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A Famous Square.

There is said to be no equal in the world to the grand and imposing square of Paris, the Place de la Concorde. On one side of it is the Tuileries, on the opposite side the Champs Elysees and on a third the river Seine. In the center stands the obelisk of Luxor, a magnificent monolith of red Egyptian granite, 74 feet high and weighing 500,000 pounds. This obelisk was one of two of the same shape and size, erected in 1350 B. C., by Rameses the Great at the entrance of the temple of Thebes. Mohammed Ali, pasha of Egypt, presented it to the French government, and in 1836 it was removed to its present position in the Place de la Concorde. The removal and erection on the new site required an outlay of £80,000 and the employment of 800 men, the obelisk being transported to France in a vessel built especially for the purpose.

The Place de la Concorde is rich in historic interest. It was there that the guillotine was erected in the "reign of terror," after the death of Louis XVI, and it was there that the signal was given for the attack on the Bastille in 1789. Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette were beheaded there in 1793, and it was the scene of great rejoicing in 1848, when France was proclaimed a republic. The Place de la Concorde has also been termed the Place Louis XV and Place de la Revolution.

Rattlesnake Poison.

"Years ago, when I was a boy at home," said a southern man, "an uncle of mine, who lived near Montgomery, was out on his plantation one day when he saw an enormous rattlesnake stretched in a furrow of a cotton field. He seized a hoe lying near by and made a pass at the monster. At the same time it struck out at him and broke off one of its fangs on the edge of the hoe blade. My uncle dispatched the snake and then picked up the fang and brought it to the house as a curiosity. It was sharp as a needle, and a faint yellow stain at the tip showed where some of the virus had exuded.

"The bit of bone lay for at least three or four years in an ebony box on my uncle's writing table in his study, when one day a stupid negro servant girl, not knowing what it was, used it to extract a splinter from her thumb. In less than an hour her whole lower arm was swollen, and she exhibited all the characteristic symptoms of snake poison.

"My uncle had studied medicine and by prompt measures saved the girl's life, but for some mysterious reason gangrene subsequently appeared in her arm, and amputation was necessary. My uncle lost no time in burning his murderous relic."

Two and Four.

"Two?" demanded the peremptory conductor as he took a quarter from the woman who had just struggled to a place on the trolley.

"No, four," she replied.

Four fares were rung sharply, and the conductor handed back 5 cents.

"That isn't right!" exclaimed the woman indignantly.

"You said you wanted to pay for four," retorted the trolley employee.

"I didn't," denied the woman. "You asked if my little boy was 2 years old, and I said no, he was 4. I suppose I'll have to pay for him if it's the rule, but I don't think it's right"—

The remainder of the sentence was lost in the discords that issued from the throat of the enraged conductor, who thrust ten pennies into the outstretched hand and retired to the rear platform to relieve his feelings more fully by refusing to stop the car for any one for ten blocks.—New York Press.

Piccadilly.

One of London's most famous streets is Piccadilly, which consists of shops the ruffs, or "pickadills," worn by the and fashionable dwelling houses. The name is said to have been derived from gallants of James I and Charles I, the stiffened points of which resembled spear heads or pickadills. Some years before the introduction of these collars, however, "Piccadille" is referred to, and it is surmised that the collar may have been so called from being worn by the frequenters of Piccadilla House.

The Atmospheric Ocean.

The atmospheric ocean surrounding the earth is frequently disturbed by gigantic waves, which are invisible except when they carry parts of the air charged with moisture up into a colder atmospheric stratum, where sudden condensation occurs. In this manner long, parallel lines of clouds sometimes make their appearance at a great height, marking the crests of a ripple of air waves running miles above our heads.

Japanese Art.

The Japanese is a born lover of nature. Whatever he produces, from the most painstaking work of art to the simplest household utensil, is after natural models. In the representation of figures and scenes the Japanese display a perception which is astonishing. With a couple of strokes of the brush they reproduce what they see with a truth to life which is almost incredible.

His Only Fear.

The undaunted Corporal Calthness, so conspicuously daring in a "pinch" at the battle of Waterloo, was asked if he did not fear they should lose the day.

"No, no," said he. "I knew we could not do that. My only fear was that we should all be killed before we had time to win it."

An Aspiration.

There is woe and whoa, and if woe would only obey our whoa it would be worth while driving.—Milwaukee Journal.

Look These Up.

In many educational journals nowadays we see pronunciation tests, catch words, etc., which may be valuable for technical use and yet not being needed every day in everyday talk are, like certain folks I know, chiefly interesting on public occasions. I should like to put down here a list of words that are very generally mispronounced.

