

SOMETHING IN THE EAR.

Foreign Substances in the ear should not be tampered with.

The ears of children are favorite receptacles for small sticks, pebbles, beans and the like. Insects may also occasionally crawl into the ear, and flies are sometimes put there by children who enjoy the buzzing sound and the tickling which the prisoners cause in their efforts to escape. Sometimes the fly, despairing of exit by the way he entered, this being closed by the little hand, will crawl in the other direction, and if he chances to reach the drum membrane his revenge on his tormentor will be complete.

The ear is usually very tolerant of any inert substance which has found entrance, the presence of which may be discovered only accidentally during the child's bath; and then the trouble generally begins with the nurse's attempts to extract it. If the body is a pea or a bean, however, it will absorb moisture and swell, causing severe pain.

The chief danger of a foreign body in the ear is that it tempts unskillful persons to try to remove it, for almost invariably the only result of such efforts is to jam it farther in, perhaps even so far as to break the drum membrane and cause irreparable injury to the delicate structure in the drum of the ear.

It is so hazardous, indeed, to attempt extraction in these cases, that it is almost wiser to advise that the offending object be left alone no matter how much pain and distress its presence may cause. Certainly if a doctor can be reached, even with some delay, the work should be left to him; but a doctor may be inaccessible, or the pain, as from the presence of a live insect, may be so excruciating that something must be done at once.

The first rule for removing anything from the ear is a 'don't'—don't poke in the ear! If the trouble is due to an insect, let the child lie on the opposite side and then pour a little lukewarm water into the ear; the insect will almost always come to the surface of the fluid and crawl out of the opening.

Syringing the ear with lukewarm soap-water will usually suffice to dislodge a hard body which is not too tightly wedged in; if, however, this is something that will absorb water and swell, we must refrain, for the only result will be to hasten it more securely.

Sometimes a loop of very thin wire can be slipped behind the intruder, which can then, by a dexterous manoeuvre, be pulled out. But this is one of the measures that had better be left to the doctor, if one can be found without unreasonable delay. Indeed, nothing should be done by either mother or nurse if it is possible to wait.

Very serious injury, resulting in permanent deafness, has been caused by bungling efforts to extract a little pebble that was for the time being doing absolutely no harm, beyond causing the mother needless alarm.

ANOTHER CHARMING ACT.

How a Drummer Made Many Happy By His Thoughtfulness.

A correspondent who was interested in the anecdote related under the title, 'A Charming Act,' on page 140 of the Companion for March 25, 1897, sends us an account of an incident which is worthy to go on record with the other.

'From 1889 to 1893,' the correspondent writes, 'I was postmaster at Huntington, West Virginia. A day or two before the Christmas of 1889 a stranger appeared at the post-office and asked if we had any letters or packages which could not be forwarded for lack of proper postage.'

'Many,' I answered. 'Bring them all out, and let us send them on our way,' said he, at the same time taking a bank-note from his pocket.

'The accumulations held for postage' were produced, were properly stamped, and were sent to the cancelling-table, the stranger paying for the necessary stamps. 'Now,' said he, 'I will leave two dollars more in your hands to be expended for stamps, in case other matter should be deposited during the holidays with insufficient postage. You can keep a record of the amount, and we will settle when I call again.'

'Will you leave your name?' I asked. 'Oh, that's not necessary; I'm only a drummer,' he answered.

'This act he repeated every year at the beginning of the season until 1893, when, being unable to reach Huntington before the holidays, he enclosed five dollars in a letter to the postmaster, asking that it be expended, if necessary, in the same way. The letter was signed, 'The Crank Drummer.'

'After his second visit he was traced to a hotel, and his name learned from the register. I gave to you privately, but it is perhaps not best to reveal it. Whether he has continued his 'crank' practice I do not know.—Youth's Companion.

A POPULAR C. P. R. OFFICER.

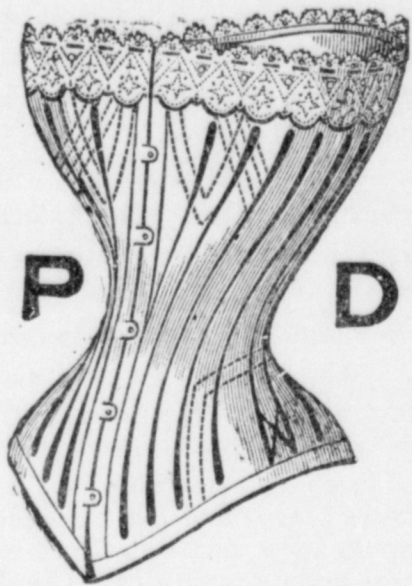
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Spring Lamb, Lettuce and Radish.

