

A Word to Women.

The following is clipped from the *Laws of Life*:

Very few ladies know how to appreciate an easy, healthful dress. They think their dresses are loose, when a man put into as tight a dress would gasp for breath, and feel incapable of putting forth any effort except to break the bands. Ladies are so accustomed to the tight fits of dressmakers, that they "fall to pieces" when relieved of them. They associate the loose dress with the bed or lounge. To be up, they must be stayed up, and to recommend a comfortable dress to them is not to meet a conscious want of theirs. It is a great pity none the less. If they could once know what a luxury it is to breathe deep and full at each respiration, to feel the refreshment which the system takes on by having the blood enlivened and sent bounding through the arteries and veins, to have the aids to digestion which such progress gives, to have their own strong elastic muscles keep every organ in place, and themselves erect; if they could for a good while know this blessed luxury, and then be sent back into the old, stiff, straight jackets, they would fume, and fret, and rave in very desperation if they could not get rid of them. As it is, they prefer to languish and suffer dreadfully, and die young, and leave all of their friends, and their husbands and their little children, and I do not see any other way but to let them be sick and die till they are satisfied. If only the sinner was the sufferer it would be not worth while to make a great ado about it, but the blighting of future innocent lives which must follow renders the false habits of our women in the highest degree criminal.

The Davenport's Refuse a Challenge.

We cut the subjoined from the *San Francisco Call* of the 13th ult: Last evening the seance of the Davenport Brothers was poorly attended, which probably was owing to the expose that was made yesterday. At the conclusion of the cabinet trick, Professor Fay advanced to the front of the stage, spoke rather severely of the papers which had published the "manner in which they performed their tricks," and said that the published reports were all false. He then stated that if there was any person in this city, who could perform the cabinet trick under the same conditions and as rapidly as the brothers, he would give that person the sum of five thousand dollars. As soon as he had finished, a young man, genteelly dressed, arose and said that he would accept the offer, and would go through the performance at once. He was invited to go on the stage, and he at once prepared to go into the cabinet. He asked that the Committee which tied the Brothers be allowed to tie him, but the Brothers and Prof. Fay objected, saying that they must tie him themselves. The male portion of the audience sprang to their feet, and for nearly ten minutes all was confusion, the audience siding with the stranger, and many voices crying out, "Give the stranger a fair show;" "let the committee that tied you tie him;" "don't try to bluff." After some difficulty, and cries of "order, order," quiet was obtained, and the young man, who gave his name as Carl Busco, announced himself ready to bet one thousand dollars that he could perform the tricks if the committee, or any other committee selected by the audience, were allowed to tie him. "We will not agree to that," responded William Davenport; "we will tie you ourselves." "I will put up one hundred dollars as a forfeit," said Busco, as he placed the money in the hands of ex-Chief of Police M. J. Burke, "to show that I am in earnest; but I will not allow you to tie me, for you could tie me so that I could not loosen myself as well as I could tie you in the same manner." Many words passed, and it became evident that the Brothers had no desire to allow their tricks to be exposed in public, so Mr. Busco left the stage and the Hall.

When is a ship like a book? When it is outward bound.

Why is a ship sailing along the coast like a book? It is often sounding.

Why should a sailor always know what o'clock it is? Because he is always going to see.

When you count the masts of a ship, why do you always count wrong? Because they have fore (4) masts.

Why is the first chicken of a brood like the foremast of a ship? Because it is a little in advance of the main hatch.

Why can a ship's company always have fresh eggs? Because the captain can always order the ship to lay to (2) at any time.

Idlers in Country Stores.

From the Merchants' Journal.

