HUMOR OF JAPAN

Jokes That Amuse the Natives of Dai Nippon.

PRESCRIBING WRONG THING

Some Samples of Their Characteristic Funny Stories—A Novel Way of Killing Burglars by the Use of a Spoon.

In a review of a collection of funny stories called "Kokkei Hyaku Showa" by Mr. Kubo Tendzui the Japan Weekly Mail quotes the following as being peculiarly characteristic of Japanese humor:

A certain government official who in olden times used to be called a "daik-wan," but now is known as a "gun-cho" (head of a district), having been recently appointed to a certain district, was engaged in a tour of inspection when his notice was attracted by the approach of an old man who was too tipsy to walk straight.

Wondering who the intoxicated man could be, the district officer accosted him and after much difficulty ascertained that he was the head of the village which he had come to inspect. Thinking it to be his duty to make use of the occasion for obtaining reliable information, the district officer asked the toper how many houses and how many people there were in the village. "There are 100 houses and, males and females included, 60 persons in the village," replied the man. Puzzled, the officer asked, "How can that be?" "There is nothing wrong about that," replied the head of the village. "Besides these sixty there are any amount of people in the village, but since they are creatures who know not what it is to drink they are not, I take it, worthy of being mentioned."

Once upon a time it happened that five or six burglars, armed with swords and shouting like men attacking an enemy on the battlefield, came bouncing into the house of a certain doctor. The whole household, with the exception of the master, were paralyzed. They felt as though iron chains had been placed around them, and not one of them moved hand or foot. They watched in terror to see what would happen, when, lo and behold, the robbers took their departure without stealing a thing. Though they could not tell what was the meaning of this strange proceeding, certain it was that the family was safe. But where was the head of the house? After searching through the rooms they found him in his dispensary. There he stood in the midst of the drugs, medicine spoon in hand, looking fierce and triumphant. "What are you doing here?" inquired one of the members of his household. Smiling, he replied: "Those robbers were perhaps as noted as Kumasaka Chohan, but they may thank their stars that they have got off with their lives! Had they pushed matters a little further and entered this dispensary not one of them would have left it alive." Amused by this remark, one of the members of the family rejoined: "Without a sword or a pistol how could you have killed these robbers? Can you kill robbers with a spoon?" Whereupon the doctor, with fine self assurance, replied: "How many thousands of lives have I taken by means of this spoon! What to me are the lives of five or six robbers? Lucky chaps to get off as they did!"

The son of an extremely illiterate peasant was in the habit of bringing his copies home day after day, his hands and face covered with the ink that should have gone on his copy. Thinking it well to exercise his paternal authority over the lad even in regard to his school lessons, the father one day commanded the boy to show him his writing. Looking it over with the air of an expert penman, he criticised various strokes. "This stroke is too long; this one too short. These two strokes are too far apart," observed the father.

"But," said the boy, "the writing master tells me to write them as I have done." "Show me the copy," jerked out the father. The boy produced the copy, which his father began to examine closely upside down. "Why, you are holding it upside down!" exclaimed the lad. Not to be beaten, the father replied: "Don't be so conceited! I am holding it for you to look at, of course. You could not read it were it turned the other way. Listen to what is said to you and don't fancy you know everything."

The above reminds us of a story that concerns Taira Kiyomori. It is related that in the time of the Heiji rebellion the rebels attacked Kiyomori's camp very suddenly one day. Losing his presence of mind, Kiyomori put on his armor in a great hurry, the back part front. Some persons near pointed out the mistake he had made. "You have put your armor on the wrong way," they exclaimed. "It is not so," calmly answered Kiyomori. "As the emperor is coming behind I have put on the armor so as to have the front part facing him. It would be impolite to have the back part of one's armor facing an emperor." Without altering he went out to battle.

The term "yabu" is applied to doctors who prescribe wrong medicines. Now, it happened once that a quack having been the means of killing the only son of a certain house, the parents determined to have their revenge on him. So they sued him at a court of law. The affair was eventually patched up by the worthy quack giving the bereaved parents his own son in return for the one he had killed. Not long after this event the said quack heard a loud knocking at his door one night. On going to the door he was informed that one of his neighbor's wives was dangerously ill and that his presence was required at once. Turning to his wife, he said: "This requires consideration, my dear. There is no knowing but that it may end in their taking you from me."

CAYENNE PEPPER.

Try a Sandwich of It if You Are Troubled With Insomnia.

"Did you ever try a cayenne pepper sandwich?"

This question was asked a lady to whom sleepless nights were growing to be an almost unendurable burden.

"Not that, but I have tried about everything else," was the discouraged answer. "I don't suppose, however, that it would do me any more good than the thousand and one things I have tried."

