, a week altogether—there and back.

Millicent—And you saw everything?

Madeline—Oh, yes; you see there were three of us. Mother went to the picture-galleries. I examined the monuments, and father studied local color in the cafes.—Roseleaf.

Bruised.

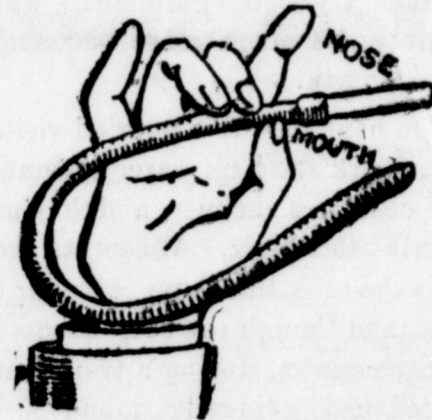
"What sort of an impression did Clara's young man make on you?"

"When I first met him?"

"Yes."

"Well, he was scorching, with his head down, and the impression he made upon me was a bruise I didn't get over for a week."

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