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The Chronicle Building.
THE FIRST NAILS.
The first nails were undoubtedly the sharp teeth of various animals. Then, it is believed, pointed fragments of flint followed. The first manufactured metal nails were of bronze. The nail with which Jael killed Sisera was a wooden tent pin, probably pointed with iron. Bronze nails have been found in the Swiss lake dwellings, in several places in France and in the valley of the Nile. Until the present century iron nails were forged, a blacksmith being able to make only two or three dozen a day. The first cut nails were made by Jeremiah Wilkinson in Rhode Island in 1775. The first patented nail machine was by Perkins, 1795, and its product 200,000 nails a day was considered so enormous that some persons deemed the result due to supernatural agency.
Something For Nothing.
"Where are your tickets, gentlemen?" asked the doorkeeper of a theater to a line of men who confronted him in Indiana file.
"It's all right," shouted a man at the tail end of the line. "I've got the tickets. There's six of us with me. Count 'em as they go."
"In you go, gent," said the doorkeeper, and he tallied off five, who immediately mixed with the crowd within. The Cerberus turned to look for the holder of the tickets, but he had disappeared, and five men saw the performance safe from identification in the tremendous throng of people.—London Fun.
The Corpse Plant.
The corpse plant is a remarkable carnivorous specimen that grows in the colony of Natal. Its principal feature is a bell-shaped mouth, with a throat opening into a hollow stem. It is almost black and covered with a thick glutinous secretion, while its odor is very offensive. This attracts carnation feeding bugs to it, and once they alight on it they are lost. Their claws become entangled in the secretion, the bell-shaped mouth folds up, and they are literally swallowed.
A Dog in a Bandbox.
Dogs are not permitted in the cars of the elevated road. Various means are taken to smuggle them aboard. They are carried into the cars, for instance, under coats and cloak and in a sixth avenue elevated case the other day passengers who heard the whining of a small dog, nowhere to be seen, located it finally in a handbox carried on the knees of a passenger.—New York Sun.

New Method in Public Instruction.

The promotion examination having been abandoned, the teacher's estimate of the pupil's ability to do advanced work determines the promotion. As the teacher's estimate is shown on the report, the pupil and his parents know monthly what progress he is making toward advanced work. In the primary grades the teacher's judgment determines the record, and in the higher grades the teacher's judgment is corrected by written recitations and tests. This method puts a premium on the daily work and gives a moderate but continuous stimulus rather than an excessive and spasmodic one. Tests given by the principal and the superintendent show the proper completion of work and are useful to direct and broaden the instruction, but have nothing to do with promotion. Pupils promoted prematurely are returned whence they came, and teachers become more careful thereafter.
It may be said that the teaching test is but another name for the promotion examination, but a moment's thought will show that there is a great difference between the two. One is a careful diagnosis at frequent intervals for the purpose of discovering the disease in its incipiency in order to apply the proper remedies and to save the patient. The other is a blundering post mortem to learn the cause of death. Common sense and experience unite in declaring that every efficient teacher knows which pupils are ready for advanced work better than a superintendent can know. All who have had experience with this plan of promotion agree that never before were promotions made so satisfactorily and never before did the teachers study individuals so closely.—W. J. Shearer in Atlantic.

Queen Victoria's Coronation Oath.

"Queen Victoria's 'Coronation Koll' " is described in The Century by Florence Hayward, who copies from the official records the following oath signed and subscribed by the queen on her coronation:
Archbishop—Madam, is your majesty willing to take the oath?
The Queen—I am willing.
Archbishop—Will you solemnly promise and swear to govern the people of this United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and the dominions thereto belonging according to the statutes in parliament agreed on and the respective laws and customs of the same?
The Queen—I solemnly promise so to do.
Archbishop—Will you to your power cause law and justice in mercy to be executed in all your judgments?
The Queen—I will.
Archbishop—Will you to the utmost of your power maintain the laws of God, the true profession of the gospel and the Protestant reformed religion established by law? And will you maintain and preserve inviolably the settlement of the united church of England and Ireland and the doctrine, worship, discipline and government thereof, as by law established within England and Ireland and the territories thereto belonging? And will you preserve unto the bishops and clergy of England and Ireland and to the churches there committed to their charge all such rights and privileges as by law do or shall appertain to them or any of them?
The Queen—All this I have here before promised I will perform and keep.
So help me God. VICTORIA R.

FILLING A BULLDOG'S TEETH.

