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A FEMALE MEMBER.

EVERY GANG OF COUNTERFEITERS HAS CONTAINED A WOMAN.

It is a Weakness of the Sex, and They Are Frequently Very Clever—Some of the Women Who Have Been Convicted of Making and Passing "Queer" Money.
Women have a weakness for counterfeiting. The first person ever executed for that crime was a woman. She was an English woman named Barbara Spencer and was put to death in 1731 for making false shillings. She was strangled and burned at the stake. Curiously enough, her accomplices were acquitted.

Nancy Kidd was one of the most remarkable female counterfeiters ever known in this country. She belonged to a family of noted forgers. She carried on her nefarious trade for more than 30 years in Chicago, and was arrested there many times. On one of these occasions a lot of paper money was discovered on her person. The government officials were completely at a loss to know how she had obtained this. Finally she confessed that a chemical solution had been used to wash the faces of the notes and make them perfectly clean. Thus she was in the habit of taking \$1 bills and changing them into larger denominations. The government authorities recognized her return for this valuable information and for telling them what the solution was. However, they had her shadowed by detectives and finally caught her with \$17,000 worth of counterfeit money in a box. She was found guilty upon seven different indictments for counterfeiting and was sentenced to eight years in the state prison, where she finally died.

One of the cleverest tricks ever played on Uncle Sam was invented by a woman who lived in Philadelphia. Her plan was to take \$10 and \$20 goldpieces and with a small drill worked by steam power to bore out the insides and then re-fill them with some base metal, being very careful that they should weigh exactly the right amount when she had finished. This she accomplished by drilling through the milled edge of the coin, and then, after filling the hole, cover it with a little of the extracted gold. In this way she made \$7.50 on every eagle and about \$16 on every double eagle. The officials of the treasury were invited to try this in the safest device ever invented for cheating the treasury.

Counterfeiting is very apt to run in families. This, of course, is natural, as a father brings up his son or daughter to follow his profession. Women who would otherwise be good are often led into this sort of crime by marrying men who carry it on as a business. But sometimes it works the other way—women teach their husbands how to make false money. This is what happened when Ben Boyd married Mary Ackerman of Indiana. Her father was one of the most successful counterfeiters of his day, and his daughter had a thorough acquaintance with the art. Mrs. Boyd carefully taught her husband all the secrets of the trade, and he became one of the most famous forgers of the age.

They carried on the business with such a high degree of skill that they were not captured for years, and when at last the secret service Hawksbaws did run them down not a single counterfeit plate, note or coin was found in their possession. When their house was searched, \$8,000 in good money was found. This small amount was all the money they had accumulated during all their years of crime. Of course the officers could not touch it. Afterward sufficient evidence was secured to convict them, and they were sent to prison. They both claimed to be converted while in state prison, and after their release settled in Chicago, where they apparently lived an honest life.

A case that annoyed the secret service very much was that of a woman who employed a clever dodge. She went to a large shop and selected a valuable shawl. To pay for this she handed the clerk a United States treasury note for \$1,000. He took the money and disappeared, not returning for several minutes. When he came back, she asked him why he had kept her waiting, and he confessed that he had taken the bill to a bank near by to be sure that it was good. She pretended to be very angry and said that she would not buy the shawl on any account and walked out of the shop. A little later in the day she returned and said that she could not find any other shawl that suited her as well in the other shop she had decided to take it in spite of the insult offered her. She gave him the \$1,000 bill, and getting the shawl and the change, left the shop. The owner of the shop afterward discovered that the note he finally accepted was a counterfeit. The first bill had been good, but on her return she gave him the false one, which was a wonderfully clever imitation. The secret service was much agitated about this and several others of the \$1,000 bills which turned up, but they have since captured the plates.

Practically every gang of counterfeiters ever arrested has had women associates. In the office of the secret service in Washington there is a large frame, 4 feet square, filled with the photographs of women who have either made or passed false money. Men almost always employ their wives or daughters for the purpose of "showing" their counterfeiters.—Washington Post.

Set Out Trees in the Spring.
Spring is a better time to set trees than fall, because at that season trees are beginning to grow and will, therefore, be in a condition to respond more readily to treatment, while in fall they are unlikely to establish themselves before cold weather sets in. Preserve the roots to the fullest possible extent and do not disturb the tree until after it has ripened and has shed its foliage. If the roots are cut away, as they almost invariably are in spring planting, be sure to cut back the top proportionately.—Eden E. Rexford in Ladies' Home Journal.

