

BITS OF HUMOR.

The caller who drops in for half a minute had exceeded the time limit by about four hours, and there was no prospect of immediate relief when the small boy of the house came in for the third time during the afternoon and stopped in amazement at seeing the visitor.

"Ain't you gone yet?" he asked. "Bout time for you to be gone, ain't it?"

"Hush Freddie," cried his mother, in distress. "You mustn't mind what he says, Mrs. Jones. Children don't seem to know any better than to blurt the truth out sometimes, do they?"

Whereupon the caller gathered up her dignity and departed.

The man of this story is a very tight sleeper, one who is easily awakened and who is a long time getting to sleep. In a Leeds hotel he had at last got sound asleep when a loud rap, repeated, awoke him.

"What's wanted?"

"Package downstairs for you."

"Well, it can wait till morning, I suppose?"

The boy departed, and after a long time the man was sound asleep again, when there came another resounding knock at the door.

"Well, what is it now?" he inquired.

"Tain't for you, that package."

"Doctor, something is the matter with me. Sometimes my mind is a perfect blank, and my memory constantly fails me. I wish you would treat me."

"I will. But in view of the peculiar nature of your case, I shall want you to advance."

An English actor, appearing at a cheap theatre in Salzburg, found so small an audience that he sought out the manager for an explanation.

"You see," the manager told him, "my people are at the Halle concert."

"Oh," the actor said surprised. "I

DROUGHT IN VERMONT.

Streams Frozen and Farmers Compelled to go Miles for Water.

Bennington, Vt., Dec. 19.—Although rain has frequently been predicted during the last few weeks, not enough has fallen to do much good, and unless it comes before long this section of the state will experience one of the worst droughts known in years. The intensely cold weather of the past two weeks has frozen up the smaller streams, and water in the wells and springs is much lower than it has been at any time for a number of months and some farmers are driving their cattle a mile to water. Relief can only come with copious showers. The mills in the village are using their steam power.

It is stated by one of the leading market men of the village that there were but few changes in the local markets the last week. Butter is quoted at 35 cents a pound and eggs 50 cents a dozen and hard to get. Potatoes are holding firm at 50 to 60 cents a bushel and dealers say that they will soon advance in price. Market men say that the present time there are not over 75 per cent. of the quantity in hand that there was a year ago at this time. Apples are plenty at \$1.50 to \$2 per barrel, according to quality.

JUSTICE OF THE HEARTH.

A Standard That Might Well Be Adopted by Society.

Over the dinner table a husband was telling his wife of the financial misdealings of one of their social acquaintances, a wealthy and popular man. He had contrived the ruin of a certain company and its subsequent reorganization, a process which had put money into his pocket and taken money from innocent stockholders.

The husband touched the facts lightly, because he thought that a woman could not be interested in them or understand them in detail. This woman's understanding throughout her husband's narrative was occupied with one or two simple questions.

"Is he to be punished?" she asked.

"Punished? How? His conscience won't punish him—indeed, he probably thinks he has obeyed the rules of business. The law technically is broad enough to cover his case, but it is hard to get evidence. You see, the district attorney must—"

"Excuse me for interrupting, dear. Explain that to me later. I think we shall not dine there next Wednesday. I will write a note to Mrs. Barry."

"Not dine there? Why not?"

"Because he is not a fit man to receive in our house or for us to visit."

"But nonsense! He's just as good a fellow, just as respectable!"

"One minute. By your own words you prove that he is a wicked man, taking what is not his. I listened to your story until there could be no doubt that you yourself condemned him by the facts, which I do not understand. If what you say is true he and I meet no more as equals."

And her judgment stood. Of course her neighbors and friends pursued the usual course of accepting a man in social relations whom their husbands distrusted in business.

But the standard of the hearthstone—shall it not some day be the standard of all society?

MARINE TURTLES.

How They Are Stripped of Their Shells While Alive.

The shells shipped from the Colon district are taken from turtles caught on the Lagarto and San Blas coasts of the Caribbean sea during the months of May, June, July and August, when they approach the shore to deposit eggs, which are laid on the sandy beaches above high water mark at night. Holes are dug about one and a half feet deep and the eggs deposited therein. Generally about three layings are made during a period of nine weeks. The eggs are lightly covered with sand and left to be hatched out by the heat of the sun. The turtles are caught either while on shore or in the water by means of nets.

As a rule, they are killed immediately after being caught, cleaned and the shell frame washed with sand. But on the San Blas coast the Indians do not kill them, but at once proceed to remove the shell by subjecting the turtles to great heat, afterward throwing the turtles back into the sea. By the application of heat the successive plates of shell come off very easily.

