

CARE OF A WATCH

Uncle Sam's Experts Will Tell You
All About It.

WINDING IS ALMOST AN ART.

It Should Be Done Cautiously and With
the Strictest Regularity—Even the
Size of the Watch Pocket May Affect
the Accuracy of a Timepiece.

Do you know how to handle, carry and wind your watch properly? Do you know at what time of the day you should wind it, the pocket in which it is best to carry it and the position in which you should leave your watch at night or when it is not in use?

These are some questions which Uncle Sam will answer for his 100,000,000 nieces and nephews or such of them as are the possessors of pocket watches.

Instructions as to the use and care of watches are given in a publication issued by the bureau of standards. They are based on conclusions reached by scientists after careful tests and on the practical experience of some of the leading watch manufacturers of the land.

The importance of handling a fine watch carefully and of winding it regularly is known to almost every one. But rules for the proper treatment of watches always have varied greatly, and it is for this reason that the bureau of standards investigated the matter and prepared standard instructions which it advises owners of watches to follow.

The bureau, in its set of rules, first cautions against allowing a watch to fall or receive a severe jar, either of which is liable to injure the mechanism, especially in the bending of a pivot or the breaking of a jewel. The mere fall of a watch to the end of its chain or the jar it may receive when the article of clothing in which it is being carried is thrown down or dropped may cause serious injury to the movement. Even the sudden motions or jar of jumping on or off a street car may injure it seriously.

Likewise care should be taken to keep a watch from becoming magnetized by proximity to electrical apparatus, although the troubles from this cause are being reduced by the present type of construction of dynamos and motors. The watch case should be opened as seldom as possible and then only in places where there is little chance of dust getting into the movement. A broken watch crystal should be replaced promptly, even if the watch has a hunting case.

Concerning the importance of winding a watch regularly the bureau of standards states:

"Even the delay of an hour in the time of winding may cause considerable variation in the rate in some instances. The winding should not be done jerkily, but steadily and not too rapidly, and its conclusion should be approached carefully to avoid injury to the spring or winding mechanism."

"It is generally regarded as slightly better to wind the watch in the morning than at night, as the large variations of the balance under the tight spring will perhaps give more uniform results with the movements and jar of the watch during the day than if the balance wheel were subjected to the lesser tension twelve hours after winding. The difference is, however, not so important as the regular winding of the watch."

"The pocket in which one carries his watch, the size of the pocket and the kind of watch chain or fob used have a more important effect on the uniformity of a watch's rate than is generally realized. In a large pocket the watch is apt to turn to the right or left by various amounts, giving irregular rates, unless one adopts some method of holding it upright. Perhaps the best method to prevent a watch turning in this way, other than actually pinning it in place, is to keep the watch in a chambray or kid watch bag, such as may be obtained from jewelers, in correct size to fit one's pocket. The watch cannot turn in this if of the proper size, and the friction of the bag in the pocket prevents it turning. The bag also protects the watch and keeps it cleaner."

The care of the watch at night or when it is not in use is another important item concerning which the bureau of standards states:

"At night or when the watch is not in use it is desirable to leave the watch in the same position as during the day, and preferably in some place where it will not be subject to any great temperature change. If it is desirable to leave the watch in a horizontal position during the night for the sake of compensating any considerable gaining or losing of the watch in the pendent position during the day the same precaution to avoid marked temperature changes should be observed, and the regularity with which such a change of position is carried out may be as important as regularity of winding."—Washington Star.

Nothing Precipitate.
"Did you accept him as soon as he proposed?"
"Of course not. I kept him waiting for his answer nearly a whole minute."—Richmond Times-Dispatch.

Natural Performance.
"That widower seems all broken down."
"Then why doesn't he get repaired?"—Baltimore American.

Apper to know only this—never to fall asleep.—Epictetus.

LABOR AND ART CLASHED.

The Battle Was Rather One Sided and Labor Won the Night.

