

BANDON RECORDER.

WIT BUBBLES IN TOASTS.

Some Honorable Sentiments Pithily Expressed at Banquets.

A publisher once gave the following: "Woman, the fairest work in all creation. The edition is large, and no man should be without a copy."

This is fairly seconded by a youth who, giving his distant sweetheart, said, "Delectable dear, so sweet that honey would bluish in her presence and trolley stand appalled."

Further, in regard to the fair sex, we have: "Woman, she needs no eulogy; she speaks for herself." "Woman, the bitter half of man."

In regard to matrimony some bachelor once gave, "Marriage, the gate through which the happy lover leaves his enchanted ground and returns to earth."

At the marriage of a deaf and dumb couple some wit wished them "unspeakable bliss."

At a supper given to a writer of comedies a wag said: "The writer's very good health. May he live to be as old as his jokes."

From a law critic: "The bench and the bar. If it were not for the bar there would be little use for the bench."

A celebratory statesman, while dining with a duchess on her eightieth birthday, in proposing her health said:

"May you live, my lady dearest, until you begin to grow ugly."

"I thank you, sir," she said, "and may you long continue your taste for antiquities."—London Tit-Bits.

Drinking and Smoking. "The prevalent idea that drinking and smoking are companion vices is altogether wrong," said a physician who has made a special study of dipsomania.

"I find, on the contrary, that the habitual drunkard is not abnormally addicted to the use of tobacco. He may use the weed as a lesser stimulant when not strongly under the influence of alcohol, but when the drink gets firmly entrenched in his system he cares nothing for tobacco, for then it has lost its force and its influence upon his nerves. Of course I mean in extreme cases."

"On the other hand, it is a rather curious fact that in the case of the moderate drinker, who also smokes, the cutting off of his supply of tobacco will increase his appetite for alcoholic beverages, and while at first the liquor will not affect him nearly so much as when he is smoking, in the end it will do him up. Consequently it is safe to assume that the man who always used liquor and tobacco in moderation will, if he gives up tobacco, take more strongly to liquor. In fact, this is no assumption; it has been demonstrated on numerous occasions."—Philadelphia Record.

His Education Wasn't Complete. No more courteous judge ever presided at a trial than the venerable former justice of the New York court of common pleas, Charles P. Daly. The story is still told among our New York lawyers how on one occasion a young attorney, while trying a case, indulged in considerable vituperation of his opponent's witnesses, finally going so far as to answer the court very sharply when requested to modify his language.

Knowing that Judge Daly was somewhat of a stickler for the dignity of the judiciary, lawyers and court attendants gazed at the offending attorney in amazement.

There was a long interval of silence. Finally the judge leaned over the bench and said, with an ironical smile:

"My young friend, before you are as old as I am you will have learned that it is about as well to read Chesterfield as Blackstone."—Success.

Muslim Women's Freedom. There has been a vast amount of pity wasted upon the Muslim woman. If he gives up tobacco, take more strongly to liquor. In fact, this is no assumption; it has been demonstrated on numerous occasions."—Philadelphia Record.

Various Sources of Silk. Silkworms are not the sole source of the production of silk. It is also obtained from several vegetable substances, but of an inferior and less durable description. Excellent colored silk is obtained from the prepared and finer fibers of the bamboo, which is much in demand for clothing in tropical countries for its lightness and porosity. Another form of silk is obtained from the pods of the silk cotton tree, of which there are several varieties in existence, the material obtained from them being known as vegetable silk.

Prodigality of Life in Ancient Egypt. The reckless prodigality with which in ancient Egypt the upper classes squandered away the labor and lives of the people is perfectly startling. In this respect, as the monuments yet remaining abundantly prove, they stand alone and without a rival. We may form some idea of the almost incredible waste when we hear that 2,000 men were occupied for three years in carrying a single stone from Elephantine to Sais, that the canal of the Red sea alone cost the lives of 120,000 Egyptians and that to build one of the pyramids required the labor of 300,000 men for twenty years.

A Remarkable River in Spain. There is in Spain a river called the Tinto, which has very extraordinary qualities. Its waters, which are as yellow as a topaz, harden the sand and petrify it in a most surprising manner. If a stone falls into the river and rests upon another they both become perfectly united and conglutinated in a year. It withers all the plants on its banks as well as the roots of trees, which it dyes of the same hue as its waters. No fish live in its stream.