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PRETTY LAMP SHADES.

Some Wonderful Creations of Straw hat Come From Paris.

An appropriate lamp shade for use in the hot months is of the new square shape, made of pale green linen and piped at the edges of the panels with white silk gimp. There is a spray of hand-painted water lilies on the dull green surface and the shade is finished at the bottom with a plain white silk fringe. On a warm day it makes one feel cool and refreshed just to look at the water lilies and the dainty coloring.

This is the era of straw—straw panels and bannerets for the walls; straw mats of original patterns, straw cushion covers, straw hammocks, and piazza thatchings of coarse straw made to suggest the picturesque bungalow of the East. All these straw appurtenances came in with the craze for Japanese furnishings and Oriental ideas, but it remains for Paris to evolve the straw lamp shade. Like all things cradled in that wonderful capital, the straw lamp shade is a model of beauty, unique in shape, finishing, and adornment. It is curved and fretted, and turretted like a choice bit of architecture, and this effect is increased by a beadlike tasselling about the edge, which, while it does look to be merely straw, as one is used to think of straw, seems like no other textile fabric. With the usual French forethought for the becoming, the gray straw groundwork is laid over pink, and the shade not only serves to give distinction to a very ordinary lamp, but is also as artistic as any piece of fine china or bric-a-brac that has no practical reason for existence. Although of moderate size, such French creations cost \$15.

It is from Paris also that straw ruffles and plaitings and gimps for finishing off other lamp and candle shades come as well. Four prim little shades designed for the princess lamps now so fashionable for the four corners of the table, are of rose-pink silk, globe shaped, and covered with an open lattice work of light colored straw, a ruffle of variegated straw two inches deep finishing the edge. Another straw shade for a large lamp is of olive green over Pompeian red, the ruffle being a combination of the two colors. The Pompeian red, a dull, brick-dust color, is much affected, but it holds the light rather too much for practical purposes, although lending beauty to the room.

Unique effects in shades are got by using open burnt work on parchment over colored silks. When such a shade is in place over the lighted globe the effect is like a bit of mosaic work, especially if the open work be enriched with gold paint. A yellow silk shade over parchment work deep with the poker is very tasteful.

BEHIND THE TIMES.

He Refuses to Sell His Goods at a Ridiculous Sacrifice.

Perhaps it is because almost every one has some odd ways of his own that stories of odd people are so generally interesting. Whatever the explanation, it is certainly true that eccentricity often gives a very ordinary person a measure of local fame. Here, for instance, is a storekeeper whose history the Chicago Times-Herald thinks it worth while to print.

In a small village in Geauga County, Ohio, there is a store as large and well stocked as you would expect to find in a suburban town. It is kept—that is precisely the word—by an old widower who has no relatives in that part of the country and is practically a hermit.

When the civil war began he was running a flourishing general store and made money rapidly during the succeeding four years. When peace was declared prices, which been greatly inflated, took a sudden drop. The old fellow believed that this would be followed by a boom which would send prices skyward again, and refused to sell his goods for less than he paid for them. Down went the prices—down, down, down—and finally his business was practically at an end.

To-day his store stands almost exactly as it did thirty years ago. It is stocked with such goods as are usually found in country stores, but, of course the stock is now practically worthless.

Every day the old man opens the place to give it an airing. He is there, too, for business, if any one chooses to buy what he has to sell and is willing to pay what he asks.

'Why, sir,' he said to me, 'some of the calico I've got here cost me sixty-five cents a yard thirty years ago. Shouldn't I be a fool to sell it now for five cents?'

She Was "Me."

A gentleman who had a telephone in his house has in his employ a faithful but stupid German girl, who one day responded to the ringing of the telephone-bell.

'Who is there?' came over the wire. 'It is I,' replied Katrina.

'And who is I?' 'Why, I am I.'

'But who is I?' came over the wire. 'I am me, my ownself, retorted Katrina.

'How should I be any one but me?' 'But who are you?' 'I am my own self.'

'What is your name?' 'Katrina Rupper.'

'Well, who is Katrina Rupper?' 'She is me, I, my own self.'

And when Katrina heard laughter at the other end of the line she said indignantly: 'I will not stay here to be made a shake out, and she walked away from the telephone, grumbling: 'How could I be any one but me? I let 'em know how to make a shake of me!'

Strong Points ABOUT B. B. B.