A powerful and ferocious bulldog, owned by Dr. Ward of Scranton, Pa., enjoys the distinction of having a big gold filling in one of his incisors, and a good many citizens, who have caught a gleam of the gold in his mouth, wonder how the filling was done. Some think it was done through hypnotic influence by the doctor over the dog, while others insist that it was through the dog's implicit obedience to his master's command.
The bulldog's name is Gem. He is as ugly in appearance as a prize winner in a dog show. His nose is a mass of wrinkles, and his eyes have a wicked gleam for any one but his master and Mrs. Ward. His affection for them, however, knows no bounds. When Gem was discovered one day clasping his muzzle between his paws, rolling over and over on the floor and moaning, his mouth was examined, and it was found that there was a big cavity in one of the incisors. It was decided that a dentist should be consulted. The dentist found that it would be necessary to use a rubber dam, and he promised to fill the cavity provided Gem was chloroformed. This was done, and the operation was considered a successful one, although Gem evidently thought otherwise. Some time afterward the filling came out, and Gem's last state was worse than his first, for he refused to submit to another operation with ether. At the first sniff of the anesthetic he not only added a score of wrinkles to those already in his nose, but showed his teeth in so dangerous a way that the dentist refused to proceed. Dr. Ward insisted that he could make Gem stand on the table and have the tooth filled without wincing. The dentist was dubious about trusting his hand between the brute's jaws, but finally consented to try.
Gem was put on the table, and his master stood in front of him, kept his eyes fixed on Gem's and told him to open his mouth. Gem did so, and a rubber dam was soon adjusted in place. The dentist set to work with the instrument of torture called a bur, and one of Gem's ears went down in a threatening way, while the other remained cocked. The doctor held one finger raised and kept his eyes fixed on Gem's, that never wavered from his master's gaze. The attitude of Gem's ears proved a barometer of his sufferings from the bur touched a spot close to the nerve. When both ears went down, the dentist knew he had gone as far as dogs' nature would let him go. Gem's eyes never wandered from the doctor's in the 1 1/2 hours the dentist was at work. Gem stood the final polishing, and when his master gave the word for him to get down from the table Gem danced with demonstrations of joy at his release. Since that day he has no trouble in masticating the biggest beef bone.—New York Sun.

Salaries Earned by Successful Buyers.

A good buyer who year after year increases his business and the reputation of his department, who leaves for the semiannual inventory a clean and desirable stock—one who, in fact, has the genius of money making—is paid a salary in the big houses of from \$5,000 to \$10,000 and often a percentage on the yearly increase of his sales. In some of the largest departments a number of the most capable buyers thus receive as much as \$20,000 a year and are regarded as cheap at that, a fact which can be readily understood when it is remembered that in a single department of a great shop selling, say, \$1,000,000 worth of goods a year, a difference of 5 per cent in the profits, which may be the result of a good manager as distinguished from a mediocre one, amounts to \$50,000. On the other hand, in the lower class stores buyers in many of the big houses do as well as \$25 a week, with no percentage. If the large incomes are the great exception, it is also to be said that the opportunities are more numerous than the men with the ability to take advantage of them.—"The Department Store," by Samuel Hopkins Adams, in Scribner's.

Two Horses.

The editor of the New York Christian Advocate learned not long since from a coachman that horses are not unlike human beings. He writes:
Riding in a friend's carriage one day, we noticed that the coachman made constant efforts to restrain one of the horses and to hasten the other. As the pair were handsome and perfectly mated, we said, "What is the difference between these horses, that you are constantly touching up one and holding in the other?"
"The one that I whip cannot possibly overwork himself. I will not say that he is lazy, but he is so made that he never can and never will do himself any damage. It would be impossible to whip him so hard that he would hurt himself. The other can trot a mile in less than 2:25, and he would trot from the love of it until he dropped dead. Hot or cold, he does his best."
Didn't Locate It.
Dr. H. F. Fisk, principal of the academy of the Northwestern university, is an exact man, says the Chicago Inter Ocean. He has made it a rule that for all absences from recitations his students shall write out reasons in full why they were away and what recitations were missed. One day Dr. Fisk received a note as follows:
"On account of the carache, headache, stomach ache and cramps I was unable to attend algebra at 8 a. m., grammar at 10 a. m. and English at 3 p. m."
Dr. Fisk excused the student, but at the same time took occasion to rebuke him for not stating in his letter where he had cramps.
Professional Advice.
"Doctor, I'm so nervous that I toss all night. What's the best remedy?"
"Just take a nap when you feel that way."—Detroit Free Press.