Turtles caught in these waters vary in size from one to four and a half feet long, with a maximum weight of 150 pounds, and the average weight of shell obtained from each is from six to seven pounds. The commercial value of tortoise shell depends upon the thickness and size of the plates rather than upon the brilliancy of the colors.

A SIGN.

An Irishman was walking along a road alongside a links when he was suddenly struck between the shoulders with a golf ball. The force of the blow knocked him down, and when he got up he observed a golfer running toward him.

"Are you hurt?" queried the player.

"Why didn't you get out of the way?" asked Pat.

"I didn't know there were any assassins around here."

"But I called fore," said the player.

"And when I say fore that is a sign for you to get out of the way."

"Oh, it is, is it?" said Pat. "Well, then, when I say fore, it's a sign that you are going to get hit on the nose. Foive."

KENTUCKY'S DRY WAVE.

Ninety-four of Her 119 Counties are Left without a Single Legal Saloon.

Louisville, Ky., Dec. 17.—The "drought" in Kentucky continues to spread and there are now ninety-four totally "dry" counties out of 119.

There were eighty-two dry counties two months ago, but since then many precinct and county elections have been held, and twelve more counties gained by the "wets" was to carry the town of Cloverport, in Breckinridge county.

This remarkable spread of temperance in the Bourbon Commonwealth the home and stronghold of Kentucky whiskey, has been more strikingly shown in the last ten days than ever before. In that time eight counties—Ballard, Logan, Pulaski, Lewis, Greenup, Pendleton, Whitley and Todd—have gone "dry."

Not one county in Kentucky is entirely "wet." There are only four counties that are approximately saturated. These are Meade, Jefferson, Kenton, and Campbell, all along the Ohio river in the northern part of the state. Louisville is in Jefferson county, Covington in Kenton and Newport in Campbell.

There are ninety-four Kentucky counties without any saloons eighteen with saloons in two places and six where liquor is sold in three or more places.

Dr. John Macdonald, a popular physician of Chatham, N. B., died on Tuesday. He was a native of P. E. Island, and had practised at Chatham for 25 years.

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Sugar Mills.

The machinery of the modern sugar mill is so complete that from the time the cane enters the crushing rolls until the same is emptied from the vacuum pans no human labor is required to manipulate it.

Butterflies.

Butterflies are considered nutritious and delicious food by the aborigines of Australia.

Eye Color.

The gray eye is an almost universal characteristic of people of great intellect. Black eyes indicate an ardent temper, while light blue eyes, which are found chiefly among the Scandinavians, denote a cheerful disposition and a constant nature.

Unique Sundial.

In the grounds adjacent to Wentworth castle, in England, is to be seen a unique sundial which is composed of a fine yew tree for the pin and closely cropped box bushes for the Roman figures and borders. It was planted over 200 years ago and is still in a good state of preservation. Its timekeeping compares favorably with sundials of more modern construction.

Baldness.

When baldness first makes its appearance the scalp is usually tight. The application of goose oil will loosen it and furnish food for the tissues of the skin.

ODD WORK STAND.

It is Made of a Cheese Box Mounted on Three Legs.

Every woman who has to do sewing should have a sewing table or stand of some kind, and no woman who has learned the advantage of order in sewing appliances will be without one. A very interesting and really artistic one is the work stand shown in the illustration. It is nothing more or less than



WORK STAND MADE OF A CHEESE BOX.

A cheese box set on three legs, with the lid turned upside down for a tray. The box and rests are painted in dark green, with enamel finish. Cretone in a gay, bright colored pattern is used for a lining, the under tray being fitted up with a series of pockets.

Such a stand is really very dainty and attractive in appearance, but naturally is more suitable for a bedroom or sitting room than for a more formal apartment.—Philadelphia North American.

Tact and Good Cheer.

The restorative power of good cheer is far greater than medicine, and mental depression is the true physician's worst enemy. It is the bane of a sickroom and the shackle upon recovery. In fact, the mental attitude is responsible for more ills than all other causes put together. If a nurse cannot control her feelings or the exterior manifestations of them her usefulness is turned into uselessness, and anything useless in a sickroom is positively harmful. The best has an important part to play in the sickroom as a remedy for irritability. Don't tell long stories, don't talk about some other person's trials and don't think up miserable possibilities. The keynote to successful nursing is order, observation and obedience—these qualities joined with tact—the want of which is the base of nearly every sin which a nurse may commit—make for the ideal sickroom attendant.