POLLY LARKIN

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ANCIENT FISH CURES

MEDICINAL VIRTUES THAT USED TO DECK THE FINNY TRIBE.

Perch Was Valued in Germany For Its Curative Properties, and Carp Was Held in High Esteem in Old England—The Physician of Fishes.

Fishing literature prior to the days and writings of Isaac Walton opens up points of interest which are unique. Not the least interesting are the constant references of the early writers to the medicinal virtues of fish. Of course many of the salt and fresh water fishes mentioned by the old writers are not recognized in the waters of today, but the fresh water perch, carp, tench and eel are yet recognized, and it is in connection with these fish that some of the quaintest ideas as to their medicinal virtues have prevailed.

The Germans have a comparative proverb which says, "More wholesome than a perch of the Rhine," and it is certain that from the earliest times this familiar fish has been esteemed as one of the best gastronomic productions of fresh water. It has also been ascribed medicinal virtues. Gesner says that physicians value the perch so much that they recommend it to be freely eaten by wounded men, women in childbirth and those suffering from dangerous fevers. Androscandus praises it and mentions that the two otoliths ("round bones") found in the head of the perch are marvellously good for stone in the bladder.

That the carp was esteemed in olden times in England is certain. Dame Berners, writing in her quaint "Treatise of Eysynge Wyth an Angle," published in 1398, says: "The carpe be deynous fish, but there be few in Englonde." But being "deynous"—i. e., "dainty"—it must have been a good fish at that time to eat. It has certainly lost its character since then.

In the art of healing the carp plays a respectable part. One old writer speaks of the fat of the carp as being of medicinal power for the alleviation of rheumatism. The manner of its application was by frequent rubbing on the painful part, and the effect was said to be eminently mollifying and salutary. The triangular bones in the throat of the carp on being ground to powder and applied to a wound or bleeding nose were said to act as styptic.

The gall was also said to have been used for sore eyes, and "bove eyes," says an old Esculapius, "two little bones exist, semicircular in shape, which are diligently preserved by noble females against the lunatical disease."

In the "Haven of Health" carp are also comprised in "the ten sortes of fische which are reckoned as principal in the preservation of health," and adds the quaint old writer, "this fish is of great wholesome and great use, and his tongue is very pleasant to carping ladies."

A kind of first cousin of the carp is what is known as the barbel. Such ancients as Juvenal, Albertus and others of that ilk evidence that it was known and esteemed by the Roman gourmet. Plutarch mentions a curious fact in its natural history. Dr. Zander in his "Fishes Hæletics" translates this passage as follows: "The roe of the barbel is very poisonous. Antonio Gazius took two boluses and thus describes his sensations: 'At first I felt no inconvenience, but some hours having elapsed I began to be disagreeably affected, and as my stomach swelled and could not be brought down by anise and carminatives I was soon in a state of great depression and distress.' It appears that his countenance was pallid, like a man in a swoon. Deadly coldness ensued, and violent cholera and vomiting came on. The barbel (Barbus vulgaris) of today has survived such poisonous qualities. Its flesh has the taste of stewed white blotting paper, and its roe is as innocuous as bread pills."

All the same, good Juliana Berners shares the bad opinion of the earlier writers. She says: "The barbyll is a swete fish, but it is quasy mete and perylous for manny bodye. For comynly he nyth an introduction to ye febris (fever), and if ye be eten rawe he may cause of manny dethe which hath often bene seene."

The tench which has been introduced into some parts of our country is an other kind of fish which has been for long time termed in England the "physician of fishes." According to a score or more of authorities, ancient and modern, the thick slime with which it is covered exerts healing effect on all wounds or diseases in which it can come in contact on or in other fishes. Whence this belief originated is not known, but one instance of exact obedience is worthy of credence. Mr. Wright in his book on "Fishes and Fishing" tells how a minnow accidentally hooked in the water of an aquarium in which it was swimming, on breaking loose, immediately descended three parts of the way down the water and swiftly approached its nose to the side of the tench which was its companion in the aquarium. It rubbed its nose for a few seconds against the tench and then again swam about as lively as before. To this testimony Mr. Wright adds: "We (my friend and I) were watching the performance were both of the opinion that it is really no fable as to the tench being the physician of fishes, for here was an example before our eyes of a fish being wounded and immediately instinct directing it to seek a remedy."

One piscatoric truth is known to all who fish for pike or pickerel. The pike (esoxius) will ravenously seize as his prey the fry of almost every fish, including his own species, and all the bait minnows are also caviare to him, but he will not touch the tench.—Brooklyn Eagle.

