The Humorist's Wife.

She George, dear, why is it that the newspapers make fun of London Punch! George-Because the Jokes in that paper are considered dry and pointless.

She fafter a while, innocently)-George why don't you send some of your rejected

George did not tell why, but made a men tal note of her question to use at some other time in a joke. - Yankee Blade.



M. le Baron (complacently) - Weally, Miss Amidon, I cawn't see what makes Mees Jenkins fleert so outwageously wiz me. What can I do to get rid of her! Miss A .- Propose to her. She's a girl of

Mr. Darnelle's Reasonable Request. "It is so sudden. Mr. Darnelle." "I know it is," responded the young man

He stood before her with his weight resting easily on one foot, his left elbow on the mantelpiece, his right arm behind him, and his whole attitude one of careless, unstudied ease and grace acquired only by long and patient

practice. "I know it is," he repeated. Measured by ordinary standards and by the cold conventionalities of society, it is indeed sudden. We have known each other only twenty-four hours. Until twenty-five minutes after 8 o'clock last night neither of us had ever heard of the other. Yet with the heart one day is as a hundred years. Could we have known one another better, darling," he went on with a tremor in his cultivated B flat baritone voice, "if we had attended the theatre, the concert, the church, and the oyster parlor together for a dozen seasons? Does not your heart beat responsive to mine?"

"I will not pretend to deny, Mr. Darnelle," replied the young lady, with a rich blush mantling her cheek and brow, "that your

avowal moves me strangely." "I knew it—I felt it," he responded eagerly. Love is not the slow, vegetable like growth of years. It does not move in its course with the measured, leisurely step of a man working by the day. It springs up like a mushrlike an electric flash. It takes instant possession. It needs not the agonized coaxing of -of a young man's first chin whiskers, my darling. It is here! You will forgive my presumption, will you not, and speak the words that tremble on your lips-the words that will fill my cup of joy to overflowing?"

The evening had passed like a beautiful dream. Mr. Darnelle, admonished by the clock that it was time to go, had risen reluctantly to his feet and stood holding the hand of his beautiful betrothed. "My love," he said, in eager, passionate

accents, "now that you have blessed my life with a measureless, ineffable joy and made all my future radiant with golden hope, you will not think I am asking too much if I plead for just one favor?

maiden. "Please tell me your first name."-Chicago

Tribune.



Customer (to head waiter) -Here, sir, this clumsy fellow has spilled over half of my cup of ten down my back.

Head Waiter (to clumsy waiter, sternly)-Bring this gentleman a full cup of tea instantly. - New York Sun.

An Unexpected Complication. Boy-Strange gentleman at the door, sir;

won't give me his name." Great Statesman-No doubt it's another reporter to interview me about that \$10,063 election bet I have cast in the teeth of the opposition. How sweet is fame! Show him

"It ain't a reporter, sir; it's a man what wants to take up your bet."

"Merciful heavens! Tell him I'm out."-Philadelphia Record.

A Sure Sign.

Jinks-Wonder how Longpurse came out on the wheat corner!

Blinks-Think be must have been a heavy loser. Don't believe he's got a penny left. "Eh? Has he been showing signs of pov-

"Yes, siree. He's stopped being slouchy and now goes about all dressed up as if he wished people to think he had money. Oh, he's a goner."—Philadelphia Record.

At the Breakfast Table.

Wee Wifey (looking up from the paper)-Dear, what are breadstuffs! Is the bread I make a breadstuff!

Big Hubby (absently)-Yes, darling, your bread's tough-quite so. The social atmosphere touches 20 degs. below zero.-Pittsburg Bulletin.

Both of Them Excited.

The smell of gas became so strong that they burst open the door, and the doctor and andlord rushed in

"Open the windows!" shouted the excited obysician. Shut off the gas!" shouted the excited Sandlord. - Life.

The Meek Novelist. Tom-Who is that mild mannered little

man who has to brace his feet against the wall to keep a puff of wind from blowing him into the street!

Dick-Oh, that's Mr. Deeddare, the author "Red Handed Ralf, the Terror of Five Oceans "- Yankee Blade,

Wanted a Man-Here He Is. A Chicago paper wants to see a man drop ave miles from a balloon. We'd like to furnish the man. He is the man who carefully ed the office door all summer, but who w leaves it op n.-Pittsburg Chronicle.

The Cockrosch of India.

