

WHEN THEORIES FAILED.

A Mother's Experience in the Training of Children.

"Have you given up your theories on the training of children?" he asked as he settled back in his easy chair after dinner. "I have," she replied decidedly. "I've noticed that you haven't been reading so many books on the subject recently," he went on. "What's the reason?"

THE MOON AND THE MICE.

Curious Indian Legend Explaining the Wanting of Luna.

A curious Indian legend was told to some people in Omaha by a full blooded Sioux who lives at Pine Ridge agency. He said the belief was that every time a new moon appeared it was a signal for all the mice in the country to gather themselves together in one spot. When they assembled they then separated into four great armies. One army went to the north, another to the south, a third to the east and a fourth to the west.

THE GOOSE TOWER.

Wherein King Valdemar Clapped the Disrespectful Delegates.

In the early years of the fourteenth century the "free cities"—Hamburg, Lubek and Bremen—sent a delegation of seventy-seven members to King Valdemar to demand increased rights and privileges in their trade with Denmark. The delegates were not very respectful in their language and demeanor, and the king, who was at Vordingborg, told them they acted like a drove of geese and clapped them into prison in the tower, telling them they would stay there until they learned better manners. Over the heavy tower door the king put up a stone with the inscription:

Willing to Be Honest.

Phil May, the great English artist, earned his first fame in Australia. One day a broken down minister applied to him for charity, and May engaged him as a model. As a joke he also demanded that his eighty-year-old pensioner agree to leave him his skeleton when he died. When May left Australia he called his model in. "You've played me a dirty trick," said May, "by sending me out of that skeleton, I could have bought one in stock order and condition for half the money you've cost me." The old fellow, conscious of his base ingratitude to his best and most patient friend, answered: "Don't be angry with me, Mr. May. It's not my fault. I meant to keep my word. Stay in Sydney a few months longer and give me another chance to show you that I am a man of honor."

Book Themes.

Since the introduction of printing the subject matter of the aggregate of books shows approximately the following averages: Law and sociology, one-quarter of all; literature, one-fifth; applied science, one-eighth; history and geography, one-tenth; theology, religion and speculation, one-tenth; miscellaneous and bibliography, one-tenth; philology and languages, one-twentieth; natural sciences, art and philosophy shading off into small fractions and poetry not appearing in the classification.

Not Like a Watch.

"Do you know," he went on glibly after the parlor clock had struck 11, "do you know that a man is like a watch because he is known by his works?" "I know he is not like a watch," she remarked, with a yawn, "for when he is wound up he doesn't seem to go."—Yonkers Statesman.

His Standard of Measurement.

"I thought you claimed this was a good restaurant," he grumbled as they passed from the room of the big dry goods store. "Well, isn't it?" "Bah! I know of a place over on Madison street where you can get three times as much as we've had for a quarter."—Chicago Record-Herald.

POLLY LARKIN

Why is it that we are so quick to judge people? We cannot read the motives of the heart that prompt an act that we, not knowing the circumstances, are quick to condemn. Nine times out of ten, if we were called to account for our hasty judgment we would have but a very weak case to plead in our own defense. We do not weigh the pros and cons but are entirely too quick to jump at conclusions. Such a course in life is not productive of any great happiness either to ourselves or others. Another thing we fail to remember is that there is always two sides to be heard from and we should be slow to condemn and condemn others. This is a round about way of getting to the point of this article and relating a true incident that happened in San Francisco a few days ago.

A little woman—and she did not look bigger than a minute—moved into the neighborhood, and as usual when a number of cheerful busybodies get together, she was the subject of conversation at an afternoon tea. "I did not invite her," said the hostess, "because she seemed so frivolous. She is always on the go and never seems to be satisfied around home like other women, but I hear her hurrying to get through every morning, and the minute that her work is done off she goes with her lunch or something of that kind, and possibly you'll not see her for hours. I don't fancy the company she keeps, either, for the other day she brought home the dirtiest child you ever saw. She was grimy from head to foot. She didn't seem in the least ashamed to be caught with the dirty and, I might say repulsive, little charge, but walked boldly past my house and even smiled as she caught my eye. One thing about her, however, is that she does not intrude or attempt to force her company on her neighbors, and that is something to be thankful for. She is as neat as wax, and that is another thing in her favor, for she keeps her home as well as herself orderly and clean. Her frivolous ways and always being on the go are what have turned me against her."