"I have suggested the remedy to a great many people similarly afflicted, and in every instance good results have followed. I wish you would let me make you one."

The haggard face of the sleepless woman told its own story. She languidly assented to her friend's request, with little or no faith in its efficacy, yet willing, like the proverbial drowning man, to "catch at a straw" that promised any relief.

A cracker was forthwith produced and quite generously buttered. A liberal sprinkling of cayenne pepper was then added, the two halves put together and the patient requested to partake of the spicy concoction.

Strange as it may seem, but little inconvenience was experienced. The slight smarting sensation in the mouth was soon over, and no unpleasantness was felt in the stomach. The cracker was eaten just before retiring, and very soon after the patient was sleeping peacefully.

The pepper acted as a stimulant to the stomach, drawing the blood from the excited brain and inducing a night of more refreshing sleep than had been experienced for a long time. The remedy was repeated the next night, with the same result. A cayenne pepper sandwich is much less harmful than drugs and when taken in small quantities is a good tonic for a weak stomach.

Sick headache has also been known to yield to a cup of hot water to which have been added a generous pinch of cayenne pepper and a nip of soda as big as a pea.—Table Talk.

The Spinning Wheel In Ireland.

The spinning wheel and the flax wheel are still found in the Irish cottages, where many a girl has her wedding dowry of linen and homespun made at home. Although it is more the task of the older women, there are still girls who do their spinning stint and lay by a certain amount for their wedding outfit. A pleasant sight it is to see the elderly women outside their cottage doors spinning the flax or the wool. As long as the weather is warm the sturdy Irishwoman, old or young, scorns a roof except to sleep under. The free air and sunshine are her choice, and the sweet sky is the fairest roof.

Politics and Humor.

In the world of politics the man who would obtain political preferment must be serious. No man who cultivates humor to the exclusion of his other gifts can hope to attain to the highest places in the political arena. The American citizen reserves the inalienable right to vote for whom he wills, and the serious man who suppresses his sense of humor rather than the man who cultivates it is honored with his preference.—Senator Chauncey M. Depew.

Superfluous Details.

Caller (looking at picture)—Does your mamma paint? Little Son—Yes, but she's through with that an' is puttin' on the powder now. She'll be down in a minute.

Startling Evidence.

Fresh testimony in great quantity is constantly coming in, declaring Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption Coughs and Colds to be unequaled. A recent expression from T. J. McFarland Bentorville, Va. serves as example. He writes: "I had Bronchitis for three years and doctored all the time without being benefitted. Then I began taking Dr. King's New Discovery, and a few bottles wholly cured me." Equally effective in curing all Lung and Throat troubles, Consumption, Pneumonia and Grip. Guaranteed by Chas. Rogers Druggist. Trial bottles free, regular sizes 50c, and $1.00.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT.

The Baltimore & Ohio Railroad's New Through Service.

Effective November 27th, 1904, and thereafter, a new daily train will be inaugurated, leaving Grand Central passenger station, Chicago, at 10:30 p. m., for Akron, Cleveland, Youngstown, Pittsburg and intermediate points, connecting at Pittsburg with "Duquesne Limited" for Philadelphia and New York, and with train No. 10 for Washington, D. C., and Baltimore.

This train will be equipped with first-class day coaches, Pullman sleepers and dining car service.

On all through tickets stop-over will be allowed at Washington, Baltimore and Philadelphia, not to exceed 10 days at each place.

For further particulars address,
Peter Harvey, General Agent, Room 1, Hobart Bldg., San Francisco.
D. B. Martin, Manager Passenger Traffic Baltimore, Md.
B. N. Austin, General Passenger Agent, Chicago.

SKIN HUMORS BLOOD HUMORS

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Complete External and Internal Treatment
Price One Dollar

In the treatment of torturing, disfiguring, itching, scaly, crusted, pimply, blotchy and scrofulous humors of the skin, scalp and blood, with loss of hair, Cuticura Soap, Ointment and Pills have been wonderfully successful. Even the most obstinate of constitutional humors, such as bad blood, scrofula, inherited and contagious humors, with loss of hair, glandular swellings, ulcerous patches in the throat and mouth, sore eyes, copper-colored blotches, as well as boils, carbuncles, scurvy, sties, ulcers and sores arising from an impure condition of the blood, yield to the Cuticura Treatment, when all other remedies fail.