A PECULIAR BUSINESS.

Breeding and Catching Leeches For the New York Market.

James Partit and his children earn all the money they make raising leeches, for the work of breeding the blood-suckers on the Partit farm on Tombs river, near Lacy, N. J., is nothing compared with the labor of catching them. The wary leech will take hold of nothing but human flesh, so the members of the Partit family, big and little, plunge their legs into the swamp and draw them up presently with the prey attached.

Farmer Partit doesn't seem to think a little blood letting hurts one. "They are as good as a dose of spring physic," says he. "Why, me and the boys get so fat and healthy doing nothing all winter that we need something like this to keep us in order. If we fished too long at a time, they might do some harm, but we know when to stop. After the season is over we feel fresher and better than if we hadn't been leeching. They are just like mosquitoes—they suck out all the bad blood and leave the good, and that's why, I suppose, we feel so good after a month's work in the swamp. I think we'd all have malaria down in this wet place if it wasn't for the leeches. No man could wade through such a mudhole without getting malaria unless something helped him."

His farm yields 500,000 leeches a year, and the price is 20 or 30 cents for 100, giving an annual income of \$1,000 to the family. The market is New York or Philadelphia, where the leeches are distributed to the trade.

Half a century ago this would have been a great business, but the belief in leeches has fallen off in this country. Europe clings to the practice, and Paris consumes 3,000,000 leeches yearly, while London finds use for over 7,000,000 a year.

James Partit or his boys, when wading, discovered the presence of the leeches in his swamps. He looked up the swamp and decided that he would supply the American market, which hitherto had depended on Europe. He found that buyers preferred the Hungarian fellow of olive green without spots, or else the German leech, with dark green body spotted below with black. He got a few specimens and put them in the pond. They multiplied rapidly after their enemies, the water snakes, were exterminated, and soon the first leech pond in the country was established. The young are ready for market in about a year, but reproduction takes three years. The average life of a leech is 15 or 20 years. Usually a healthy man can fish in the swamp four or five hours without losing enough blood to exhaust him. The leech has three jaws and from 20 to 90 teeth. When these get going, in a short time the leech will swallow five times his weight in blood.

All this is more pleasant than the practice elsewhere about New York of fattening leeches for the market on decrepit old horses which have been condemned to the boneyard.—New York Press.

GETTING PATENTS.
The Discoverers Are Not Usually the Ones to Keep the Rewards.
If you look back on the history of human progress, you will find that none of the great epoch making inventions has ever been patented. The man who lit the first fire—whether Prometheus or the party from whom he stole the idea—did not get a patent for it. Neither did the man who made the first wheel, in every sense one of the most revolutionary inventions in the history of man. The same thing may be said of the invention of soap, candles, gun powder, umbrellas and the mariner's compass, or to come down to our own day, of the steam engine and the electric telegraph.

Patents are mostly concerned with small mechanical details and improvements—it may be in the application of steam and electricity—and by means of these patents enormous profits have been secured to second rate inventors, but the great ideas and discoveries which underlie these details have been given to the world gratis.

There is a general notion that if you did not protect inventions by means of patents inventors would cease to invent and material progress would come to a standstill. But history does not bear this out in the least. Men with great mechanical gifts do not exercise them solely with a view to commercial profit any more than astronomers search the heavens for new worlds with an eye to registering patents and floating companies on the results of their discoveries.—London Truth.

Plaiting.
Very narrow plaiting is a favorite dress trimming. A costume of gray camel's hair is made up in a plain princess fashion. The waist closes at one side, and the skirt, waist and sleeves are, as one enthusiastic young woman expressed it, absolutely smothered in pinked out ruffles of iridescent taffeta. In addition to the plaiting these ruffles are plaited, then drawn out a little to make fans, which are laid so as to form bands of trimming from shoulders to waist line as outlines for yokes and to supply the place of the almost collapsed sleeves. One dress has an outlined yoke of very narrow pinked and plaited ruffles. From the seams where the ruffles are sewed in are similar ruffles of varying widths, the lower one being about 14 inches wide and the upper one not over 5 inches wide.—New York Ledger.

To change one's nationality in Russia is not at the command of every purse. The first condition is that you should be a landowner for five years at the short-cut, and that during the whole of that period you should have resided upon your property in that country. The next condition is that you should take the oath of allegiance to the czar.

When an Englishman becomes a naturalized Norwegian, his wife and children also change their nationality.