"Always on the go?" echoed her friend. "I know the little lady well, and I can assure you she is not one to be condemned. She is interested in doing charity work and many are the people who have been aided by her kindly ministrations. The dirty child you saw her with was taken from one of the most squalid and wretched of homes it has been my lot to see. That child had not had a bath in six months, and her father stated that he had never in her short life seen her hair combed. It was one mass of tangles and matted to her poor little head until it was a sight to behold. She did not have a clean stitch of clothing to put on. Everything was filthy and dirty, and her mother was as unkempt as herself. She did not drink or use opiates, but she was simply of no account, slovenly and lazy, and never did a stroke of work in her wretched home."

"With all due respect to your kindness of heart, my friend, this little woman you have just denounced as being frivolous and a sort of gad-about, did something that neither you nor I would have enjoyed, and what is more, I don't believe we would have responded to the cry of distress, except to turn the case over to some benevolent or charitable society to minister to their wants. This little woman heard of the sad case of poverty and neglect and down she went into this dirty hovel, washed and dressed a wailing infant in clothes she purchased. There was no nurse and she ministered to the sick mother, cooking the meals in her own home and carrying them to her besides furnishing her with a change of clothing. She hired a woman to go and clean up this dirty abode, and she is trying to awaken the true womanly nature of the mother that has lain dormant for so many years and fan to life a spark of the pride that has seemingly died out. She is appealing to the sort of 'ne'er do well' father also, and he seems to have a finer feeling in the matter than the mother. He is humiliated to think that an outsider should have discovered the sad state of affairs. He has beaten and cursed her time and again, but you can hardly blame him for forgetting that he is a man and has sworn to protect her through all adversities and has taken her 'for better or for worse.' It is a terrible state of affairs. When this good little samaritan took that dirty child home and gave it a bath, she did not dare wash it as clean as the subject demanded for fear of taking the skin off, for the dirt was ground into that little soft baby's skin until it had become leaden in color. There was no excuse for the mother, for she had plenty of time but was wholly indifferent to the two-year-old baby; it could shift for itself. When the child, comparatively clean for the first time in many long months, was taken home attired in clean clothes and the little curly head combed and arranged in such a way as to cover up the bare places where great wads of tangled hair had been cut out, the mother did not recognize her at first, but supposed some stray child had wandered in. She seemed pleased in the transformation that had been made in her appearance, but there was no blush of shame for her negligence and indifference. I think she is a hopeless case, and there is not the slightest chance of redeeming her from her slovenly ways. To use an old plantation darkey's phrase,

ANTHONY WAYNE.

The Revolutionary Hero Was a Soldier Even as a Boy.

Wayne was one of the leading spirits of the American Revolution. He served throughout the war, most of the time with the rank of general. What he was as a boy will interest readers, and this, they may learn from his biography, written by Mr. John R. Spear. When he was about fifteen years old Wayne was attending a school taught by his uncle, Gilbert (or Gabriel) Wayne, and this uncle, exasperated at the boy's conduct, wrote the following letter to Anthony's father, Isaac Wayne: "I really expect that parental affection blinds you and that you have mistaken your son's capacity. What he may be best qualified for I know not. One thing I am certain of—he will never make a scholar. He may perhaps make a soldier. He has already distracted the brains of two-thirds of the boys under my charge by rehearsals of battles, sieges, etc. They exhibit more the appearance of Indians and harlequins than of students—this one decorated with a cap of many colors, others habited in coats as variegated, like Joseph's of old; some laid up with broken heads and black eyes. During noon, in place of the usual games of amusement, he has the boys employed in throwing up redbouts, skrimishing, etc. I must be candid with you, Brother Isaac: Unless Anthony pays more attention to his books I shall under the painful necessity of dismissing him from the school."

THE HONEY BADGER.