"I should like to make your flesh creep" is the involuntary thought of one who essays to describe the Indian cockreach. Who that has been in India does not know the flat, shining, ill savored, coffee colored thing seen only in dimly lighted places, the eyes starting out of the head, the long, ever moving feelers, the swift, uncertain movements, the sudden, uncontrolled flight when he dashes, perhaps, into your face, and for a brief and horrible moment his clammy legs cling to your skin? What a life he must Ever in cowardly terror of his life, his perpetual instinct is to hide himself. From some dark corner he glars at you with guilty eye. As he darts from place to place he knows you will kill him if you can, and he knows he deserves to be killed. Even in the houses of the highest in the land the cockroach is not unknown. Boots, gloves and books bear witness to his ravages, and a pungent smell betrays his presence in your wardrobe. But the paradise of the cockroach is a

ship. It is in the depths of the ship's hold, where he may hide among the cargo undisturbed and feed on all rank things, that he is in his glory. Happily he seems unable to live except in tropical heat, so that in the great passenger steamers constantly returning to Europe he is seldom seen. The home of his heart is the hold of the ship whose course is limited to the tropical seas. There, among bales of rice and kegs of oil, where darkness reigns and the air is hot and foul and where human foot rarely intrudes, he roams at will from post to post. Thence the more venturesome spirits ascend to the upper decks and haunt saloons and cabins, and especially pantries and storerooms, where corners and crevices shelter them and there are endless chances of "loot." Hence comes the chief ingredient of that sickly atmosphere which strikes the sense on descending from the outer air and often makes a voyage in such a vessel a penance indeed.-Blackwood's Magazine.

#### Russian Priests and Monks.

Although the people are forever in need of the services of the priest, they pay him but poorly. For the highest ceremonies he receives one or two roubles. and for the smallest and most frequent a few kopecks. The priest and the monk being both poor, it is no uncommon sight to see them bargaining for a marriage or a burial, and disputing the price as they dispute only in Russia. From that all sorts of anecdotes have sprung. On one occasion it was a priest, who, to be revenged on a father for his avarice, gave the child a ridiculous name at baptism.

On another, a peasant asked his minister for permission to get married in another parish. "Very good," said the priest, "but have you calculated what your doing so will cost me? Now, in the first place I would have married you. Well, that is so many roubles. Then, you will have children, say seven; that would be seven baptisms. Next, several of those children would die, say three; that would be three burials in my pocket. After that you would have sons or daughters to marry, say four; that would be four marriages I should lose." "Yes. that's very well counted up," replied the moujik; "but you are already an old man, and you might be dead long before all that could happen." "That's true returned the priest; "we are all mortal, and for that reason I forbid you to leave the parish, and I shall only ask you ten roubles for your marriage."-Stanley McKenna in The Cosmopolitan.

Work of a Drug Clerk.

People have no idea what a much abused class of workers are the drug clerks. They have to spend years studying chemistry and other branches connected with the pharmaceutical profession, and after they go to work what do they get? The answer is-precious little. Aside from the small compensation allowed us for our services, there are the long hours and Sunday work. I rarely work less than thirteen hours a day, and am required to work even harder on the seventh day of the week than the first, Besides filling prescriptions and serving customers with other articles in the line carried by the trade, I am kept on the run to the soda fountain. The drug clerks generally have but really little time to enjoy the good things of this life, and, after serving many years in the business, I can truthfully say that there is little in it. The salaries paid years ago were better than now, but even then it was not a lucrative profession. The cause of the present low salaries is the large accessions to the ranks of the medicine mixers year after year. They are being turned out of the colleges of pharmacy in droves every year, and when beginning do not object to working for low wages. The consequence of this is that the salaries of the old timers have to come down, as the owners of the drug stores do not care about paying more than they can avoid.-Drug clerk in Globe-Democrat.

The Egyptian Heaven.

Earth was not to the Egyptians what it is to us-a giobe carried safely through space by the laws of gravitation. Everybody in Egypt knew that it was a flat, oblong, quadrangular slab, more like the upper board of a table than anything they could imagine. It was surmounted by a flat, iron roof stretching at some distance from it and supported by four strong pillars, which prevented it from falling and crushing what was underneath. Thus the world was like a two storied house, the various parts of which might be connected, as they are in our houses, by a staircase or by a ladder. The Egyptians supposed that there was somewhere in the west a tall ladder which went up straight from earth to heaven. Gods and goddesses watched it day and night. Nobody was allowed to climb it unless he had the password, and, even after giving it, those poor souls judge Osiris and his assessors, the island of the happy, where they settled forever and ever among the indestructible stars, as indestructible as any of them.-Professor Maspero,

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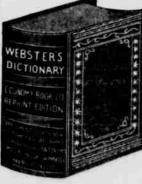
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