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.

mistake,

he spake: "It is not good that man should dwell alone,

We'll from his lumbar regions take a bone,

life,

Present it to him, chaste, a charming wife.' "Agreed," replied the Ghost, in accents

low: "The anæsthetic's ready. Let us go."

More swift than eagle swoops upon its The troubled triune passed the Milky

Down, down they sank, as lead in water And fell where Adam stood in forty

And o'er his mouth and Oriental nose

A doctor'd kerchief, leastways, I sup-

They deftly threw, and, in a sleep pro-Poor Adam dropp'd upon the hallow'd

ground. Deep in his side the Sheffield blade was

And out the sever'd rib fell in the dust; And lo! when Adam from his slumber

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,

Transmogrifled 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

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

Said, "Au revoir," then melted into air. Eve then suggested that they should take a walk Through Eden's bowers, and of the

future taik. Politely, Adam drew her arm thro' his, And, slowly strolling, talked of love and

And, as the sun dipped in the purple

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.

Remember, if you send us the names and addresses of 25 of your Liberal friends and acquaint- tion of the race. ances, we will make you a present of a copy of the Torch of Reason Song Book No. 2. This will only cost you a few minutes' work and a two-cent stamp.

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 responsi-God read his thoughts, observed his own ble. Nature seems to care nothing And to himself and Ghost these words for the individual, nothing for the species.

Generous and heartless, extravagant and miserly, she is our mother And, fashioned Venus-like instinct with and our teacher, and she is also the deceiver of men. Above her we cannot rise, below her we cannot STRICTLY ONE PRICE. 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

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

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 civiliza-

I blame no one; I call in question the motives of no person; I admit that the world has acted as it must.

obbler, stick to thy last!

A shoemaker found fault with an oil-painted slipper in one of the paintings of a celebrated artist, but showed the greatest ignorance in criticising the other parts of the pain ing. Hence has arisen the oft-quoted saying, Let the cobbler stick to his last, and let every one attend to his own business.

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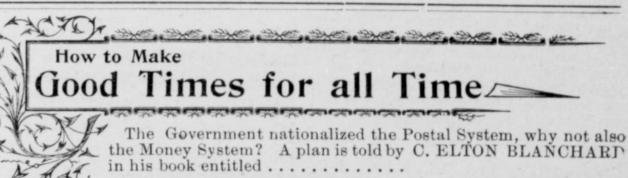
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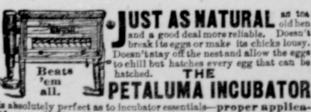
DIAMONDS.

One of the rarest gifts is the talent to judge accurately a diamond in all its various qualities. As genius for music or painting must be inborn to produce the great artist, so the faculty to correctly determine a diamond in all its diversified detail and characteristics can never be acquired, unless by the rare few who are gifted in this direction. A dealer may be a good jeweler, a successful merchant and an honest man, and yet deceive you on a diamond, simply because he himself is deceived. I have been in the business forty years. I could no more be deceived on a diamond than the cashier of the Bank of England could be on a bank note. When buying diamonds I use no glasses, ask no questions except the price; my acute vision instantly detects the slightest difference in color every flaw and imperfection. Your interests will be! protected if you buy of me. If you want a Ring, Pin, Stud, etc., for \$10, \$20, \$50, \$100 or up, send to me. I will send you And, first of all, he should avoid the goods prepaid. Keep them a week or two, and if you are not satisfied that I undersell all competitors, return and get your money.

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