

The Sandman Story

Martha Martin

MR. AND MRS. OSTRICH

BILLIE BROWNE'S call this day was to be upon the Ostrich pair at the zoo. Billie Browne was always much amused by Mr. and Mrs. Ostrich. He thought their ways were interesting and he always liked to hear about them. Then, too, he always liked to tell everyone he could that ostrich feathers meant unhappiness and tragedy in the lives of birds. The ostrich family weren't hurt when their feathers were taken from



Decided to Take Turns in Hatching the Eggs.

them, no, not at all; in fact it made them pleased and comfortable.

But this time that he went to see Mr. and Mrs. Ostrich he could see from the moment of his arrival that they were each in a funny frame of mind and Billie knew he would enjoy himself.

"We haven't large brains," said Mr. Ostrich, "but we have a fine system for all that."

"Tell me about it," urged Billie Browne.

"Our brains are small in size," said Mrs. Ostrich, "and my mate is quite correct when he says what he does. But we have enough brains for our purpose."

"If we had more brains we'd have to study and keep our brains up to the mark."

"That would be a nuisance. Thankful I am that our brains are no more trouble to us than they are."

"To some, it would appear, brains are a great bother."

"Yes, our system is fine. Mr. Ostrich was right about that, too."

"We take turns in hatching the eggs. I sit upon them in the daytime for my gray costume looks like the sand in the daytime and so protects me," Mrs. Ostrich explained.

"A good idea," said Billie Browne.

"And I sit at night and watch out for them then as I wear a black feathered suit which looks like the night," said Mr. Ostrich.

"That does sound like a perfect system," agreed Billie Browne.

"Neither of us is cowardly when it comes to protecting our young," Mr. Ostrich continued.

"I will hurry the brood away while Mrs. Ostrich will face the enemy and fall down as though there were no more life in her and so it makes the enemy feel it is useless to do anything. We have good eyesight. Our hearing is our next best sense and smelling comes third. We really only use this sense in feeding and in recognizing our young."

"Some say it is a strange way of knowing one's children, but then it does for us, so why should we overtax our brains and think of other ways?"

"It would be foolish," said Mrs. Ostrich. "But I hope in time people will stop saying I hide my head in the sand when I'm frightened."

"I fall down and have my head quite close to the sand—but I don't hide it. People have thought it was hidden because my head and the sand are so much alike in color."

"And the story has been passed along. And gossip has kept it going."

"I may have a small brain, but I know enough to know that my body isn't safe just because my head might be hidden—and so I don't hide my head."

"Oh, well, I'm above getting mad even if I'm gossiped about."

"That is very wise of you," said Billie Browne, "for I must admit that while I know it is foolish, I feel a little hurt at anything said about me that is not kind."

"You are far more sensible, Mrs. Ostrich."

"But I've been delighted to have heard your stories and to have had the honor and pleasure of this talk."

"How very handsomely you make your departure," said Mr. Ostrich, as Billie Browne made a low bow upon finishing his speech.

And Mrs. Ostrich added:

"You show a fine and respectful manner toward the happy Ostrich pair."

"It makes our ostrich hearts rejoice!"

(Copyright.)

THE WHY of SUPERSTITIONS

By H. IRVING KING

PINS

See a pin and pick it up, all the day you'll have good luck. See a pin and let it lay, bad luck you will have all day.

SLIGHTLY ungrammatical and a bad rhyme; but this fable may be the solution, nevertheless, of the mystery, "Where do all the pins go to?" They are picked up by superstitious people. And few there be who, seeing a pin, will not stoop to pick it up "for luck." It is doubtful if there is a more widespread superstition than this among English-speaking peoples. Some say that to get the full benefit of the omen the pin should be lying with the point toward you—but these are fussy people. This superstition has as its basis a psychological fact. If the mind is so alert and active that the eye perceives so small an object as a dropped pin, it would naturally follow that the man would as a rule, accomplish a successful day's work.

The idea that he should pick up the pin is a survival from the days when pins were objects of considerable value compared to what they are now; and picking up the lost pin showed that the man was saving as well as observing—an additional cause for a successful day. And there is the same connection today, trifling as is now the value of a pin. For a man who picks up a stray pin not only shows that his mind is alert and his observation keen, but also that he is no scornful of trifles. So why should he not—on a day when his mentality is functioning in this manner—meet with that success which men call "luck"?

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Australia Needs Teachers

Australia has a shortage of teachers, and many schools have been forced to close. In Victoria more than 300 are needed, and 50 county schools are having enforced vacations. To cope with the situation the department of education is employing 100 married women, mostly former instructors. The teachers' union explains that low salaries, many receiving less than \$15 a week, and unreasonable restrictions, have caused many teachers to resign. Officials are considering salary increases.

What Does Your Child Want to Know?

Answered by BARBARA BOURJAILY

WHY DO PLUMS AND CHERRIES HAVE STONES?



The stone in fruit becomes the seed. The fruit is merely there for show—so we will carry off the seed and drop them where they'll grow.

(Copyright.)

How It Started

By JEAN NEWTON

"BROADCLOTH"

IN THE word "broadcloth," by which we describe a certain fine textured woolen suiting material, we have a good example of the curious twists and turns of words.

The name originally referred to the width, not the quality or texture, of the material. It had its origin in the early days of the industry in England when this cloth was made double width.

With the methods when "broadcloth" was being made, then in vogue, we learn, two weavers were required at the loom in order to bring the shuttle across the entire width.