He Needed Encouragement. "Do you try to be contented with poverty, my man?" asked the rich donor.

"I'm afraid not," answered the hard up delinquent, "but just try me with riches and see how contented I'd be."—Chicago Record-Herald.

Down and Out. Upton—Say, isn't that richly dressed woman across the street your cook?

Suburb—No. We did make our home with her for awhile, but she discharged us last week.—Buffalo News.

HISTORY OF THE ANCHOR.

Various Improvements That Have Been Made in Its Shape.

The ships' anchors in general used up to the beginning of the last century consisted of a long, round iron shank, having two comparatively short, straight arms or flukes, inclined to the shank at an angle of about 90 degrees and meeting it in a somewhat sharp point at the crown. In large anchors the bulky wooden stock was built up of several pieces, looped together, the whole tapering outward to the ends, especially on the aft of cable side.

About the beginning of the last century a clerk in the Plymouth naval yard, Pering by name, suggested certain improvements, the most important of which was making the arms curved instead of straight. At first slight this simple change may seem of little value, but consideration will show that this is not the case. The holding power of an anchor depends on two principal conditions—namely, the extent of useful holding surface and the amount of vertical penetration. The latter quality is necessary on account of the nature of ordinary sea bottoms, the surface layers of which are generally less tenacious and resisting than is the ground a short distance below.

In the year 1831 chain cables began to supersede the hempen ones, with the result that the long shanked anchors hitherto in vogue were no longer necessary, and anchors with shorter shanks and with heavier and stronger crowns gradually came into use. In consequence of these changes a commission was appointed in the year 1838 to inquire into the holding power of anchors, and a principal result of its labors was the adoption of the so-called admiralty pattern anchor, which continued to be used in the navy up to the year 1890.

The invention of the steam hammer in 1842 made the old models there of iron and steel, so that from this time onward the strength of anchors fully kept pace with that of the chain cables which had come into general use.

A number of patents for anchors were taken out prior to the great exhibition of 1851, and public attention having been called to the matter, a committee was appointed by the admiralty to report on the qualifications of anchors of the various kinds. Practical trials were then instituted, and as a result Trotman's anchor took the highest place, Rodger's anchor being second on the list. Some of the tests to which the anchors were submitted were of doubtful value, such, for instance, as "facility or sweeping." Nowadays, however, at all events for deep ships in shallow harbors, it is considered an advantage for an anchor to offer as little obstruction as possible above the ground.—Science Siftings.

ANIMAL LANGUAGE.

Sounds Both Shril and Low That We Cannot Hear.

Most people suppose a mole to be dumb, but it is not. A mole can give a sound so shrill that it hasn't any effect on the human ear at all and other sounds so low and soft that no human being can hear it. Yet a weasel can hear both these sounds as plainly as you can the report of a gun, and a sound registering machine—the phonograph—will show them both, with scores of other sounds you are deaf to.

The usual note of the mole is a low purr, which it uses a good deal while at work underground, and it can also utter a note of warning if hurt or alarmed; but, though it shouted and purred in your ear, you wouldn't hear it. The sound register, however, with its delicate pencil that marks the volume of sound on a paper, gives the quality of both sounds.

A weasel, too, which is one of the mole's enemies, can hear these sounds through a couple of inches of earth and often catches the mole when he throws up his hillocks of earth. The common field mouse, too, has a purr that is altogether beyond you, though you can hear him squeak plainly enough if he is hurt. A death's head moth, too, can squeak, but that is done by rubbing his wings together and is not a voice at all.

But the champion of all creatures for good hearing and one that can hear a good hearing is the little wheel just six years ago invented to revolve the globe by way of the equator.

Breaking a Wishbone. The diving rod is a feature in all early mythology, especially so among the Hindoos. As the forked branch of a tree it indicated in various parts of Europe, Asia and Africa where treasures were hidden or where they might be readily found. From the forked branch of a tree it was but a step to the forked clavicle of a bird, and this bone was soon invested with the power of securing the gratification of the wishes of those who in breaking it retained the forked part, for it was the fork that was possessed of mystic power.

Economical in Theory. Hill—I suppose my wife is the most economical woman that ever stepped. Dale—So?

Hill—Yes; she never spends money for anything that she does not say she will save it in something else.