He is a Tough Beast and is Exceedingly Hard to Kill. Badgers belong to the great weasel tribe, although they are also allied, as many people know, to the bears. Among their more or less distinguished relatives may be named the wolverene, otter, skunk and marten. In Africa and India, says a writer in Longman's Magazine, are to be found the curious rase, a remarkable branch of the family, distinguished by their extraordinary fondness for honey. To obtain this luxury they spend most of their time hunting for the nests of wild bees. They are absolutely oblivious, as are English badgers, of the stings of the infuriated bees, their tough, thick and loose coats protecting them from any serious injury. Ratsels are strong and very voracious beasts. The Boers of South Africa hold them in high respect, as do the natives, and assert that a pair of these beasts will occasionally attack a human being. I have heard of men being treed by these animals, but whether the tale was true or false I am uncertain. What is certain is that the ratel, or honey badger, of South Africa is a beast extremely difficult to kill by reason of his tough constitution, good defensive powers and extraordinarily loose coat and that he is when meddled with or put out a beast of very high courage and unpleasant manners.

BRIEF REVIEW.

Hottest Place on Earth.

Between India and Africa lies the hottest place on earth. The Aval Islands cover a fairly extensive area of the Persian gulf, lying off the southwest coast of Persia, and it is the largest of them which enjoys the doubtful distinction of leading all perspiring competitors in the matter of heat. The mean temperature of Bahrein for the entire year is 99 degrees. July, August and September are unendurable save for the natives. Night after night, as midnight comes, the thermometer shows 100. By 7 in the morning it is 107 or 108 degrees, and by three in the afternoon, 140. It is stated by voracious travelers that 75,000 Arabs inhabit the Aval group, fully 25,000 living in Bahrein, in which connection Sir Henry Layard adds: "It would seem that a man can acustom himself to anything." The following are the temperatures at some of the hottest places in different countries: Hyderabad, 105 degrees; Lahore, 107 degrees; El Paso, 113 degrees; Eosul, 117 degrees; Agra 117 degrees; Death valley, 122 degrees; Fort Yuma, 128 degrees; Bahrein, 140 degrees.

Ancient Table Manners.

The Romans took their meals while lying upon very low couches, and not until the time of Charlemagne was a stand used around which guests were seated on cushions, while the tablecloth made its appearance in the Middle Ages, bringing with it benches and backs. The Greeks and Romans ate from a kind of porringer. During a portion of the Middle Ages, however, slices of bread cut round took the place of plates. The spoon is of great antiquity, and many specimens are in existence that were used by the Egyptians as early as the seventeenth century B. C. The knife, though very old, did not come into common use as a table utensil until after the tenth century. The fork was absolutely unknown to both Greeks and Romans, and appeared only as a curiosity in the Middle Ages and was first used upon the table by Henry III. Drinking cups—in the Middle Ages made from metal, more or less copious, according to the owner's means—naturally date from the remotest age.

To Control Hertzian Waves.

Lenses of resin, paraffin, glass, and other dielectric materials have been used by Dr. Blockmann, a physicist of Kiel, Germany, in efforts to control the direction of Hertzian waves. He claims to have been fairly successful at moderate distances. This may signify much to navigators, as it offers vessels a means of determining by wireless telegraphy the direction of a signaling station.

A Danish company has lately been organized with a cash capital of 2,000,000 crowns (\$536,000), for the purpose of exploiting Siberian dairy industries. It has already established branches in thirty districts of that country.

When it comes to being fast a man is never in it even with horses. Flora Temple, Maud S and now Lou Dillon hold the record, while the man is on the back seat.

The face of the honeymoon always wears a mask which matrimony discloses whether it be a fool, a skeleton or a dear little Cupid.

A Japanese newspaper asserts that if it were not for educational works Japanese publishers would be virtually without occupation.

A badly cooked dinner will turn love's young dream into a regular old-fashioned nightmare.

Some women are born great and some marry money.

WOMAN AND FASHION

A Stunning Street Costume.

One can find no prettier combination than that employed in this costume. It is heavy French broadcloth, with deep collar and cuffs of chinilla. The collar is fastened with ends of gray cloth.



A PRETTY COMBINATION.