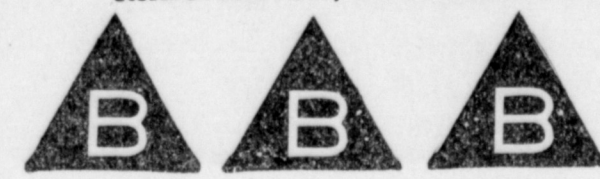
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THE LION GOT LOOSE.

They Waited Till the Lion was Asleep and Then Captured him.

In the early part of this century Kaïd Maimon, a governor of Tanglar, was taking a journey thither, carrying a large lion in a cage borne by four mules as a present from the sultan to the King of Portugal. One evening, after the tents had been pitched and Kaïd Maimon was resting on a divan in his pavilion, he heard a neighing of horses, and then a trampling and stampede of the animals tethered outside. He clapped his hands to summon the attendants, but for a few moments no one came. Then appeared his prisoner, the lion, glaring fiercely as he approached.

Kaïd Maimon was a very courageous man, and while the lion was advancing there was a time to think of many things. It was of no use to draw his sword; and moreover, if he should succeed in killing the lion, the sultan would probably cut off his own head in return. So he sat perfectly still, and addressed the creature by the name which had been given him.

'You are a brave fellow, Maimon,' said he, 'to leave your cage and take a walk this fine evening. Q judicious and well-behaved lion, you do well to enjoy yourself!' For the creature, pleased with the Kaïd voice, had begun to roll upon the carpet. 'O bravest and most trustworthy!'

And now the lion had risen, rubbed himself catlike against his host, and lain down with his head upon the Kaïd's knee.

Brave though he was the Kaïd shuddered, and the perspiration of fear broke out upon him. Not a sound was to be heard in the camp, save the terrified neigh of a horse which had not been able to escape with the others, and which still scented the lion.

Maimon woke, stretched himself, and put out his long, terrible claws. He stalked toward the door, lashing his tail. At its first movement the Kaïd's turban was knocked off, and in replacing it he muttered to himself:

'I hope this visit is coming to an end! May it be the last of the kind I shall ever receive!'

The meantime had succeeded in galloping away, and the lion broke at once into pursuit. He overtook his victim in two bounds, and laid him low with lacerated sides and bleeding throat. While he was thus engaged the Kaïd escaped from the back of his tent and managed to summon his men, who, half a mile away, were huddled together with the horses and mules.

'The first man who runs away again,' said he, 'I will bastinado till the breath is out of his body!'

And no one attempted to run. For though remaining might mean death, the bastinado was a horrible certainty. So they waited until the lion had gorged himself into sleepiness, and then cautiously recaptured him.

Smoker and Non-Smoker.

Advice may be excellent in itself and yet come with poor grace from the person who gives it. Two men of Marseilles were one day smoking together when one of them took out a cigar and proceeded to light it.

'What do you call that thing?' asked the other man.

'A Londres,' answered the first.

'Expensive, I suppose?'

'Bah! Six sous.'

'Only six sous, eh? And how many years have you smoked?'

'Thirty.' 'Thirty years, three cigars a day, six sous apiece. Why, if you had not spent that money for cigars, you could have owned a house on the Cannebiere today!'

The other said nothing. The Cannebiere is the richest and most famous street in Marseilles. Presently the two promenaders came out on the Cannebiere.

'You don't smoke, I believe?' said the man with the cigar.

'Smoke? No!'

'Well, which is your house here?'

And the abstemious man had to confess that he owned no house, either on the Cannebiere or anywhere else.

Misled by the Papers.

Every pursuit has its own body of slang, otherwise known as technical terms, and baseball is no exception. Apropos of this fact the Baltimore American reports a dialogue between an old lady and her grandson.

'Now, Henry,' said the dear old lady, 'I do hope you will never play baseball!'

'Why not, grandma?' asked Henry, with natural surprise.

'Because it is so very dangerous.'

'Dangerous! Why, grandma, it isn't any more dangerous than any other game.'

'It is exceedingly dangerous,' said the old lady, in a tone of deep conviction.

'But, grandma you never saw a game, and don't know anything about it.'

'Perhaps I don't, but I know it is highly dangerous. Almost every day the papers tell about men who have died on the bases.'

Rubbing It In.

Never use a liniment for rheumatism, says a high medical authority. Don't rub it in—drive it out. Take something that removes the acid poison from the blood—take something that will improve your digestion, and build up the body to the perfection of robust health. That 'something' is Scott's Sarsaparilla, a remedy that obtains the best results in the shortest time. \$1. of all druggists.