Dale—And does she? Hill—Well, you see, we never have got so far as that yet. But it is the principle I was talking about.—Boston Transcript.

She Gessed Right. "Did the spiritualist medium tell you anything that was true?" asked the willing believer eagerly.

"Oh, yes," replied the hard headed individual. "And that was—"

"That I spent my money foolishly, which was right. You see, I had paid to hear her tell me that."—Cincinnati Times-Star.

Delightful Prospect. "Do you," said the learned counsel, "swear that you will tell the truth the whole truth and—"

"Oh, how lovely!" the fair witness interrupted. "Shall I really be allowed to talk all the afternoon if I want to?"—Tit-Bits.

Good money is faithful. It leaves almost as soon as we get it. Bad money, however, sticks by us to the bitter end.—Baltimore American.

A FAMILY QUARREL.

Its Droll Ending After the Post Shelley Had Interfered.

In his "Rossetti Papers" William Rossetti says that when Shelley was staying in the villa of the Gibsones a most droll incident occurred. It appears that his servants, Giuseppe and Annunziata, who were man and wife, quarreled, and Shelley, hearing Giuseppe abusing his wife very savagely and also ill using her, rushed upon him with a pistol, shouting: "I'll shoot you! I'll shoot you!" The startled fellow ran for his very life, Shelley after him, till the servant, coming to a shrubbery of laurels, managed to slip under them. Shelley, in his eagerness, darting past him. The servant in a few minutes found it possible to dodge back into the house unperceived. Shelley, seeing him no more, at last went back to the house, where, to his unutterable surprise, he found Giuseppe and Annunziata sitting together in the most amicable manner, addressing each other as "caro" and "carissima." "But were you not quarrelling even now?" exclaimed the perplexed poet. "Quarrelling?" gasped Giuseppe in amazement. "No, signor, we never quarrelled." "But I have been running after you in order to shoot you." "No, signor, you never ran after me, for I have been sitting here for the last hour or more. You must have fancied all this." And Giuseppe and Annunziata, who had both been considerably frightened, continuing to assure him that they had had no quarrel, and Mary Shelley, whom they had led into the secret, saying the same, Shelley was at last utterly mystified and inclined himself to believe that he must have fancied it.

Excessive Energy. Energy is a fine thing, but, like steam, it needs a little restraint and careful guiding. If the safety valve doesn't work there's likely to be a breakdown or a blow up now and then. The nervous, fidgety woman is a dreadful bore. She rattles up the atmosphere and makes everybody wish she would take a vacation and rest up like sixty. Some of those people who try around the fastest do the least work, and the proper thing to require is balance. Work as hard as you want to, but let up when the moment for letting up arrives. There is a limit to human endurance, and when you go beyond the limit you never get back into the valve of strong endurance and fine vitality. It is the man or the woman who knows how to work and how to rest who gets things done all the time and ships and without tearing the roof off of his feet. These remarks may be blunt, like a chisel, but they're as true as the fact that the Lord made little apples.—Chicago Record-Herald.

Odd Street Names. In Clerkenwell, England, there is a street called Pickled Egg walk. It takes its name from Pickled Egg tavern, which formerly stood there and made a specialty of serving pickled eggs. An interesting London thoroughfare is Hanging Sword alley, which is mentioned in Dickens' "Tale of Two Cities." London has also Picklehering street. In Leicester is a street called the Holy Bones and another called Gallows Tree Gate. Hull has a street with the extraordinary name, the Land of Green Girdle. Corydon has a street named Pump Hall, and there some years ago lived Peter Pottle, a dealer in furniture. The most daring of farce writers might well have hesitated to invent a combination of name and address so improbable as that which really belonged to Peter Pottle of Pump Hall.

The Labor of a Watch. The little balance wheel of a watch vibrates five times per second. Imagine that this wheel, instead of swinging back and forth like a pendulum, should roll on continuously over a given surface. Its circumference in a gentleman's watch of ordinary size is two and a quarter inches, and if it were swept in each direction of about three-fourths of its circumference. In other words, it would traverse in one second a distance measuring about eight and a half inches. According to this computation, the balance wheel of a watch would travel in a year over a distance of 3,077 miles in round numbers, and it would take the little wheel just six years eight months to circumnavigate the globe by way of the equator.

Reverend. A wealthy golf enthusiast obtained permission from a farmer to use a meadow for his hobby. There he laid out links, and among the players were some ladies. A servant on the farm, scandalized by the sight of tall, athletic girls in scarlet coats, armed with iron hoofed clubs, striding over the fields, one day reported to his master: "Them girls in the meadow scare our crows."

