

# ODDS AND ENDS.



## GLUTTONY

It is more common than we may think, if we define gluttony as eating beyond the body's need of sustenance and beyond the stomach's capacity for digestion and assimilation of food. That is a fair definition, and it fastens the name gluttony on many a person who would resent the term as an insult. The fact of this gluttony is marked by its consequences. The overloaded stomach becomes diseased. The popular term for the condition is "weak stomach." The "weak stomach" fails in furnishing adequate nutrition for the body, and soon the "weakness" spreads from the stomach to other organs.

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## HANDLING FERRETS.

### HOW PROFESSIONAL RAT CATCHERS USE THE ANIMALS.

These Fiery Eyed, Razor Toothed Little Beasts are Effective Where Traps and Poison Fail—They are Generally Worked With a Muzzle.

"Weasels and ferrets," said a professional rat catcher, "are about the same thing. The imported ferret is trained to the business larger than the weasel, that is all. After I am through with rat catching I use my ferrets to hunt rabbits out of brush piles, hay and straw stacks, which is a profitable business when rabbits are plenty. What you call rabbits over here we in England call hares.

"When a man once starts in as a professional rat catcher and gets to understand training and working ferrets, there is such an attraction in the trade that he never willingly gives it up. It's a profitable business without too much competition.

"Do the ferrets ever bite you?"

"It's a very careless and awkward man that gets bitten by a trained ferret. When one is bitten by an enraged ferret, the bite is of a very severe character, extremely painful and slow to heal."

As the rat catcher talked a 6-month-old ferret, his fiery little eyes gleaming like living gems, was crawling over his lap and trying to get in under his coat.

"This fellow," said the rat catcher, "is as gentle as a kitten and likes to have his back rubbed and to be caressed as well as my cat you ever saw. When the ferret bites he is doing, and his front teeth, cutting like razors, go right through the jugular."

"Of course we generally muzzle them when we send them in after rats, and we always muzzle them when we send them in after rabbits. If their teeth were at liberty, they would kill the first rat or rabbit they met and would remain in the hole sucking its blood. When we put a ferret into a house after rats, we stop up all the holes at the outside of the house except one or two. Over these we place bags, and the ferrets, driving the game before them, run the rats into the bags. We keep the ferret without his ordinary meals before using him, and this makes him keener in his chase."

"It's mighty easy to spoil a ferret. After a young ferret has been badly bitten by a cat, or sometimes happens you can't get him to go into a hole muzzled. But when a ferret is full grown and has the skill and courage that he should have he is a holy terror for rats and is a valuable animal. I would not sell a well-trained ferret for \$50, the price of a good horse. Such a ferret I should be willing to put in a pit with 50 rats, and he could in a short time kill every one of them. Rats are great fighters when they are cornered, but no other animal of the same size has as much courage as a ferret or weasel."

"In England the largest ferrets are called polecat ferrets and are a cross of the two animals, which are much alike. In this country the word polecat is applied to the skunk, an entirely different animal. The word polecat is supposed to be an abbreviation of Polish cat, and the animal abounds all over Europe. The mink is much like the weasel, except that it is larger, and many depredations that are attributed to the weasel are committed by the mink. All these animals prowl by night, and they frequently go many miles in search of food, even journeying into towns and the suburbs of cities."

Audubon, who was a close student of nature, was delighted with the weasel, or American ferret. His long, flexible body, its extraordinary length of neck, the closeness of its fur, its keenness of scent, its wonderful agility and quickness of movement, all excited his admiration.

An American writer says: "The common weasel has sometimes been caught and carried off by large hawks and owls. Sorry was the experience of the captor in such cases. He has caught a Tartar. The captive will bite into the sides of the enemy, so that both will fall to the ground, the bird mortally wounded and the weasel usually comparatively unharmed."

The weasel's courage in defending itself when attacked by birds of prey is universally admitted, nor is it deficient in fierce opposition to dogs and even men when his nest is invaded by either. It usually kills for food, biting through the head into the brain with such expertness that its victim can scarcely utter a cry of pain. It usually eats the brain first; then the rest of the body follows. In pursuing mice, rats and moles it follows them into their runs or holes. . . . A weasel's proximity to a poultry yard is not to be desired. But in barns, hayricks and grain stacks it is decidedly advantageous, as it will surely exterminate or drive away rats and mice."

The weasel's characteristics are noted in two American sayings, "Catch a weasel asleep" and "Sooner trust a weasel with eggs." Stories are told that a weasel will watch a hen on the nest for an hour, waiting for a freshly laid egg.—Indianapolis News.