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Winter Hats.

The choosing of winter hats is a serious problem this year, and it is well to remember that not only must the color be in accord with the costume, but the shape also. Following out the law of exaggeration that has been fashionable for so long a time, if the style of the gown is one that makes the wearer look short and broad, the hat is broad and flat; if the lines are long and slender the hat gives height and slenderness. But here also it is foolish to choose an unbecoming hat simply because it is a fashionable shape and color. Hats to match the costumes in color are very smart this season, as are also the all black hats again, and the colored hats will be worn not only with the gowns they match, but with the black costumes as well, and indeed with gowns of contrasting colors they will be seen. Small and large shapes are alike in favor.

Winter Walking Suits.

A number of the latest walking suits are being made with extremely long coats, sometimes reaching to within sixteen or eighteen inches of the hem of the short skirt. One thing should never be lost sight of in ordering one of these long coats. It is one of the oldest Greek maxims of art that an oblong should never be divided in the middle nor yet exactly in thirds. Consider the gown as a flat surface and see that the line of the coat crosses correctly; otherwise there will always be something vaguely ugly and ungraceful about it, something which the average observer will not be able to define, but will be sure to notice. The garment will be voted unbecoming. With these long jackets are worn very severely cut skirts without flounces and usually without trimming except braid or flit flap.

Very Attractive.

Waist of a stylish tailored costume of brown cloth. The trimming or

AN OLD SUPERSTITION.

The Practice of Consulting Scripture as a Book of Fate. The practice of consulting Scripture as a book of fate was generally condemned by the church. A council at Avares pronounced against it in 461 A. D. So did one at Agde in 506 and one at Auxerre in 585. Charles the Great forbade it in his capitularies, and so did Pope Gregory II. Nevertheless curiosity as to the future was so strong in men's minds that the custom continued.

An odd circumstance is that the cathedral chapter at Orleans in 1149 appended to a prognostic of this sort in a supplication addressed by them to Pope Alexander III. against their bishop. At his consecration, when the gospel was opened above his head, the finger of the deacon rested upon the words, "And he left the linen cloth and 'ed from them naked." This was a token that the bishop Elias was to be turned out of his see.

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AN OLD NAME.

white cloth is of embroidery in brown and burnt orange. The plain skirt is trimmed with curved stitched bands like the bodice.

Tan and White.

A costume of tan cloth is trimmed with bands of a brilliant white silk braid, two inches wide. These are arranged in irregular fashion up and down the skirt and are trimmed with disks of tan colored velvet. The same trimming is used on the bolero, which has a novel feature in the shape of small coat tails.

A Generous Spirit.

"Henry, I want \$2 this morning." "What for?" "Must I account to you for every penny I spend?" "I don't insist upon knowing about every penny. When it's less than a nickel you can bunch it."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Not Until Then.

"When was a woman be said to be happily married?" "Not until she has had the pleasure of refusing several men."

AS TO NICKNAMES.

Given Often For Absurd Reasons, and Generally They Stick.

"Wonderful how names stick to a person," said the observant man. "There were two nice little women in our village who came on us one evening, and we offered them popcorn which the children had just brought in from the kitchen. They refused, but not so emphatically as to keep us from giving them two heaping plates of the corn. We kept refilling the plates and they kept crunching all the evening. There was something so funny about it that I called them 'The Popcorn Ladies,' and the name has stuck to them so that the whole village knows them by it.

"I once knew a man who talked incessantly in a high pitched voice, and a bright girl dubbed him 'The Chirper.' The name was quickly passed around among the young people, and now the greater part of his friends know him by that name. A dignified young woman of my acquaintance goes by the name of 'Whoot' to this day because when she was a little girl she used to call herself 'Mrs. Whoot' when she played group-up ladies, and the family picked it up. She simply can't shake the absurd name.

"More than one red haired man is known by the name of 'Pink' and philosophically accepts the title. I have an acquaintance who holds a responsible position who is known by the name of 'Dotty.' It seems that one day a mischievous girl discovered that he had three prominent dimples. She promptly dubbed him 'Dotty Dimple,' and now he is known to all his associates as 'Dotty.' Another man of my acquaintance is always called 'Bluebeard' because he has such a white and thin skin that if he does not shave daily his beard shows blue through it. That name, too, came through a woman's quick wit.

