

Gross Superstitions.

In my grandfather's family the old cook was accustomed to bake cakes in large rounds, which she cut into four with a sharp knife, each quarter being put to bake by itself.

Every one knows that to dream of losing teeth means that some calamity may be looked for.

At another house I seen the women up stairs at the window as I went up the front steps.

"Any children been born here during the last year?" says I.

"Don't know, says she, I hain't been here but three weeks. I'll go and ask missis, and away she toddled up stairs.

"What's her name?" says I.

Ear and Brain.

The substance of the following statements with regard to the ear and brain is from a paper in the New York Medical Journal, by Dr. Andrews, surgeon to the Manhattan Eye and Ear Hospital, New York.

Ear diseases are much worse than those of the eye. They are a principal cause of deaf mutism.

Indeed, a simple cold in the head or sore throat rapidly spreads along the mucous membrane of the nostrils and pharynx to that of the ear.

But the most serious fact about these diseases grows out of the very intimate connection between the ear and the brain.

Hence, purulent inflammations of the ear extend readily to the brain—the more so, the younger the child.

Nearly one-half of the latter are due to this cause, chronic inflammation of the ear—showing itself perhaps only in a slight headache—being vastly more dangerous than acute.

Aversions of Appetite.

Dr. Oswald calls attention, in the Popular Science Monthly, to the fact that an antipathy to a special dish indicates the presence of a constitutional repugnance, which it is not wise to disregard.

I knew a Belgian soldier on whom common salt, in any combination, and in any dose exceeding ten pennyweights, acted as a drastic poison, and thousands of Hindus cannot taste animal food without vomiting.

But there are two great problems which yearly, monthly, weekly, daily, and hourly confront the people of Louisiana, and they are these:

1. Can Louisiana get rid of her overflows?

Not long since I crossed the river at New Orleans a mile above Canalstreet, to "Harvey's Canal."

Very appropriate yet daring was the ornamental inscription in gilt lettering added to some fancy lotteries by a lady lover of Shakespeare, which read, "Out, damned spot; out, I say!"

TAKING THE CENSUS.

Fun on Jefferson Avenue and Remunerative in the Seventh Ward.

"Say, old fellow, the next time a census of births and deaths is to be taken, don't you fall to get a job in one of the big-bug wards?"

"There's lots of fun in it."

"No in taking the census. You'll never know how cussed lazy some people are until you take a big book under your arm and go around asking questions."

"Upon Jefferson avenue. Oh, I don't know as she is real lazy, but up there they're so stuck up they wouldn't come to the door if you rung the bell all day, for fear you'd think they was the servant."

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"What's her name?" says I.

"How many?" says I.

"What's her real, full name?" says I.

"When was she born?" says I.

"What's his first name?" says I.

"Benjamin Bruce Brown," says she.

"What's her mother's name?" says I.

"How old are you?"

"None of your business! Matilda, shut the door!"

The Mississippi Problem.

Capt. Cowdon says in a late letter: The city of New Orleans, geographically, is the best located city on the sphere.

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"It's rather strange," observed a passenger from Pittsburg, "that England should send clear over to Missouri to buy mules for use in the Soudan."

"Tactics, my dear sir, tactics," replied a military looking man; "England's policy in Egypt is to get up close to the enemy and then turn tail as I retreat slowly and in good order."

"Careless or fraudulent placing of railway properties in the hands of courts should receive a check," Railway Review.

Just ten miles southeast of New Orleans, on the east side of the river, at the Lake Borgne canal outlet.

The Gulf is six miles east, while where I stood it was fifty-five miles away, and were a side mouth made there at the Lake Borgne outlet, two miles wide and fifteen feet deep, at most, the outflow of the surface water of the river would be so great that there could not be any overflow, and, consequently, the problem of how to dry Louisiana is easily solved.

When that is done, then the Harvey or Baratania gulf-water ship canal could easily be made five hundred feet wide, fifty feet deep, and straight as a pole, due south to the gulf, fifty five miles, and through which could pass the biggest ship that could be made.

These settlements now drop, after meeting the gulf water, three miles out from the river's mouth, and are reached up on the sea bottom just like the thread in weaving cloth, and the ships can't plow through it when drawing more than, say, twenty-five feet, and were it not for the constant dredging or passing of the screw propellers of depth, the depth would be but about twenty feet; so the rivermen told me in New Orleans quite recently.

Barbaric splendor of the scenes in Aida and L'Africaine seemed repeated as the glorious panorama of blossoming prairie unrolled day after day.

"In 1856, when the terrible mutiny of the Sepoys broke out in India," said he, "I was in Australia, near the town of Melbourne.

"We literally fought our way through the country, leaving thousands of our men, women and children on the road, killed by the most cruel and cunning enemy in the world.

"We, we managed to fight our way through them till we reached the residency, where we found a weary and horrible resting-place for nearly a month.

"If Austria's attitude is not misrepresented, perhaps we see the beginning of a movement for the realization of Bismarck's dream, which eliminates Turkey from the powers of Europe.

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FIGHTING THE SEPOYS.

A Survivor of the Indian Mutiny Tells How He Fought His Way Through India and Was Shot in Belaguered Lucknow.

There is an entry in the books of the insane department at Blockley which reads: "Feb. 26, 1884, admitted; transferred to insane department Sept. 3, 1884; James E. Dockrey, aged 45 years; nativity, New York; occupation, teacher; social state, widower; diagnosis,—"

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"No, sir. All I know is that it must have been near the Fourth of July, for I remember to have heard the booming of guns, and on inquiring what they were firing for was told the date.

After that I remember nothing till I found myself here. I have a wife living somewhere in Canada, but I can not remember where."

Dr. Richardson said that Mr. Dockrey's case was most satisfactory. He is very considerably improved since his admission. He is a Freemason and an Odd-Fellow, and his last question to the reporter before saying good-by was:

"Have you ever traveled east?"—Philadelphia Times.

Wolesey's Administrative Powers.

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LEECHES.

The History and Present Condition of a Peculiar Trade.

Of the two firms in London—and there are only two—to whom the foreign leeches are consigned from Hamburg, one practices as a dental surgeon and the other sells pipes, tobacco, and other trifles.

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