**A Freak of the Lightning.**  
A curious case of lightning destruction took place at Gatchina, an imperial summer residence not far from St. Petersburg, where stood a stone column 50 feet high, held together by iron angles. When rain fell, more or less water penetrated the stones in the interior of the monument. One day it was struck by lightning, and instantly the whole column disappeared from view, killing a lone sentry on guard. The only explanation is that the heat of the lightning instantly generated steam on coming in contact with some of the water, and the terrific explosion followed.

## That Impudent Capital "I."

M. Zola, when in England, was much impressed with the English use of the capital "I." "Why is it," he says, "that the Englishman, when he writes of himself, should invariably use a capital letter? That 'I' which occurs so often in a personal narrative strikes me as being very arrogant. A Frenchman, referring to himself, writes 'je' with a small 'j,' a German, though he may gratefully all his substitutes with capital letters, employs a small 'I' in writing 'ich,' a Spaniard, when he uses the personal pronoun at all, bestows a small 'yo' on his 'yo,' while he honors the person he addresses with a capital 'V.' I believe indeed, though I am not sufficiently acquainted with foreign languages to speak with certainty on that point, that the Englishman is the only person in the world who applies a capital letter to himself."

M. Zola might have enforced his comments still further by referring to the Japanese, who really have no word for "I." In speaking of oneself in Japanese self deprecatory terms are used, such as "servant," "the awkward person," "junior," while in speaking of or to other people complimentary terms are employed, such as "senior," "master," "prince" (used by young men in addressing each other familiarly). The most usual Japanese equivalent for "I" is "watashi," which means literally "selfishness."—Buffalo Commercial.

## New York's Tenement House.

One of the indications of the improvement of the masses in this city is the gradual abolishment of the tenement, as the word is generally understood. The big rookeries, with their small rooms, airless halls and rusty fire escapes, are going out of existence in the ordinary course of events, by fire, tumbling down and being removed to make room for modern structures, and the people who live in them are seeking more airy homes in the suburbs or in the flats up town.

While the foreign element continues to live in tenements for the first year after reaching New York the children of foreign parentage are not willing to exist in the noisome quarters of the east and west sides. They crave more light, more air and cleanliness, and in many cases they get it. Rapid transit makes Harlem as accessible as Grand street, and there is no occasion to live in a down town tenement unless one likes it.

No new tenement houses are building. The first house has taken its place, and in the course of time the foul barracks in which scores of families are crowded will be a thing of the past and only remembered as part of a dimly remembered dream.—New York Letter in Pittsburg Dispatch.

## Africans and the Locomotive.

The children of the desert were filled with awe when first the silence of the primeval solitude was broken by the puffing of the steam engine. Down at the other end of the Cape to Cairo line the simple Matabele, when first confronted by a locomotive, were certain that the strange machine was worked by the labor of an indefinite number of oxen, which they assumed were shut up inside; hence, when the engine stopped, they gathered in curious crowds, waiting to see the door open and the oxen come out, nor could they for many days be persuaded that the power of the locomotive could come from other than the strength of the ox.

The Arabs of the Sudan, more imaginative than the Matabele, saw in the fire horses of the railway one of the Djinn of the "Arabian Nights," harnessed by the magic of the infidel to the long train of cars. The steam engine was to them a living, sentient being. Of which belief there is curious evidence in the fact that on one occasion a sheik made an impassioned remonstrance against the cruelty of making so small an engine draw so huge a train.—Windsor Magazine.

## The Bearded Baby.

A young married couple in Belfast, Me., received a startling shock. They carried their baby to a photographer for a picture. In due time the proof came around, but the parents at first failed to recognize it. The baby's features were there all right, and so were the pretty dress and all the other accessories, but the child had apparently grown a full beard while before the camera. The artist had used by mistake a plate on which an imperfect picture of an old man had been taken, and the two exposures coincided so well that he saved the plate as a curiosity.

## Peruvian Army Discipline.

This military story is printed in a Lima paper: A man belonging to the Peruvian artillery was ordered to be flogged, and there was no regulation cat handy with which to inflict the chastisement. The officer in charge, who was a severe disciplinarian, decided to defer the carrying out of the order until the official scourge, which he had at once requisitioned, should arrive. It was about a year before the cat was applied by the authorities. By that time the soldier had been dead several months!

## The Salmon.

When a young salmon is first hatched, it is known as a parr. Just before it leaves the fresh for the salt water it is called a smolt. When it first returns to spawn, it becomes a grilse, and not until it has spawned is it entitled to be dignified by the name of salmon.