Among the experiences which Sir Frederick Cowen, the eminent composer, relates in his book "My Art and My Friends" is the following: Once while conducting in Melbourne a terrible noise of hammering started overhead as soon as the concert began.

"I put down my baton and stopped," writes Sir Frederick; "so did the noise. Thinking it was over, I began again; so did the noise. I then sent a messenger with a polite request that the noise should cease. After about ten minutes, during which the hammering grew more and more persistent, the messenger returned, and I said to him: 'Did you give them my message?'"

"Yes, sir."
"And what was their answer?"

"They said, 'Tell Mr. Cowen we've got our contract to finish by a certain time and we ain't going to stop for no concert or nobody.'"

"Upon this I turned to the audience and said:

"Ladies and gentlemen, as you have possibly noticed, there has been a fight between labor and art. Labor has won. I am very sorry, and I wish you all good night."

"Then I dismissed the orchestra, and there was no concert that evening."

FIRE RISKS ON FARMS.

Safety First Should Be as Much the Rule There as Elsewhere.

A contributor to Farm and Fireside shows how appalling fire risks are on farms. He tells how to reduce some of these fire risks and writes in part as follows:

"The inveterate smoker is about as dangerous as a walking stick of dynamite. It makes me shudder to see a man smoking around the farm buildings. One man I know never will forget the way he was run off the farm when I caught him smoking a cigarette while stacking hay."

"Another dangerous practice of which the average man is guilty is that of carrying ordinary matches loose in his pockets. He should carry either safety matches or keep the ordinary kind in a metal box."

"On most farms the lantern is still the usual light for working about the buildings after dark. A good way to keep it clean and safe is, first, to take out the burners and clean them by boiling in strong soapuds. This will keep the ventilating passages of the burner working properly. Then wipe all leaking or spilled oil off the base. 'Never set a lantern down. Either hold it or hang it up. Then when it is accidentally struck it will swing instead of upsetting.'"

A Gladstone Anecdote.

Lord Alverstone tells this anecdote of Gladstone in his "Recollections": "Mr. Gladstone was very much interested in the Caucasus. I had a friend, Captain X., who had recently come home from that district, and I gave him a letter of introduction to Mr. Gladstone. A few days later I met Mr. Gladstone in Parliament street. He stopped me and said, 'Your friend, Captain X., knows more about the Caucasus than any man I ever met.' A few minutes afterward I met Captain X. in Pall Mall. I said to him, 'Well, you have made a great impression, Mr. Gladstone.' 'Have I?' he said. 'Yes,' I replied. 'He says you know more about the Caucasus than any man he ever met.' 'Well,' said Captain X., 'that is very strange, for, though I was with him for three-quarters of an hour, I made only three observations.'"

Leather Medals.

Leather medals were originally conferred as a genuine mark of honor. When King John of France, captured at Agincourt, was forced to pay to Edward III. of England a ransom of 3,000,000 gold crowns to effect his release he was left without precious metal for coins or decorations. So he found it necessary to pay the palace expenses with leather money. He also used leather medals when he wished to confer honor on some nobleman. The custom quickly arose of presenting leather medals as a burlesque distinction.—American Boy.

Discretion.

"Mother"—Elsie's eyes were round with horror—"that little boy next door just said the awfulest thing."
"Come tell mother, dear."
"Oh, I couldn't possibly tell you; it was too awful."
"Elsie, tell me instantly."
Elsie backed toward the door. "I think I'd better run out in the garden and play. I feel it coming on that I'm going to tell."—New York Post.

Sound Advice.

"I wish Ingomar to think only of me."
"I would not distract his thoughts too much from business, my dear," counseled her mother. "Remember you will need a great many expensive things."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Why He Failed.

"I understand his marriage was a failure."
"Yes; he tried to run it the way he ran his business."
"How do you mean?"
"He was never in the office."—Detroit Free Press.

Gentle Gertrude.

Penelope—Gertrude is a gentle creature, isn't she? Percival—Yes; instead of whipping the cream she just scolds it.—Youngstown Telegram.

