

**The First Surgical Operation.**

BY J. M. MAYERS.

Alone, uncharmed by woman's tuneful tongue,  
Our dust-built pa, when life was fresh and young,  
Reflecting sadly on his lonely life,  
Yearned for the solace of a charming wife.  
God read his thoughts, observed his own mistake,  
And to himself and Ghost these words he spake:  
"It is not good that man should dwell alone,  
We'll from his lumbar regions take a bone,  
And, fashioned Venus-like instinct with life,  
Present it to him, chaste, a charming wife."  
"Agreed," replied the Ghost, in accents low:  
"The anaesthetic's ready. Let us go."  
More swift than eagle swoops upon its prey,  
The troubled triune passed the Milky Way;  
Down, down they sank, as lead in water sinks,  
And fell where Adam stood in forty winks,  
And o'er his mouth and Oriental nose  
A doctor'd kerchief, leastways, I suppose,  
They deftly threw, and, in a sleep profound,  
Poor Adam dropp'd upon the hallow'd ground.  
Deep in his side the Sheffield blade was thrust,  
And out the sever'd rib fell in the dust;  
And lo! when Adam from his slumber woke,  
The three-in-one politely to him spoke.  
  
"Seeing we erred in placing you alone,  
We from your side have ta'en a funny bone,  
Transmogrified it, in a moment's space,  
Into a human form with heavenly face;  
And now, sir, with your kind and gracious leave,  
We beg to introduce you to fair Eve."  
Her dusty lord, pleased with her lovely face,  
Removed his hat, bowed low, with faultless grace,  
And, in sweet accents, muttered, somewhat coy,  
"Good evening, Eve, my solace, hope and joy;  
Bone of my bone, a thorn ta'en from my flesh,  
You look extremely tender, fair and fresh,  
Like sticking plaster, in all kinds of weather.  
We'll cling in peace and love together.  
Come, let's engage, queen of the whole creation,  
A moment, dear, in luscious osculation."  
  
Eve, nowise shy, flew to his open arms,  
To taste the bliss of love's first labial charms.  
The gods connascent, beaming on the pair,  
Said, "Au revoir," then melted into air.  
Eve then suggested that they should take a walk  
Through Eden's bowers, and of the future talk.  
Politely, Adam drew her arm thro' his,  
And, slowly strolling, talked of love and biz;  
And, as the sun dipped in the purple west,  
They, locked in love's embrace, lay down to rest.  
The moon arose, and, with the stars, looked on  
The dusty spouse and rib phenomenon;  
Jah and the Ghost, together with the Son,  
Look'd, and were pleased their work was ably done;  
And Heaven's angelic host, in merry mood,  
Saw, and remarked, "Behold, 'tis very good."  
—[The (London) Agnostic Journal.]

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**Advanced Ideas.**

BY R. G. INGERSOLL.

Every human being is a necessary product of conditions, and every one is born with defects for which he cannot be held responsible. Nature seems to care nothing for the individual, nothing for the species.  
Generous and heartless, extravagant and miserly, she is our mother and our teacher, and she is also the deceiver of men. Above her we cannot rise, below her we cannot fall. In her we find the seed and soil of all that is good, of all that is evil. Nature originates, nourishes, preserves and destroys.  
Good deeds bear fruit and in the fruit are seeds that in turn bear fruit and seeds. Great thoughts are never lost, and words of kindness do not perish from the earth.  
Every brain is a field where nature sows the seed of thought, and the crop depends upon the soil.  
Ignorance being darkness, what we need is intellectual light. The most important things to teach as the basis of all progress is that the universe is natural; that man must be the providence of man; that by the development of the brain we can avoid some of the dangers, some of the evils, overcome some of the obstructions and take advantage of some of the facts and forces of nature; that by invention and industry we can supply, to a reasonable degree, the wants of the body, and by thought, study and effort we can in part satisfy the hunger of the mind.  
Man should cease to expect any aid from any supernatural source. By this time he should be satisfied that worship had not created wealth and that prosperity is not the child of prayer. He should know that the supernatural has not succored the oppressed, clothed the naked, fed the hungry, shielded the innocent, staid the pestilence or freed the slave.  
Being satisfied that the supernatural does not exist, man should turn his entire attention to the affairs of this world, to the facts in nature  
And, first of all, he should avoid waste of energy, waste of wealth. Every good man, every good woman should try to do away with war and stop the appeal to savage force.  
As often as we can exchange a mistake for a fact, a falsehood for a truth, we advance. We add to the intellectual wealth of the world, and in this way, and in this way only, can be laid the foundation for the future prosperity and civilization of the race.  
I blame no one; I call in question the motives of no person; I admit that the world has acted as it must.

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