

THE OBSERVER

BRUCE DENNIS
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ALCOHOL AND THE MEMORY.

Every person who drinks alcohol to excess, says Dr. Alexander Lambert in an article in Success Magazine, will not show every form of mental deterioration that may be produced by excessive indulgence, and the degree of deterioration in intelligence which goes to make up the sum total of mentality varies greatly in different individuals.

WHAT SOME PAPERS SAY.

Anyway, Taft is beginning to see the silver lining.—Baltimore Sun.
In New York a sane Fourth of July would mean a lucid interval.—Columbia, S. C., State.
It appears that Champ Clark's love for Missouri does not include all the

home folks.—Atlanta Constitution.
The New York Sun calls Bryan chancellor. He does seem to get a rise out of the Sun.—Minneapolis Journal.
It strikes us that Senator Lorimer doesn't seem to bear this second trial with resignation.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

We hope Governor Wilson's itinerary will permit his spending the Xmas holidays in New Jersey.—Dayton Journal.

Now the lumber trust will be investigated. Naturally, that is one of the last to be out of the woods.—Baltimore American.

A man that has stayed married 25 years is an example to the country on that line alone.

Trenlon has voted for government by commission. Philadelphia still sticks to government by omission.—Philadelphia North American.

Chief Justice White has taken measures to simplify the supreme court rules. Rules, understand; not rulings.—Philadelphia North American.

Captain Hobson's attention is called to the fact that that team of Jap ball players has been observed inspecting the American batteries.—Marion, O., Star.

The short ballot is admirable, but it can be made too short. In Mexico the ballot became so abbreviated that it contained only one name.—Kansas City Star.

A DUEL IN THE DARK.

The Unexpected Happened When the Englishman Fired.

Among the less known writers of the nineteenth century was Samuel Rogers. He kept open house and frequently entertained Dickens, Macaulay, Carlyle and other celebrities of the time. Rogers was a notable wit, but unfortunately his thrusts were not always tempered with kindness.

An Englishman and a Frenchman had got into a wordy squabble, which led to mutual insults and a challenge. Nothing could save the honor of either of them but a duel.

But duels were not fought to kill. Even serious wounds were unpleasant, and a mere scratch would answer the purpose much better. So that the antagonists might have a better chance of missing one another they repaired to a dark room.

All was in readiness. The signal was given. The Englishman, no less eager to preserve his foe than himself, groped to the open fireplace. He pointed his pistol up the chimney and fired.

"And, by Jove," Rogers was wont to exclaim, "he brought down the Frenchman!"—Youth's Companion.

FOLLOWED THE DIAGRAM.

The Motorcar Tourists Rewarded the Man Who Drew It.

An amusing practical joke which was played by a Canadian farmer on a party of motorcar tourists is described in Suburban Life. The farmer had drawn a diagram to show the automobile bilists how to proceed through the little known country.

"For five miles," writes the author of the article, "we followed the countryman's diagram and then came to

a piece of road which was atrocious. We climbed over stumps and in and out of ruts and gulleys. Grass grew in the middle of this road, showing how little it was used. At last we saw ahead a little house just at the edge of the woods. We felt sure we were off the right road and decided to make inquiries at the house.

Great was our surprise upon drawing up in front of the house to find our countryman, his wife and several children out in the middle of the road to meet us. They all looked at the car with wondering eyes, and the smallest child hung to her mother's skirts and howled with fright. The other children fled to the house and peered out of the window.

"Our friend the countryman said, 'Well, I most run my horse to death to get here before you did. I wanted the kids to be sure and see this critter. They never saw one before. I'm much obliged to you, and now if you want the right road you'll have to put back two miles to the road where you turned in and go straight ahead.'"

HE SAW THE POINT.

And For That Very Reason He Didn't Join in the Laugh.

"They" were chatting in the smoking room of a little Koninklijke Paketvaart Maatschappij coaster, on a two months' run among the islands below the equator, when some one speaking of the Malay peninsula some one else said, "My impression of the Straits Settlements can be summed up in a single picture—a strong black man, standing in the center of a muddy stream, trying to split a rock with a shirt."

Now this always provokes a laugh; it is venerable and infallible. But to my surprise, said Frederick S. Isham, the novelist, one of the smoking room contingent, on this occasion it partially failed. What was the trouble? The delinquent, the one man out of seven who didn't laugh, was sallow, saturnine and English.

"What's the matter, old chap?" asked the novelist. "Don't you see the point or are you waiting until tomorrow to wake up to it?"

The other man turned his head wearily. "See the point?" he said sadly. "I should think I did. I ought to, I," tragically, "am the man who owned the shirt."

Then we, knowing he had lived twenty-five years in the orient, became silent; our laughter ceased. A sympathetic melancholy descended upon us. Englishman or not, we took him to our heart of hearts and made a brother of him.—Baltimore American.

Many Kinds of Knives.

An extraordinary thing about the cutlery trade is the variety of knives made. At the Suffolk works in Sheffield, for instance, they have 10,000 different patterns on the books. They make sometimes 3,000 patterns to order at one time. The same thing is true of the large cutlery works at Solingen, in Germany. One firm has 9,000 patterns for Germany alone. New ones are constantly coming out. The Suffolk works have averaged ten new patterns a week for two years. This is a trade that will not be standardized, which is one reason why America has failed hitherto to compete.—Cassier's Magazine.

EXCURSION Fares East

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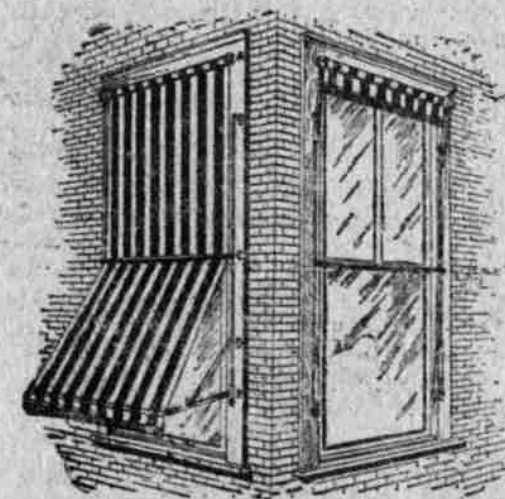
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