The farmer shook his head sadly while he uttered this profound remark: "Ah, Thomas," said he, "times is changed since we were young! Used to be the cows which scared the gals!"—London Tit-Bits.

News-papers in Egypt. In no country has the spread of journalism during the last half century been more marked than in Egypt. One hundred and twenty periodicals are now published there, of which eighty-seven are printed in Arabic, among the latter being thirty political journals, seventeen story papers, ten religious magazines, seven legal journals, five medical journals, two agricultural papers, two women's papers, one journal devoted to Freemasonry and two comic journals. Many of these journals are very well printed and have a large circulation.

Symbolism in Eggs. Among the curiosities recently acquired by the department of Egyptian and Assyrian antiquities in the British museum is an ostrich egg pierced for suspension and covered with traces of a painted design, probably of a pre-dynastic period. According to the experts of the department, this egg is certainly nearly 6,000 years old, as the design was made not later than 4,000 B. C. The egg of the ostrich is said to have possessed some religious significance even in the pre-dynastic period.—London Globe.

Went Her One Better. "I never saw you in such a becoming hat, my dear. Did you get it ready made?"

"I was just thinking how unusually pretty yours looks. Did you make it yourself?"—Brooklyn Life.

How It Was Done. "I thought Miss Pumphrey figured on marrying Jack."

"So she did, but another girl with more money outfigured her."—Smart Set.

CHOICE MISCELLANY

Japan's Smart Set.

The smart set in Japan does not know its own mind. The Japanese are arrogant enough to prefer their own institutions to those of other countries. At the same time they wish to join the great powers, and to do this they must accept the fashions of the latest west, for in their hearts the Japanese do hate the west, though they are sharp enough to see that no nation which does not wear trousers can be a great power. So in Japan there are two smart sets—the breeched and the unbreeched, and as there are many Japanese who practice several religions so are there many who live two lives.

The official smart set, the set which embraces ambassadors and cabinet ministers and politicians and club servants generally, wear trousers in public. But follow home the immaculate field marshal or pompous courtier and within five minutes you will find him minus breeches or knee breeches and comfortably enveloped in a kimono, probably squatting on the floor. The Japanese who wear European dress do not like to wear it. On the contrary they are anxious to be rid of it as fast as they can. The court only would imagine Japan to be far more foreignized than it really is. The great politicians and a few other great noblemen live in foreign houses, use foreign furniture, give dinner parties in the foreign style, eat with knives and forks, sit on chairs and dress like Christians in Sunday attire. Then, as I have said, the majority of the European dress is worn at his garden parties, of which he has at least five every year, a cherry blossom party and a chrysanthemum party.—Smart Set.

Spanish Wizardry. Madrid society is just now enchanted with the details of a case of magic. The practitioner is a woman whose specialty was "removing" by incantation persons in whose disappearance her clients were interested. High dames of the aristocracy resorted to her in the dead of night for blood curdling rites, such as "black masses" conjuring up the devil, who appeared as a black billy goat with flaming horns, and in a general way the witch played old Harry at stiff rates. During her incantations a wax figure was used to represent the obnoxious person. Some of her dupes at last complained of the high fees paid for marvellously small results, and a detective's wife was sent to have her husband conjured away. All went amazingly well, but just at the awful moment, when the enchantress was busy with a Hecate's brew of bacon fat and other ingredients, with a shirt of the doomed man steeped in wine, the police burst in. Next day "the devil" was found quietly browsing in the garden, and it has since been ascertained that the "flamboyant horns" were the result of phosphorous treatment.—London Globe.

Antiquity of "Looping the Loop." There is nothing new under the sun. That apparently up to date method of illustrating centrifugal force known as "looping the loop" was practiced, it seems, as long ago as the first half of the last century. A French journal ascribes its invention to M. Clavier of Havre. At first the car that did the "looping" bore nothing but bags of sand, but soon a passenger made the venture, and in 1850 the sport was a prominent feature of the performance at the Paris hippodrome. Apparently, however, it was reserved for this country to throw the sport open to the public, as was done at Coney Island, and later to produce a performer daring enough to make the trip on a bicycle. In spite of this long record the feasibility of the loop trip with a car running on rails was denied several years ago in a technical journal on the ground that the necessary initial speed could not be obtained.—Success.

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