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PERSIAN DOCTOR'S QUACKERY.

While practicing his profession in Persia Dr. C. J. Willis had at least one amusing experience of the credulity of the people, and succeeded in exposing the quackery of a native doctor. S—Khan, a cavalry general, was suffering from an attack of lumbago. Acupuncture gave some relief and his valet inserted an ordinary sewing needle for more than an inch into the seat of the pain each morning. One day the needle, after having been inserted, was lost. It was declared that it was in the sufferer's back, and a native surgeon was summoned to extract it.

I saw the general's back, says Dr. Willis, and promptly told him that the needle was not there, but had probably been lost. The surgeon came to remove the needle by the mouse method. A live mouse was to be bound on the bare back of the general, and by some occult means the needle would leave his body, and be found in that of the mouse.

The surgeon came, and with much parade examined the back and listened carefully for the needle with an old stethoscope, the wrong end of which he applied to the Khan's august person. He then declared that the needle was deeply seated. I soon saw that I, with my skepticism, was regarded as the imposter, and that it was my confederate who had the confidence of the spectators. "Bring a mouse," said the Khan, and the servants were hurrying away when the surgeon said: "May it please your excellency, I have a mouse ready," and he took a small fat tin box from his pocket. He opened the box carefully. In it, securely tied, was a mouse. When taken out the little creature gave a squeak of pain. That squeak decided me. I saw the thing at a glance. "Do you mean to tell me that you are able to extract the needle from the Khan's back, and make it enter the body of the mouse?" I asked, with feigned astonishment. "Assuredly," calmly replied the surgeon. "With heaven's and the blessed prophet's help, I shall certainly do so."

"This is indeed a wonderful thing," I said. "But your trick is old. (Here he turned pale.) Observe, my friends. Hey, presto, pass! Khan, the needle has left you and is now in the poor mouse's body." "What is this the sahib says?" cried the surgeon, closing the box and getting to his feet. "I am insulted. Let me go." It was all to no purpose. The box was snatched from him. As I supposed, the needle—that is to say, a needle—was already there, slipped slyly in under the loose skin of the little animal's back. One kind of needle had always been used in the acupuncture, and this needle was found to be half an inch too short!

The Khan was furious. "Take him away!" he shouted. "Take him away! I shall attend to his case in the morning."—Youth's Companion.

Home Advantages.
In "Jane Austen, Her Homes and Her Friends," Constance Hill describes Miss Austen's fortunate girlhood. She enjoyed unusual privileges. Her father was so good a scholar that he could himself prepare his sons for the university. Her mother was a well-educated woman and a thorough lady, although she sat darned the family stockings in a parlor into which the front door opened. She loved all country things, and had a vigorous nature and a contented mind that kept her young and cheerful in spirit until extreme old age. She was an excellent letter-writer. In her was to be found the germ of that ability which flowered in Jane. The home conversation was rich in shrewd remarks, bright with playfulness and humor and occasional flashes of wit. It was never troubled by disagreements, even in little matters, for it was not the habit of the Austen family to dispute or argue with each other. Bad grammar Jane never heard, nor slang, for there was no slang in her home in those days. Thus circumstanced, it is no wonder that even her earliest compositions, however trivial their subject may be, are characterized by their pure and simple English. To hear no slang and no bad grammar was indeed an advantage such as no young writer of the present day can command.

Taking No Chances.
That ancient worthy who claimed that the ballads of a country would, in the end, make its history, might also have included the hymns. Our feet march to the measures we set them. A correspondent of the London Telegraph tells how Lord Kitchener interpreted the power of music. It was on a day when the peace settlement with the Boers was momentarily expected that a worthy dean planned to anticipate matters, and perhaps give the powers a little nudge. He telegraphed Kitchener from the Orange River Colony:

"As I am acting as chaplain, and conducting divine service in many camps to-morrow, may I ask if the hymn, 'Peace, Perfect Peace,' would not be appropriate to be given out?" Lord Kitchener wired this reply: "Please yourself. I think 'Onward, Christian Soldiers' quite as good."

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Two coal mines are now in successful operation in Alaska. They produce good steam coal. Many a bachelor has made a number of women happy by not marrying them.

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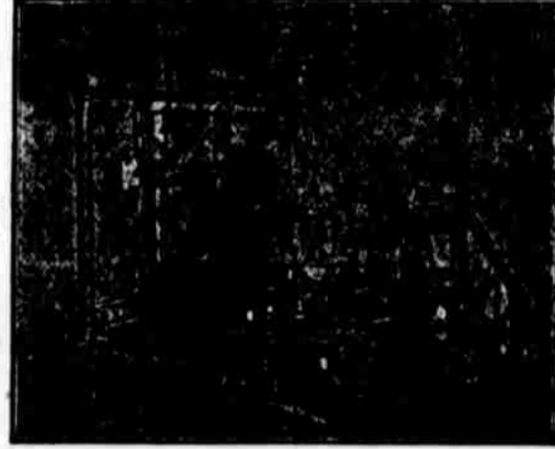
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