Some Lawyers' Stories.

"The most thrilling incident I ever saw in a courtroom," remarked a western attorney the other day, "was in southern Kansas. The senior lawyer of the county bar was a distinguished looking and courteous gentleman of the old school, who had little patience with the joking always going on during court recess. He was exceedingly well sighted, but had a habit of leaving his glasses on the table during his speeches to the jury. One day, as his back was turned toward the other lawyers, one of them picked up the glasses, and with a bit of masticage fastened to the lenses pieces of tissue paper which exactly covered the glass—not particularly noticeable, but at the same time preventing vision through them. Soon the owner of the glasses came back to the table to examine some papers for reference in his address. He put on the glasses, looked at the paper, adjusted them again—and then a pallor overspread his face that was pitiful to see. He staggered to a chair.
"My God, gentlemen, I am blind! I have learned it for years," he exclaimed, and dropped his head on his hands.
"For an instant the courtroom was hushed. Even the practical joker must have felt remorse at the evident suffering of his victim. Before any one could speak or the sheriff rap for order the attorney lifted his head, took off the glasses and had his sight again. His face flushed as he rubbed the tissue paper from the lenses, and he stood up, an angry and excited man.
"If I knew who did that dastardly trick, if I knew who had brought that minute of grief to me," he broke out, "I swear I would kill him." He left the courtroom, and the judge adjourned the session for the day. I never want any more practical joking."—Detroit Free Press.

Fruit as Food.

A Chicago physician is responsible for revolutionary theories in regard to fruits. He undertakes to prove the practical worthlessness as food of all cultivated varieties. Hyper-acid fruits, such as the lemon, shaddock, orange, apple and cherry, he asserts, should never be eaten. Subacid fruits, such as the grape, pear and peach, may be eaten, but with extreme caution. Sweet fruits, like the fig, banana and date, he unqualifiedly commends, as they are simply wild fruits and have not been changed from their natural conditions or flavor by man. On the other hand, the fruits he condemns, he says, are forced or abnormal variations, as is shown when cultivated and afterward allowed to run wild. They immediately retrograde and assume the sour and inedible qualities originally inherent in them. Man, he claims, has not been able to make a proper food of them. They are unnatural combinations of fruit elements, and are frequently prone to cause digestive disturbances when taken into the stomach. By forcing seedlings, grafting and assiduously cultivating under artificial conditions man has modified the progenitors of our present domestic fruits, he has made them acceptable to the palate, but he has not eliminated their harmful qualities.

Stories of Brahms.

Many stories are told of how the late composer Brahms treated pianists and singers who were eager to get his criticism. If one of these aspirants for his favor was fortunate enough to find him at home and he received Brahms's concern was to seat himself on the lid of his piano, a position from which he rightly deemed few would have the temerity to oust him. If this failed, he had recourse to the statement that the instrument was out of tune. "Oh, that does not matter," remarked one conspicuous individual. "Perhaps not to you, but it does to me." He replied to the master. On one occasion he was just leaving his home when a long haired youth, with a bundle of music under his arm, hailed him with, "Can you tell me where Dr. Brahms lives?" "Certainly," answered the master in the most amiable manner, "in this house, up three flights." And so saying he hurried away.

Grant as a Soldier.

It is sometimes asked where General Grant got his military genius. It was simply a part of his nature. God gave it to him. Almost by intuition it may be said that he knew what should be done in an emergency. Some men have to study very hard in order to learn a certain thing; others will learn it easily and naturally. Grant could go on the field and read a line of battle in 20 minutes, while another military man who had been a hard student might take a day or two to do the same thing. I regard General Grant as one of the best all around soldiers that ever lived.—General Longstreet in New York Independent.

The Expert's Quandary.

Paulry—I hear that you have made a careful examination of the blood stains found at Euler's barn. What do you make of them?
Serum (an expert)—It is impossible for me to say just at present whether the stains are human blood or the blood of a horse. You see, I may be engaged by the government, and I may be engaged by the defense.—Boston Transcript.

A Cruel Burden.

Frany—The penitentiary in Europe have a much easier time than formerly, do they not?
Returned Traveler—As a rule, yes. Scotland is the one exception. There the poor things have to live up to their novelties.—Brooklyn Life.

Parisian restaurant keeps mix a little honey with their butter.

This gives it an agreeable taste and flavor and makes the inferior butter more palatable.

The pearl fisheries in the gulf of Manar are the most important in India.

According to Friar Jordanus, 8,000 boats were engaged in this gulf in 1320.

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