"In a certain household a very feminine little woman is still called 'The Boy' because when she was a young girl she went through a serious illness which made it necessary to cut her hair short. Her younger sister said she was 'the boy' of the family, and the dainty lady is still called by that absurd name.

"A effeminate man was once called 'Viola' by one of the boys in the office, and now we know him by nothing else. Another one of the boys in the office is always called 'Chesty,' and though he got angry at first, he has cheerfully accepted the new name now.

"Our bookkeeper is always putting in his ear when it is not at all necessary, and I think now he will be known until the end of time as 'General Butts.' A friend of mine who is always called 'cheerful' does not know whether he is called that because his friends believe he has a cheerful disposition or because they consider him a cheerful idiot. But, at any rate, he can't shake the name."—Milwaukee Sentinel.

Beaconsfield's "Don'ts."

An inquiring and aspiring person once asked Beaconsfield to tell him the secret of social success. "Never discuss the authorship of the 'Letters of Junius,'" was the reply. Beaconsfield's biographer, Mr. Wilfrid Meynell, adds something positive to this witty negative rule for getting on in the world. A distinguished member of parliament begged the Victorian statesman to tell his young son something to remember, something that would help him to make him an agreeable and popular member of society.

Beaconsfield hedged. "Model yourself after your father," he said to the lad. "This was not altogether satisfactory, and the M. P. insisted upon a definite rule of conduct.

"Well, my boy," said Beaconsfield, "be amusing. Never tell unkind stories. Above all, never tell long ones."

A Large Fish.

An Englishman visiting Lake Tahoe asked a native if there was any good fishing in the lake. "Oh, yes, stranger." "What kind of fish do you catch here?" "Oh, all kinds, stranger." "What is the weight of the largest fish you ever caught?" "Well, stranger, we don't take weighing machines when we go fishing, and I am an honest man and wouldn't like to say how much that last trout I caught would weigh. But I tell you, stranger, that when I pulled that fish out of the water the lake went down a foot."—Birmingham Post.

England's First Railroad.

The traveling on the first railroad in England was not very comfortable undoubtedly. The coaches were at first only coupled with chains, as wagons are now, so that they jerked the unfortunate passengers nearly off their seats at starting and clashed violently against each other when the driver put on his brake. When fairly in motion, if the speed was any but the slowest, the very short wheel base produced a pitching action so trying that if the journey had not been a short one it would have seriously affected the popularity of the railway as a means of passenger transit.

Benjamin of Greatness.

"Don't you sometimes think you would be a greater man if you were to cultivate the art of oratory?" "I don't know," answered Senator Sorghum. "A great man, as you know, is one who gets mentioned in the school-books after he is dead instead of the financial columns of the newspapers while he is living."—Washington Star.

How Wise We Are!

A wise newspaper says we should be thankful that we are mortals and heirs of all the wisdom of the ages. Perhaps we should be if we did not know that the average American imagines Plato to be a new kind of silver polish and Sappho an attachment to a piano.—Washington Times.

In the Parlor Too!

New Boarder—What is the landlady's daughter playing? Old Boarder—A mixture of airs from a lot of old operas—a sort of musical hash, you know.—New York Weekly.

Girls have a way of getting a lot of special scenery on when they wait on table at a church social.—Aitchison Globe.

CHOICE MISCELLANY

Uncle Sam's Penny Crop.

According to advices from the treasury department, the government mint at Philadelphia will come to grind out pennies for a time, there being now a surplusage of this kind of currency in the country. During the past two years 3,000,000,000 pennies have been shipped from the Philadelphia mint, which is the only one that coins the one cent pieces, to various parts of the country. Between July 1, 1902, and June 1, 1903, 89,000,000 cents were coined. If this five year output were collected in a heap it would make a sizable stage mountain at least.