Everybody knows how to pronounce them perhaps, but being such common little things, mere street waifs, with unwashed faces, nobody takes the trouble to "speak them fair." Now, to know what is our duty and fail to do it is a much more culpable thing than not to do it because we don't know what our duty is. So here they are, little, commonplace creatures, which are mispronounced every day:

Toward, again, bade, brooch, apriot, often, catch, hearth, aye, Ben, greasy, sew, scare, years, idea, area, bouquet, ague, bleat, rise (noun), arctic, shone, route, gaunt, canine, juvenile, infidel, corporal, tete-a-tete, trousseau, amendment, restaurant, bicycle, were, recipe, frontier, depot, process, recess, romance, tirade, essay, tarpaulin, wont.

The above are in common use and of common abuse. Some of them of course come from our sister, France, and people are likely to say that they are not expected to pronounce foreign words correctly.—Texas School Journal.

A Natural Lighthouse.

Stromboli, one of the Lipari islands, has constantly and usefully performed the function of a lighthouse for at least 2,000 years. Circular in outline, the island culminates in a conical shaped elevation, due to past volcanic agency, which rises to the height of 3,000 feet above sea level and is visible over an area having a radius of more than 100 miles. During the day masses of vapor are seen issuing from a point high up the mountain side, and at night successive displays of red light, varying in duration and intensity, somewhat resemble those of the gigantic flashlight on the coast. The flashes last from under one to over 20 minutes, gradually increasing to a ruddy glow and as gradually fading away.

This island is referred to by several very ancient writers as the great natural pharos of the western Mediterranean. Now it serves the same purpose for the constant stream of traffic passing to and from the French and Italian ports in the gulfs of Genoa and of Lyons, through the straits of Messina, for which Stromboli acts as a "leading" light. To such an extent is this the case that, although the other principal islands of the Lipari archipelago are marked by lighthouses, nothing of the kind is placed upon Stromboli.

A Dream That Came True.

"Talking about dreams," said Mrs. Smith as we sat around the parlor, "I once had a very strange experience. I dreamed that I was just stepping out of my house for a walk when a funeral passed by. A man with a cap marked nine and a red scar running across his forehead jumped from the hearse and, approaching me, asked, 'Are you ready?' 'No,' I replied, and with that I awoke.

"A few months later I was stopping in Chicago. I was on the top floor of one of the big houses and just about to step into the elevator when I remembered another thing I wanted to buy. I stopped and looked through my notebook. 'Down!' exclaimed the elevator boy, and then asked me, 'Are you ready?' 'No,' I answered, and the door closed.

"The next instant a great crash was heard, and the occupants of the elevator were dashed to an untimely death.

"The cap of the boy bore the figure 9, and he had a red scar running across his brow."—San Francisco Chronicle.

That Boy.

"Mamma, does money make the man?"

"I am sorry to say it does sometimes, Tommy."

"Money will make a man go anywhere, won't it?"

"I suppose so."

"If it was down in Cuba, would money make a man go to raising mangoes?"

"Don't bother me."

"Do monkeys eat mangoes, mamma?"

"I presume so. I wish you wouldn't talk so much."

"Then, if money makes the man go to raising mangoes, and monkeys eat mangoes, don't the monkeys make the mango go"—

Whack! Whack!

"Ouch!"—Chicago Tribune.

A Natural Wonder.

Buenos Ayres seems to have the largest "rocking stone" yet discovered. It is situated on the slope of the mountain of Tandil, in the southern part of the province, and measures 90 feet long by 18 feet broad and is 24 feet high. Its bulk is 5,000 cubic feet, and it weighs at least 25 tons. Nevertheless, it is so beautifully poised that a single person can set it rocking. When the wind blows from the southeast, the stone, which is pyramidal in form, sways to and fro on its foundation like the branches of a tree.

The Tomato.

The tomato was known up to 1850 as a "love apple" and regarded with suspicion. It originated in Spanish South America and, being introduced into Italy from Morocco, was named "poma del mori"—Moor's apple. The French called it "pomme d'amour."

After.

Willie—Pa, did Adam and Eve kick much when they was t'run out of the garden?

Pa—Well, no; not just then, but they raised Cain afterward. Now go to bed.

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I want to inform you, in words of highest praise, of the benefit I have derived from Ripans Tabules. I am a professional nurse and in this profession a clear head is always needed. Ripans Tabules does it. After one of my cases I found myself completely run down. Acting on the advice of Mr. Geo. Bower, Ph. G., 98 Newark Ave., Jersey City, I took Ripans Tabules with grand results. MISS BERTHA WINDMAN.

Mother was troubled with heartburn and sleeplessness, caused by indigestion, for a good many years. One day she saw a testimonial in the paper indorsing Ripans Tabules. She determined to give them a trial, was greatly relieved by their use and now takes the Tabules regularly. She keeps a few cartons Ripans Tabules in the house and says she will not be without them. The heartburn and sleeplessness have disappeared with the indigestion which was formerly so great a burden for her. Our whole family take the Tabules regularly, especially after a hearty meal. My mother is fifty years of age and is enjoying the best of health and spirits; also eats hearty meals, an impossibility before she took Ripans Tabules. ANTON H. BLAUKEN.

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