(Copyright.)

Contrast in Length

"Hamlet," one of the most famous, is also the longest of Shakespeare's plays, containing 3,500 lines, and "The Comedy of Errors" the shortest with 1,777 lines.

Corinne Griffith



Of the many motion picture stars and players who reached the screen via the beauty contest route, Corinne Griffith is without doubt one of the most outstanding. She was born in Texarkana, Texas. "The Lady in Ermine" and "Three Hours," were among some of her recent successes.

For Meditation

By LEONARD A. BARRETT

MAN'S RIGHT TO REST

PROPER nervous conditions are in no small way responsible for a normal moral character. "Nerves" and "morals" are almost interchangeable words. Much of the crime in the world today can be traced directly to fatigue. When fatigued, people will do things, and blink thoughts which at a later time they would give anything to be able to recall. One faces a crisis in an hour when resistance is at its lowest ebb, and the character not being sufficiently reinforced, a crime is committed. Many a fatigued parent assumes an attitude toward a child which not only destroys for the time being the peace of the home, but produces a serious effect upon the development of the child from which he may never recover.

Fatigue is a warning signal. As the danger signal in the tower warns the engineer that the track is not clear, so fatigue is nature's warning signal calling for relaxation and restoration. Fatigue is an important factor with which we must reckon in our efforts to solve the problem of crime. No fatigued person can be at his best. A fatigued man is a poisoned man, not only physically but spiritually and morally. No fatigued person can be normal in the field of morals. Clear demonstrations have been made of the serious results of nervous overstrain in which the brain and psychic centers are involved. An overtired person is literally a poisoned person. The toxins of fatigue must be expelled.

Man has a right to rest as well as to work. He owes it to himself and to society to do away with the exhaustion resulting from overstrain in the moral as well as the psychic spheres, and thus conserve constructive power for character building. In order to effect a cure for fatigue drugs are as pernicious as they are ineffective. The improvement must come from within. Self-control enables a man to master his environment and not be mastered by it. "Self-control is directly proportioned to the amount of surplus nervous energy." Self-control is answerable to will power, and will power is governed by the higher psychic centers. The element of strain is a very important factor in balancing forces against the laws of competition and resistance. Efficiency in daily toil demands that we "Go not beyond this mark."

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Devastation by Lemmings

Lemmings are rodents. They are four or five inches long and have a very short tail, furry feet and small ears. Tawny yellow is the prevailing color, varied with black and red. The best-known European species is notable for having made devastating migrations in enormous number at long and irregular intervals.



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Current Wit and Humor



EXITS ARE MARKED

"I hear you want a new car," said the automobile salesman who had managed to sneak into old man Black's office. "No, I don't," snapped the old man, "but my wife does, and she also wants a trip to Europe, a million dollars and forty pounds off her weight, and she has just as much chance of getting a new car as she has any of the others. The way you came in takes you out, make your going snappy."

FIGURE THIS OUT



"How do you think a man picks a wife in Turkey when he can't see her face till after they are married?" "Why the same as they pick them over here."

All Right

Says Mrs. Jones to Mrs. Rand: "The situation's well in hand." Says Mrs. Rand to Mrs. Jones: "I'll tell the world," in dulcet tones.

Too Hot-Headed

Critic—You have made your hero too hot-headed, I'm afraid. Budding Author—How do you mean? "Well, he has a lantern jaw to begin with. And so his whole face lit up! His cheeks flamed, he gave a burning glance, and then, blazing with wrath and boiling with rage, he administered a scorching rebuke."

The Flirt on the Phone

Hello! Peggy speaking—who is this? "It's Frank, sweetheart." "I can't understand you." "Listen—F for Ferdie, R for Robert, A for Arthur, N for Nat and K for Kenneth." "But, dearest, which one of the five are you?"

Casus Belli Avoided

"Say, pa, that new boy next door knows I can lick him." "Did he say so?" "No, but I offered him a bite of my apple and he only took a little bite."

BASEBALL LANGUAGE



"They caught him at home." "I thought you said he was out." "I did." "Well, how can he be at home, if he is out?"

That Means Up or Down

"Money can take you anywhere," remarked old Dan DeWitt; "Money can take you anywhere, 'Save where you can't take it."

Wise

Ted—I saw my doctor about my loss of memory. Jerry—What did he do? Ted—Made me pay in advance.

And Now You Know

"Ah, you are the young man in question? What's your name?" "Ivan Anzeichmungenenguektel." "How do you spell it?" "As it is pronounced!"—Pete Mele, Paris.

The Shirts Look Like It

Hardware Clerk—I'd like to borrow a yardstick. Dry Goods Clerk—We've nothing but a foot rule. We sell dress goods now by the inch.

Seldom on the Job

"The sun," says a famous English scientist, "is the greatest physician in the world."

All Off

He—True, my salary is not large, but then, two can live as cheaply as one. She—But, Tom, dear, you forget—there's mother.

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"Give Him One of Your Cards, Bob!"

Two men in a sedan and a farmer and his boy in a smaller car had stopped on a country road for a short discussion of business in general. The farmer and one of the men from town were old friends. The other was unknown to him.

"Give Mr. Hartley one of your cards, Bob," suggested the farmer's friend. "You ought to do some business with him before long."

Now, if Bob had presented his card to Mr. Hartley, there would be little of interest to us in the transaction. But Bob did not have a card to give him!

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