POINTED PARAGRAPHS.

When you lay an egg don't cackle too long. Get busy and lay another.

There never was an air castle that was built with any consideration of salary.

Those who never do wrong take a wonderful satisfaction in the saying, "Murder will out."

Looking for business is like looking for four leaf clovers, which somebody else always finds easily enough.

Men in the penitentiary have just enough to eat and think they do not have enough. Free men have too much to eat.

When a man is locked out of his own house how he disturbs the neighbors trying to get in, but how quietly a burglar gets in!

When the bald spot at the back of a man's head shows beneath the rim of his hat somehow it looks as bad as when a woman's skirt slips away from her belt.

Trees Worth Growing.

As ornamental trees the beeches attract attention primarily on account of their dignity of form and peculiarly "clean" appearance; they give ample and spreading shade; the leaves are remarkably free from the insect pests, and they can generally be readily transplanted. They thrive best in a rich, deep, sandy loam, but will grow well in any ordinary soil. The trees attain a height of 80 to 100 feet. In the different seasons the beech presents totally different pictures. In summer it is a broad dome of grateful shade; in winter a glory of dazzling light gray; in spring it floats out its soft velvety gold green leaves, and in autumn it is a rich and mellow mingling of subdued yellow browns and grays.—Garden Magazine.

Letter Carriers' Scars.

"Show me a letter carrier," said a postal official, "and I'll show you somewhere or other on the man the scar of a dog's teeth. Letter carriers hate dogs, and with good reason, for they are continually getting nipped. It is at houses with front gardens that they are troubled most. Dogs run loose in these gardens, and it is their delight to bite letter carriers. I myself have two scars on my hand and two on my leg. Take a census of every trade, and I'll guarantee that the letter carriers will lead all in their percentage of dog scars."

An Artist's Handicap.

"What is the reason the public doesn't take a greater interest in Shakespeare?"

"The public takes too much interest in Shakespeare," answered Mr. Stormington Barnes. "The difficulty is that every man in the audience is thinking of how much better he could do it if he tried."

"The Blood is The Life."

Science has never gone beyond the above simple statement of scripture. But it has illuminated that statement and given it a meaning ever broadening with the increasing breadth of knowledge. When the blood is "bad" or impure it is not alone the body which suffers through disease. The brain is also clouded, the mind and judgment are affected, and many an evil deed or impure thought may be directly traced to the impurity of the blood. Foul, impure blood can be made pure by the use of Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery. It cures, purifies the blood thereby curing, pimples, blotches, eruptions and other cutaneous affections, as eczema, tetter, or salt-rheum, hives and other manifestations of impure blood.

In the cure of scrofulous swellings, enlarged glands, open eating ulcers, or old sores, the "Golden Medical Discovery" has performed the most marvelous cures. It is well to apply to the open sores Dr. Pierce's All-Healing Salve, which possesses wonderful healing potency when used as an application to the sores in conjunction with the use of "Golden Medical Discovery" as a blood cleansing constitutional treatment. If your druggist don't happen to have the "All-Healing Salve" in stock, you can easily procure it by enclosing fifty-four cents in postage stamps to Dr. R. V. Pierce, 663 Main St., Buffalo, N. Y., and it will come to you by return post. Most druggists keep it as well as the "Golden Medical Discovery."

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Farragut's Pig.

David G. Farragut was but thirteen years old when he served as midshipman under Porter in the battle of the Essex against the Phoebe and Cherub. He was taken to the Phoebe as a prisoner of war, says his biographer, and came aboard crying from mortification. At the same moment, however, a British midshipman also came alongside with a young pig in his arms.

"A prize! A prize!" he was shouting. "Ho, boys, a fine grunter!"

It was a pig that had been a pet in the steerage of the Essex, where it was called Murphy. Farragut at once claimed it as private property.

"You are a prisoner, and your pig, too," replied the British midshipman.

"We always respect private property," said Farragut, grabbing the pig and determined to hold on till forced to surrender.

"Go it, little Yankee!" cried the older present. "If you can thrash Shorty you shall have your pig."

A line was formed, and Shorty came at Farragut hammer and tongs, but the American was handy with his fists. He quickly laid his opponent low. The British bluejackets cheered him heartily, and the pig was declared to be his.

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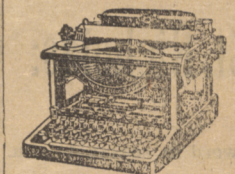
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