

THE CAT.

Speak very pleasant to the cat. Remember, if bereft Of one life, which is dear to her, She only has eight left.

A GAME OF POKER.

"No, I don't play poker any more," said a big westerner who came into an up town clubhouse the other night with some friends who had been showing him a little game of draw as an appropriate wind up of the night's diversion.

our only chance was for somebody to go, and I knew life was as sweet to the others as it was to me.

"Instinctively we began first talking about the way the man who should go should maneuver to best advantage before raising the question who should be the man. It took only a few minutes, though, for the scout to give his advice, which was for one to ride out, waving a white handkerchief. He was to keep to the eastward and ride as hard as he dared toward the Indians, looking sharply for the weakest point in their line toward his right. He should then make a dash and ride as hard as possible until it was all over, firing as often as he could.

"Then we had to decide who should go, and I supposed, of course, that we would draw lots, but one of the men spoke up unexpectedly: "Whoever goes," he said, "doesn't want to start for some hours. The scout says just after daybreak is the best time. What is the matter of setting this thing with poker? We can play freeze out, and three games will settle it, the winner dropping out each time."

"The proposition caught me. You know I used to pride myself on my poker. After a little hesitation the others agreed. The man who proposed it had the cards, and we counted out 600 coffee beans for chips and began playing on a blanket folded and laid on the ground. "You would think the details of a game like that would fix themselves in the memory so that I would be able to tell you every hand I held and every bet I made, wouldn't you? Well, I can't. In fact, I can't tell anything about the first game excepting that I was the first man to lose all his chips. I had played often enough for what I thought were high stakes, but the thought that I was playing for my life rattled me completely, and I really believe I bet at random.

"Whatever I did I lost, and the man who had proposed the game won out. He was shot in a gambling house three months later—had an extra ace in his sleeve, I believe, or something like that.

"The next freeze out, between three of us, was a comparatively short one. It did not take more than 20 minutes for the scout to gather in all the chips, but, short as it was, I managed to get myself together a little, though I was still full of the thought of the value of the stakes—a thing which, I have noticed, always interferes with my play.

"When the third game began, however, I pulled myself together with a most tremendous effort and really became as cool as I ever had been before at a game of cards. The man I played against this time was a young Englishman whom I had grown to esteem highly in the short time I had known him. His people at home never heard this story, and I hope they never will. They know that he was killed by the Indians and that he was on a hunting trip, but they never heard of his last game of cards nor of the way he rode to his death.

"I had played with him before, and I was certain that he was drawing to a flush, and somehow I felt that he had filled it. Of course I should have drawn to the strength of my hand, but I didn't. I drew one card only, holding up an eight spot to my deuces, and I shoved all my beans into the pot without looking at my draw.

"He gave me one look, in which I read a perfect appreciation of what I had done, and without a word and without lifting his fifth card he pushed his chips forward. "Then my nerve gave out. I grew as white as death, I know, though no one ever told me so, and I actually could not lift my cards. His nerve never shook, though, apparently, and he turned his fifth card over as he laid it on the blanket. They were all clubs. "He looked at me, and I swear I saw regret in his eyes. I tell you he was a man. Then I managed to turn my hand over. I had drawn the other eight."

Constipation

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Sea Raven and Sculpin.

It is the common habit of fishes, in swallowing other fishes as food, to swallow them head first. The fish's spines and fins smooth down toward the tail, and if the fish were swallowed tail first the spines and fins would spread out and catch in the swallower's throat and choke it, perhaps, to death, as has not infrequently happened.

In a tank at the aquarium is a sea raven 14 or 15 inches long. Like all sea ravens, it has a big head and an enormous mouth for a fish of its size. In the same tank is a sculpin, perhaps a foot long and a little slenderer than the sea raven. The two were lying on the bottom of the tank the other day, the sculpin just ahead of the sea raven and wagging its tail hilly in the sea raven's face. Whether the sea raven was incensed by this or the motion simply suggested a chance for a square meal without hunting for it, it would be impossible to determine, but the next time the sculpin's tail came by the sea raven detained it, and then it began to swallow the sculpin tail first.

The sea raven had taken in four-fifths of the sculpin, about all but its head. The sculpin, too, has a great head for a fish of its size, but the sea raven, with its capacious mouth, would have got it down all right and swallowed the entire fish but for the short, stout spines that the sculpin has, one on each side of its head. These now spread out and settled in the corners of the sea raven's jaws. It was like spreading a stick across the mouth of a pit. It was quite impossible for the sea raven to swallow the sculpin any farther. In fact, its only desire now was to get rid of it, and, helping itself a little with some slight wriggings, the sculpin was soon free again and swimming about.—New York Sun.

A Linguistic Training.

One of the most valuable kinds of training which the college can give is the linguistic. If to think is important, linguistic training is important. For we think in words. Therefore thinking becomes clear, orderly, profound, as language is adequate. Language represents those methods and results of thought without which thought itself is feeble and inefficient. Therefore training in language is of the highest value. To be able to think in or adequately use the English or any other language one should know the language. He can only know this language as he knows those languages which have made the richest contributions to its structure. Every new science and every new application of any old science goes to the Greek for its very name; hence, a training in Latin and Greek is of the greatest worth. The college is not filling the mind with useless knowledge in requiring students to learn these, not dead, but living languages.

Second, the scientific school is a professional school. Its graduate goes from its commencement, and to become the graduate of the school of law, theology or medicine, directly to his life's work. It is not a school of liberal culture or of general training. It is to be said, and said with the utmost clearness, that the governors of our best technical and scientific schools are beginning to recognize the advantages which the man desiring to enter these schools possesses if he has previously received a general training through the college.—Forum.

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