There is a grievous annoyance to store keepers in country towns and rural sections, especially, which we have ourselves observed in portions of the country we have from time to time visited. It is idlers in country stores and places of business. A friend of ours complains that some of his customers who are very valuable to him, are nevertheless in the habit of lingering in his establishment for hours at a time, much to his annoyance. He cannot treat them with discourtesy, and has no inclination to do so. But he thinks that a hint or two as to the policy of short visits on business, especially when others require a fair degree of attention, would not only prove serviceable in his case, but in a general sense likewise. The error alluded to is a serious one. There are some people who fancy that others have little or nothing to do. They stop in the street during business hours, and attempt to get up a long conversation on trifling matters—they visit their stores and lounge on their desks and counters—they repeat silly stories that have been told a dozen times before—and still worse, they pry into matters with which they have no concern, and thus not only annoy and vex, but inflict absolute injury. Another rural storekeeper informs us that he has lost quite a number of customers in consequence of the almost perpetual presence of idlers and loungers, who stare with rude impudence, and who will not take any of the many gentlemanly hints that he has ventured to give them. He does not want to turn them out absolutely, but he assures us that he not only suffers in his feelings, but his business. Some of them may mean no harm, but the effect is none the less pernicious. A man of common sense, and a gentleman, could readily imagine the indelicacy of standing beside the counter of a bookseller, with a lady making applications for publications. Nay, we have heard of a case in which a young man who kept a store for the sale of books, was absolutely ruined in the manner described. He lacked the moral courage to send away the idlers who infested his establishment, and the consequence was that all his customers left him. As a general rule, a visit of business should be brief, especially when other parties are to be consulted with or waited upon. When, too, any matter, private or confidential, is in progress, everything like curiosity should be regarded as ill-timed or impertinent. It is quite a common occurrence for an idler to step into a room, and exclaim, "Are you engaged?" seeing at the same time two or three persons busily occupied, and hence such a question being altogether unnecessary. But even when an affirmative answer is given, he will take a seat coolly, pick up a newspaper, and attempt to listen to all that is passing. He will even venture, ever and anon, to throw in a remark, as if he were the party concerned! But enough for the present, though the subject is a fruitful one.

SIMPLE TEST.—Dr. McCulloch gives the following test, which, perhaps, may be innocently tried by all who are at all skeptical as to the prejudicial effects of alcoholic drinks on the human constitution: "Hold a mouthful of spirits—whisky for instance—in your mouth for five minutes, and you will find it burn severely; inspect the mouth, you will observe that it is inflamed. Hold it ten or fifteen minutes, you will find that various parts of the mouth have become blistered; then tie a handkerchief over the eyes, and taste, for instance, water, vinegar, milk, or senna; you will find that you are incapable of distinguishing the one from the other.

This simple and easy experiment proves to a certainty that alcohol is not only a violent irritant, but also a narcotic; for in this experiment you have objective evidence that it has inflamed and blistered the mouth; and you have subjective evidence that it has also, for the time being, paralyzed the nerves of taste, and, to a certain extent, those also of common sensation. Now this is not an experiment or fact upon which any doubt has ever been or ever can be thrown; and, I ask you, can you believe that the still more tender and more important internal organs of the body can be less injuriously affected than the mouth?" "Even the moderate use," says Dr. Wilson, "of such liquors, if long continued, and grown habitual, cannot fail to have ultimately a prejudicial effect upon the health, while it may be confidently asserted that there are no circumstances of ordinary character, under which it can be justified as beneficial or necessary.

When are iron steamboats like calamities? Because they are hard ships.

EYES.

There is a wonderful diversity among animals in respect to the number of their eyes. In mammals, birds, reptiles, and fishes they are limited to two, and are always placed on the head. The greater part of the surface of the head of the house-fly is covered by an aggregation of about ten thousand eyes; and in the dragon-fly they number nearly fifty thousand, and may be easily seen by the use of a magnifying lens even of very low power.

They are not always confined to the head alone. In spiders and scorpions there are generally eight or ten of them, in one or more clusters, on the dorsal aspect of that part of the body which is formed by the union of the head and thorax. The star-fish or five-fingers, familiar to every one who has spent any time on our sea-coast, has an eye on the tip of each ray or arm. In the sea-urchin, which is homologically nothing but a star-fish with the ends of its rays drawn close together, the five eyes are gathered in a circle around what is considered the hinder portion of the body.

The scallop has numerous eyes on the edge of the mantle extending from one end of the animal to the other, and forming a semicircle. Some marine worms have them in clusters not only on the head, but also along each side of the body, even to the tip of the tail, and they are connected individually and directly with the median nervous cord. If we descend to the lowest forms, we find many infusoria which have neither eyes nor nerves, and yet it is easy to see that they are sensitive to light, for they either seek or avoid it.—Dr. Clark, in *Hours at Home* for February.

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