## Expected Redaction.

Granpa Macpherson—How many does two and two make, Donald?  
Donald—Six.  
Granpa—What are you talking about? Two and two make four.  
Donald—Yes, I know; but I thought you'd "beat me down" a bit.—London Punch.

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## MANAGING SMALL BOYS.

How Some Mothers Take All the Spirit Out of Them.

"I am always made sorry when I ride in the cars, through the shopping districts particularly," said the woman to a newspaper man, "to see the mothers ill treat small boys. It is ethical cruelty, but quite as disastrous as physical ill treatment might be, it seems to me.

"I see poor little fellows of 7 and 8, nice little men who would be manly if they were allowed to be, pushed into that seat and out of it into another as if they were so many little dummies. They usually are very nearly that, for seven or eight years of such pushing and pulling is enough to take all the spirit out of a small boy unless he has unusual vigor of character."

"A boy of that age ought to be beginning to look out for his mother and finding seats for her. Occasionally a sensible mother, who treats her boy like a human being, is to be found, and it is a pleasure to see the two together. The boy who is dragged around like a little muff during the early part of his life is apt to come to himself after a time if he is not entirely ruined, and then he goes to an opposite extreme, is rude and self asserting, while he is trying to establish an equilibrium, and the mother can't imagine what the trouble is."—New York Times.

## "Yep" or "Yup."

A curious American colloquialism, of which I certainly cannot see the advantage, writes William Archer in Fall Mall Gazette, is the substitution of "yep" or "yup" for "yes" and of "nope" for "no." No doubt we have in England the coster's "yuss," but one hears even educated Americans now and then using "yep" or some other corruption of "yes," scarcely to be indicated by the ordinary alphabetical symbols. It seems to me a pity.

Educated Americans, too, will often say "somewheres" and "along ways." I have little doubt that this "so" has a grammatical history of its own. Probably it is an old case ending, just as "Andrew Lang is so severe," is a survival of the "nights" which Shakespeare puts in the mouth of Julius Caesar ("Sleek headed men and such as sleep o' nights").

At the same time, as "somewheres" has become irretrievably a vulgarism in England, it would, I think, be a graceful concession on the part of educated Americans to drop the "so" after all. "Somewheres" does not jar in America, and "somewheres" very distinctly jars in England.

## The Irrepressible Small Boy.

This is a true story, and it really happened in a New York family. It looks as if it might be an old story brought up to date or renovated for the occasion, but it is exactly as the small boy arranged it and not to the edification of his family. The small boy was very fond of ice cream. It never cloyed his palate. It was with the same delight that he saw it each time brought on the table, and upon each of these times he showed the exuberance of his feelings by crying in rapturous tones: "Oh-o-o! Ice cream! Ice cream! Ice cream!"

"People will think we never have ice cream or anything else to eat," she said to her son one day. "Now, we are going to have company to dinner tonight, and I don't want you to say a word when the ice cream is brought on." The small boy promised. He really was a good little boy, and he intended to mind. But when the cream was brought on the old feeling of rapture was so strong that he forgot entirely and cried out as usual. Then he remembered and stopped short, looking very repentant. He had not intended to call out, and his mother was mortified. He changed his tone entirely.

"We have ice cream almost every night," he remarked carelessly.—New York Times.

## The Little.

"Put your tongue out," said the doctor to a 4-year-old child.  
Little Gilbert protruded the tip of his tongue.  
"No, no; put it right out," said the doctor.  
The little fellow shook his head weakly, and the tears gathered in his eyes.  
"I can't, doctor," he ventured at last. "It's fastened on to me."

I have used Ripans Tablets with so much satisfaction that I can cheerfully recommend them. I have been troubled for about three years with what I called bilious attacks coming on regularly every week. Was told by different physicians several times that I had indigestion, but the attacks continued. I had seen advertisements of Ripans Tablets in all the papers but had no faith in them, but about six weeks since a friend induced me to try them. I have had two of the small 5-cent boxes of the Tablets and have had no recurrence of the attacks. Have never given a testimonial for anything before, but the amount of good which I believe has been done me by Ripans Tablets induces me to add mine to the many testimonials you doubtless have in your possession now.  
A. T. DEWITT.

I want to inform you, in words of highest praise, of the benefits I have derived from Ripans Tablets. I am a professional nurse and in this profession a clear head is always needed. Ripans Tablets does it. I have used them for four months completely run down. Acting on the advice of Dr. Geo. Rowser, Ph. D., 59 Newark Ave., Jersey City, I took Ripans Tablets with grand results. Miss Elsie Weldon.

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

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