He Held the Winning Hand.

They were having the usual game of cards in the smoking apartment. The traveling men swapped jokes, nailed lies and told bigger ones. The stranger who just sat in to fill out the game contributed nothing but smiles and an occasional side bet was made under the rules of the great American game.

Finally one of these challenges elicited from the stranger an admission that poker was not the only game of cards of which he did not possess some knowledge, but he had rather a peculiar hand, and because of the value it would have in other games he would just take a chance.

Bets were rapidly made until there was \$150 in the pot, when a call was made, and the stranger awkwardly asked how many points his opponent had. "We don't count points," was the answer, "but I have four aces. I rather think that will take the plunder." "Well, I declare!" gasped the stranger, as he leaned back and mopped his brow. "Here I am with high, jack, game, big casino, an ace, a run of five and a flush," as he threw down the ace, king, queen, jack and ten of diamonds. "I really thought I had you beat," and he showed the money toward the paralyzed drummer.

In the midst of the roar that followed "A royal flush!" was shouted by some one, and the stranger was hilariously assured that he had won. His surprised face never gave away so much as a chuckle until he was alone that night.—New York World.

Spiders and Their Ways.
We find as marked differences in habits, tastes and characters among spiders as among human beings. Some kinds prefer always living in houses or cellars, not seeming to care for any fresh air or out of door exercise. Mr. Jesse tells of two spiders that lived for 13 years in opposite corners of a drawer which was used for soap and candles. Others delight in making burrows in the earth, in dwelling under stones or behind the loose bark on trees, and others live under water. Many never leave their webs, but patiently wait, hoping some insect will become entangled in the snares they have set. Others dash about and seize upon every luckless insect that crosses their path. The most adventurous of all are those that sail out over the world on one of their own little threads.

In the bright autumn weather, if we observe closely, we may sometimes see some of our own small spiders ascend to the tops of trees, fences and other high objects, rise on their toes, turn the spinners upward, throw out a quantity of silk and sail away. They grasp the silken thread with their feet and seem to be enjoying themselves as much as the birds and butterflies.—Margaret W. Leighton in Popular Science Monthly.

Dr. Nicoll on American Newspapers.
Dr. Nicoll, who came to this country with Mr. Barrie, read the American newspapers while he was here and audaciously admits that he liked them. He has confessed to The Westminster Budget that in his opinion no American institution is more misunderstood abroad than the press. He thinks our newspapers less sensational than they seem to be and says, very truly, that you may look in vain in them for such matter as the divorce reports which the most proper English papers publish. Undoubtedly we Americans like the newspapers we have better, on the whole, than any others in the market, but we are so continually advised that our passion for them is guilty, that while we satisfy it with prodigality we seldom attempt to justify or even to excuse it, so that to hear our journals praised by a visitor excites emotions of considerable novelty. After all, a liking for newspapers is, like a liking for one's fellow creatures, apt to concentrate itself on individuals. If Dr. Nicoll had been impolite enough to say which American papers he liked, his comments would have gained in interest all that they lost in discretion.—Harper's Weekly.

The Care of Clothing.
"Always shake, brush and fold your clothes at night," is Walter Germain's advice to men in The Ladies' Home Journal. "Never hang coats—fold them. Trousers should be folded by putting the two waist buttons together and preserving the crease. Fold lengthwise and then double. Coats are folded lengthwise, the sleeves in half first, then each half of the coat to the sleeve line, then the two remaining halves, the lining between the two, and the two remaining halves are folded in half lengthwise. Never lounge about your room in your clothes—nothing destroys them so much. When you come in during the afternoon or at night, remove your coat, waistcoat and trousers and put on a bath robe if you are to remain in your room for any time. Always have an old coat at the office."

The Largest British Painting.
The largest picture ever painted by a British artist is said to be Sir James Thornhill's work on the ceiling of the great hall at Greenwich hospital, representing the founders, William III and Queen Mary, surrounded by the attributes of national prosperity, which measured 112 feet by 55 feet.

The largest picture ever painted and exhibited as such by a British artist is one by John Martin, the subject being "Joshua Commanding the Sun to Stand Still." It was hung on the walls of the academy in 1816.

Another large portrait group picture, painted by Phillips, containing over 500 portraits, measured 26 feet by 17 feet.—Strand Magazine.

Tree Planting in Sweden.
About 600,000 trees are annually planted by Swedish school children under the guidance of their teachers.—Pittsburg Dispatch.