It belongs to great men to have great defects.—French Proverb.

FEW NOW DIE OF OLD AGE.

Why This Is So and Why the Patriarchs Lived So Long.

Scientists who see today how few people live to be 100 years old find themselves at a loss to explain how Methuselah managed to live 969 years, while Noah reached the respectable age of 950 years. Recently, however, a discovery has been made which helps to explain this mystery.

When the causes of short life nowadays are counted up it is found that most of the deaths are due to disease. Very few people die from old age. And the reason why people die from any one disease is that they have been weakened by other illnesses which they have had or which have been handed down to them by their ancestors. For example, one widespread social scourge which weakens the constitution of many men and women today was probably unknown in primitive times.

To some of these diseases the human race has become so accustomed that it is immune. Measles will kill off a whole Indian tribe, but among the white races it is only an annoying childhood malady. But the variations of disease increase far more rapidly than the immunity.

Noah and the patriarchs didn't have nearly as many different kinds of diseases to face because they hadn't had enough ancestors to hand them down a variety. Consequently their constitutions were not constantly being weakened as are ours today. For example, there is no reference in very ancient literatures to a cold in the head. The Greeks and Romans seem to have been the first peoples to suffer from it.

The real reason why the patriarchs lived longer than we do now was because in those days the fount of humanity was fresher. While immunity to certain diseases has been handed down to us by our parents, we have also received the weakened vitality which was theirs as a result of their fight against disease. Sooner or later the race will become immune to tuberculosis, but with that immunity will come the diminished power as a result of mankind's long fight against the white plague.—Washington Post.

NATIONAL OFFICIAL BOOKS.

They Are Named by Colors and Cover a Wide Range of Hues.

British government publications are called "blue books," because they are usually bound in blue paper covers and because blue is the officially recognized color in parliament and law. In a few departments, however, "blue" books are printed in yellow covers to distinguish the department. Diplomatic correspondence with foreign countries and short acts of parliament are often left unbound, or "white," because there is no strict rule for binding any documents less than an inch in thickness.

In addition to the "blue book" there is the "red book." This contains a list of persons who hold appointments. The only other color used by England is black. A black book contains an exposure of some abuse, the name "black book" originating from the famous "black book" compiled in the reign of Henry VIII. to expose the abuses in monasteries.

In France the chief color for government publication is yellow. Although the latest French government report has been called a "black book," in reality it is published in yellow covers. It forms, in fact, one of a long set of "yellow books" which France has been issuing annually ever since the year 1861 upon the affairs of the country for the use of politicians and historians.

The chief color of Russian government publications is orange. Belgium uses gray, Italy green, the United States blue and red, Spain and Austria red and Germany and Portugal white or drab.—New York Press.

Garden of the Near East.

Brusa, situated at the foot of Mount Olympus, in Asiatic Turkey, is the garden city of the near east. Every mosque and public building and almost every house stands in its own garden, under the shadow of sycamore, cypress or fig trees. The flora of the surrounding district is so rich and varied that it has been the happy hunting ground of botanists for centuries, and some authorities regard it as the cradle land of many of our sweetest spring flowers—the hincinthe, the tulip, the snow-drop and the jonquil.—London Spectator.

The Feminine Financier.

"So she has broken the engagement! Did she give you back the diamond ring?"
"No. We are deadlocked. She says she will give me back the price I paid for it, but diamonds have doubled in value and that she is entitled to the profit."—Philadelphia Ledger.

Made Her a Fright.

"Mrs. Jones has a new hat."
"Well, you look mightily pleased about it."
"You just ought to see how it looks on her."—Houston Post.

In Distress.

"Why are you flying your flag up side down, Suburbs?"
"To let the neighbors know that the cook's gone and all invitations are off."—Philadelphia Ledger.

King of the Penguins.

Many of the Falkland Islands are inhabited only by penguins, whence the title "King of the Penguins," which is sometimes bestowed on the governor of the Falklands.

It does no good to advertise for your lost self respect.—Youth's Companion.

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