And greater still, if possible, is the wonderful record of cures of torturing, disfiguring humors among infants and children. The suffering which Cuticura Remedies have alleviated among the young, and the comfort they have afforded worn-out and worried parents, have led to their adoption in countless homes as priceless curatives for the skin and blood. Infantile and birth humors, milk crust, scalled head, eczema, rashes and every form of itching, scaly, pimply skin and scalp humors, with loss of hair, of infancy and childhood, are speedily, permanently and economically cured when all other remedies available for children, and even the best physicians, fail.

Sold throughout the world. Cuticura Resolvent, 50c. (in form of Chocolate Coated Pills, 25c. per vial of 60), Ointment, 50c., Soap, 25c. Depots: London, 27 Charterhouse Sq.; Paris, 5 Rue de la Paix; Boston, 137 Columbus Ave. Potter Drug & Chem. Corp., Sole Proprietors.
☞ Send for "The Great Humor Cure."

TIDE TABLE, DECEMBER

Low Water.		A. M.		P. M.	
Date.		h. m.	ft.	h. m.	ft.
Thursday	1	1:03	1.3	2:12	2.1
Friday	2	2:07	1.7	3:17	1.3
Saturday	3	3:10	2.0	4:19	0.5
SUNDAY	4	4:08	2.1	5:12	-0.3
Monday	5	5:04	2.3	6:00	-1.0
Tuesday	6	5:58	2.5	6:48	-1.4
Tuesday	6	.....	...	.....	...
Wednesday	7	6:46	2.7	7:30	-1.4
Thursday	8	7:30	2.9	8:13	-1.3
Friday	9	8:15	3.1	8:54	-0.9
Saturday	10	9:00	3.3	9:33	-0.4
SUNDAY	11	9:45	3.4	10:00	0.2
Monday	12	10:34	3.4	10:50	0.7
Tuesday	13	11:30	3.5	11:30	1.3
Wednesday	14	.....	...	12:32	3.4
Thursday	15	0:13	1.8	1:35	3.0
Friday	16	1:04	2.3	2:33	2.6
Saturday	17	2:00	2.6	3:30	1.8
SUNDAY	18	3:00	2.9	4:18	1.1
Monday	19	3:52	3.1	5:04	0.4
Tuesday	20	4:45	3.3	5:48	-0.3
Wednesday	21	5:37	3.1	6:28	-0.8
Thursday	22	6:22	3.1	7:09	-1.1
Friday	23	7:07	3.1	7:50	-1.0
Saturday	24	7:52	2.8	8:30	-1.1
SUNDAY	25	8:37	2.8	9:10	-0.9
Monday	26	9:27	2.6	9:59	-0.4
Tuesday	27	10:24	2.5	10:45	0.2
Wednesday	28	11:19	2.3	11:36	0.9
Thursday	29	.....	...	12:38	2.0
Friday	30	0:34	1.8	1:49	1.6

High Water.		A. M.		P. M.	
Date.		h. m.	ft.	h. m.	ft.
Thursday	1	7:38	7.8	8:06	6.4
Friday	2	8:34	8.1	9:17	6.5
Saturday	3	9:28	8.5	10:22	6.7
SUNDAY	4	10:19	9.1	11:19	7.0
Monday	5	11:04	9.6	.....	...
Tuesday	6	0:11	7.1	.....	...
Tuesday	6	11:50	9.3	.....	...
Wednesday	7	1:00	7.3	12:33	9.3
Thursday	8	1:46	7.3	1:15	9.0
Friday	9	2:30	7.2	1:55	8.7
Saturday	10	3:12	7.2	2:37	8.3
SUNDAY	11	3:52	7.1	3:17	8.0
Monday	12	4:36	7.0	4:02	7.0
Tuesday	13	5:20	7.0	4:53	6.2
Wednesday	14	6:08	7.0	5:53	5.7
Thursday	15	7:00	7.1	7:06	5.4
Friday	16	7:47	7.2	8:18	5.5
Saturday	17	8:36	7.5	9:24	5.6
SUNDAY	18	9:22	7.8	10:20	5.9
Monday	19	10:08	8.2	11:14	6.3
Tuesday	20	10:50	8.4	.....	...
Wednesday	21	11:35	8.9	0:00	6.7
Thursday	22	0:45	7.1	12:18	8.9
Friday	23	1:29	7.3	1:00	9.0
Saturday	24	2:10	7.6	1:40	8.9
SUNDAY	25	2:53	7.7	2:27	8.6
Monday	26	3:37	7.8	3:15	8.1
Tuesday	27	4:22	7.9	4:10	7.5
Wednesday	28	5:12	7.9	5:15	6.9
Thursday	29	6:07	8.1	6:28	6.2
Friday	30	7:03	8.1	7:46	6.1
Saturday	31	8:03	8.3	9:03	6.1

Sold throughout the world.