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SALT SERVES AS A HOODOO.

How Superstitious Cleveland Women Get Even with Their Landlords.
 A number of Cleveland women had a little discussion the other day over a new form of hoodoo, at least it was new to most of them. It is a species of applied incantation that is resorted to by tenants who want to get even with the landlord or the landlord's agent. When they leave, after the last load is ready to start, they throw salt behind the front door. That hoodoo the house, or the apartments.
 "Why," said one lady, "I know a case where the outgoing tenant did that and they couldn't rent the rooms for three months. That's right. Nobody seemed to want them. The agent was constantly kept busy running with prospective tenants who came to look at the apartments, only to refuse them."
 "I heard of a case," said another lady, "where the landlord raised the rent on a family, and when they left they threw salt behind the door, and you never heard of such luck as the landlord had. He got tenants in that wouldn't pay and he'd have to sue 'em and put 'em out on the sidewalk and one tenant set the room afire with a gasoline stove and the landlord couldn't get any insurance, and the wives of two tenants presented their husbands with twins and this cost the landlord four months' rent, 'cause he couldn't get 'em moved until they reached the movable age. It was just awful!"
 "Oh, there are lots of such cases," said the woman who mentioned the hoodoo first. "And they say there is but one way to break the spell."
 "And how is that?" cried the other women in chorus.
 "The landlord," replied the hoodoo expert, "must have the hinges of the front door put on the opposite door post, so that the door will swing the other way."
 And there the discussion ended.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

AN ALARM-CLOCK DOG.
Family of Deaf Mutes. Rely on the Pup for Time of Day.
 John Canton, who lives near Helena, Ohio, has the only "alarm clock dog" in the world. Canton says that the entire output of the mint would not purchase the dog.
 Canton, his wife and little son, says a Cincinnati paper, are all deaf and dumb. They live on a farm, some distance from their nearest neighbor, and for years they were at a loss to solve the problem of early rising. Canton's work made it necessary for him to be up at 5 o'clock every morning. He had



MR. AND MRS. CANTON AND GYP.
 an alarm clock, but naturally it was of little benefit to him, since no member of the family could hear its morning call.
 Then he got the dog Gyp, and trained him to get up when the alarm went off. It was slow work, but after fourteen months of patient endeavor the dog learned his part. Since then the family has not overslept.
 At the first sound of the alarm Gyp gets up, rubs his eyes for a second, and then makes a dash for his master's sleeping room. One bound carries him to the bed, and he doesn't let go until his master gets up. For six years Gyp has never once forgotten his lines or made a miscue.

Beautiful Wild Plants.
 The committee on native plant exhibits of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society have been considering the best means of preventing unnecessary destruction of native plants, and in their instructions to exhibitors have declared that more than three specimens of a single species of plant in a bottle will disqualify the bottle for exhibition to the amount of the excess. This will effectually prevent any exhibitor from bringing large bunches of cyrtipediums, gentians, and other rare and beautiful flowers for the purpose of making a big display. Nature books in part, bicycles, lack of proper instruction and appreciation, selfishness and thoughtfulness—all conduce to the destruction of plants and animals, not to mention monuments and objects of the greatest veneration.

What "Sardonic Smile" Means.
 The origin of many of our common words makes an interesting study. We often hear in conversation or read in books about a sardonic smile or a sardonic grin, but we never stop to think that "sardonic" is derived from the name of an island in the Mediterranean Sea—Sardinia. There grows in Sardinia a certain plant which when eaten puckers the face of the eater into a peculiar expression resembling a smile. From the grin caused by eating of the Sardinian plant, a smile that a person's face sometimes wears, which, as Webster's dictionary says, "gives the appearance of mirth or happiness, but covering pain or misery" is said to be sardonic.

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