Placed side by side in a straight line 3,000,000,000 pennies would make a ribbon over 23,000 miles long and would come pretty near girdling the earth. Piled on top of one another they would reach up toward the stars for a distance that would take a good many Eiffel towers to equal, for it would be not less than 2,400 miles, far out beyond the point where the force of gravitation is supposed to be very active. Since the ordinary basis of computation, there are supposed to be about 200,000,000 children in the world under ten years of age, Uncle Sam would be able to give each child on the earth ten copper keepakes and have enough left over to fill a good sized savings bank besides. So much for the penny crop.—Leslie's Weekly.

American Use of Electricity.

America leads the way in the application of electricity. The present total address to the Institution of Electrical Engineers Mr. Kaye Gray mentioned a plate glass works in which there were four generating sets of 4,000 kilowatts each and one of 350 kilowatts. There were also 20 motors of 450 horsepower each and 20 of 200 horsepower. Another concern using electricity on a large scale was a colliery, which possesses a plant of 2,900 kilowatts capacity and comprises 43 mining locomotives and 75 miles of underground trolley wire. The dominating factor in regard to the employment of electric power is, of course, that of efficiency compared with cost. Mr. Gray made a comparison between the Carnegie works and Krupp's at Essen. "At the Carnegie works," he said, "electricity is used for almost everything requiring power. It is stated that in the Homestead Steel works of Pennsylvania by the aid of electricity 4,000 men make as much steel as is made at Krupp's with 15,000 men."—London Telegraph.

Too Big a Contract.

Assistant Postmaster Knowles recently told this story of civil service examinations: "Not long ago," he said, "we had an applicant for the place of letter carrier at a bright young man whose degree of intelligence scarcely fitted him for the place. He had made up his mind before coming in that the civil service examination was a fraud, a humbug and two or three other things not so good. However, he made out to answer the questions to his own satisfaction at least and expressed surprise that they were not more difficult. Finally the examiner asked him: 'How far is it from Philadelphia to Chicago?' "I don't know," he said, "and I don't care. But if I've got to walk to Chicago to deliver letters I'll quit this thing right now and stick to farming."—Philadelphia Press.

The Newest Bridge Project.

The greatest project for bridge work comes from Asia, where a railway commission has just recommended an old plan of connecting Ceylon with India by a bridge across the reef called "Adam's bridge" and the island of Rameswaram, says a New York paper. Ceylon is pretty far from the E. coast, but we are all interested in it because the Ceylon tea grows there; because it is there that every prospect pleases and only man is vile and because it is assigned by local tradition as the original home of Adam, whence Adam's bridge to the north. Geological evidence shows that Ceylon was originally joined to India by a continuous isthmus, which, according to the temple records of Rameswaram, was breached by a great storm in 1480.

Snake Poisoning Antidotes.

In the pathological laboratories of the University of Pennsylvania an investigation designed to discover antidotes for all kinds of snake poison is conducted. Many experiments are made with rattlesnakes, cobras and other poisonous reptiles, and the effects of their venom upon animals are studied. The physicians regard alcohol taken internally as a valuable stimulant, but not as an antidote. The most valuable remedial agent is the intermittent ligature, a band about the wounded limb, which is loosened for an instant at stated intervals, thus allowing the poison to enter the system in very small quantities. In this manner the patient is enabled gradually to overcome the effects of the poison.—Exchange.

Future Life of Animals.

Sir William Blunden, a doctor and baronet, has just favored a meeting of the Society For the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals with some views on the future state of animals. He "very faintly believed," he said, in the future existence of animals, and though he could not bring forward evidence in support of his proposition, he could not at the same time bring forward evidence to the contrary. If they took the case of the thinker's ass, which was born and reared in hardship, he found it hard to think that a merciful Creator formed that animal merely to suffer at the hands of man without receiving some compensation in the next life, if not in the present.—London News.

Diplomatic Dicking.

"Bob—Are you fond of reading, Dick? Dick—No, I hate it; that's the reason I pretend to like it. If my mother thought I didn't like to read she'd keep me at it all the time."—Boston Transcript.

The Joke on Her.

"I suppose being the wife of a humorist is a continuous joke," said her former schoolmate. "Yes," she sadly sighed, looking at her faded jacket, "and it's on me."—Chicago Record-Herald.