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WASH THE HANDS.

And Do It as Frequently as the Opportunity Offers.

Civilized man touches a hundred things with his hands to every one with any other part of his body. Literally he sticks the former into everything. It follows, as Dr. Eccles points out in the Dietetic and Hygienic Gazette, that hands probably play a very important part in the spread of disease. From this the further corollary may be drawn that washing the hands is a sanitary process of great importance. It affords an imperfect but partial disinfection.

Pretty much everything touched by the hands may be infected—money, newspapers, books, street car straps, restaurant knives and forks and tumblers, other people's hands, door handles, public pens and pencils, and so on, ad infinitum. Every one of these touches may, and some of them actually do, result in a transfer of germs. Fortunately most of the newcomers will be harmless, but occasionally a "batch" arrives analogous to the Black Handers, and if they find any cut or minute abrasion of the skin or if the imbecile carelessness of their host rubs them into his eyes or mouth the possibility of a death or at least an expensive illness in the latter's family becomes imminent.

Therefore wash your hands as often as opportunity offers. You can't overdo it. Clean hands are of far more importance hygienically than aesthetically. Washing them after handling some dangerously infected object may save your own or some one else's life. As you have no way of distinguishing infected from uninfected things, banknotes, for instance, the hands should always be washed as a matter of routine before they are carried to the eyes or lips.

What Dr. Eccles would like to see adopted is antiseptic hand washing involving the routine use of some fairly strong germicide. This is a counsel of perfection that cannot be hoped for. A more frequent use of soap and water will be a boon enough for a first step. The Medical Record agrees with Dr. Eccles as to the necessity for a hand washing crusade.

The Earliest Lotteries.

The lotteries are generally said to have had their origin in Italy, but in Crowe and Cavalcaselle's "Early Flemish Painters" reference is made to a lottery drawn at Bruges on Feb. 24, 1446 (1445 old style). This is the earliest of which the scheme, list of prizes and accounts are known to be in existence. In 1530 a lottery was drawn in Florence, the object being to meet the state expenses. Nine years afterward they were legalized in France by Francis I. and called "blanques." The lotteries instituted at Paris by the Duke d'Invernois in 1572 and 1578 were for providing marriage portions for the young women belonging to his estate.

The first lottery known in England was drawn at the west door of St. Paul's cathedral in 1569. The amount was £20,000, which in those days was very considerable. It consisted of 40,000 tickets at 10 shillings each, and the profits of the speculation were to be appropriated to the repair of the harbors of the kingdom.

A Successful Disguise.

Mr. Murphy, says a writer in the Brooklyn Citizen, was inquiring of his friend Mr. Doolan how his wife was feeling after the excitement of the recent wedding of their daughter. "She's well enough," replied the other, "excepting that she's grieving over a pair of ill-fitting new kid gloves that got lost on her that evening."

"She's feeling bad about them, but I've advertised in the paper, and I'm thinking she'll get them back again before long. They cost Mrs. Doolan two dollars and forty-five cents!"

"Ain't you afraid whoever got them will be slow to answer the advertisement?" inquired Mr. Murphy.

"It's meself that knew how to fix that," returned Mr. Doolan. "I advertised them ill-fitting gloves as an owl cotton pair, bur-rating away at the seams and wur-rth nobody's keeping!"

The Cossack's Whip.

People who are unacquainted with Russia and who read of street disturbances being suppressed by the Cossacks with their whips have little idea of what formidable weapons these are. Made of hard leather and tapering to a fine point, they are triangular in shape, and the Cossack, who knows how to bring the edge down upon his victim, can inflict a wound that is not infrequently fatal. A favorite stroke is one by which the eye and a portion of the cheek are cut.

WON THE INDIAN.

The Boy Showed the Armed Redskins How to Play Marbles.

One who visits an encampment of Indians is likely to find many of the younger members and some of the older ones practicing games or feats of skill. In the "Chronicles of a Kentucky Settlement" Mr. Watts tells how a boy of eleven years of age showed an Indian how to play marbles. The boy, Joseph Adair, was on his way from Hillsboro, N. C., to Tennessee in the fall of 1805. The lad had become separated from his foster father's family some little distance on the trail when he met an Indian unexpectedly.

Joseph had been loitering along behind the teams, "plumping" marbles, a dozen or more of which he had brought with him from Hillsboro, when he was much alarmed on seeing in the road directly in front of him a large, fierce looking Indian, rifle in hand and otherwise equipped with tomahawk and knife, after the manner of his race.

The lad's first impulse—so he afterward related—was to turn and run for his life. But this he knew, after a moment's consideration, would be unavailing and would, moreover, be not only equivalent to a confession of cowardice, but would increase his danger.

His next thought was to shout aloud for help. But then it struck him that probably he could not make himself heard, and even if he could the doubt thus expressed as to the Indian's peaceable intentions might anger the savage, in which event his deadly work could be accomplished before any one could come to the boy's assistance.

These thoughts ran quickly through the boy's mind, the Indian meanwhile standing like a statue in the road. It then occurred to Joseph that the Indian was closely observing the marbles, and he determined to resort to a little friendly diplomacy.

Picking up the marbles and holding them out in the palm of his hand, he approached the dusky stranger and with as calm a voice as he could command said: "Marbles! Do you want one? May have both. I have more."

The Indian took the marbles and examined one of them so closely that the boy supposed the savage had never before seen such a toy and was trying to determine its use. Upon this he took two other marbles from his pocket, and, casting one of them some six or eight feet from him, he properly adjusted the other between his thumb and finger and, showing the position to the Indian, took deliberate aim. He hit the marble that he shot at so plump that it was knocked several yards. The one he had shot spun around in almost the same place from which the other had been driven.

It was a good shot. The Indian, observing the game, uttered something like a grunt of approval and, placing the marbles given him in his pouch, without a word or a gesture stepped from the road and disappeared in the forest.

A Tutor Who Maintained His Dignity.

Dr. Chalmers always had a high sense of personal dignity. When a young man he was engaged as tutor in a private family. His young lady pupils resented his strictness, and the mother foolishly took sides with her daughters. In petty spite when company was invited to the house young Chalmers was shut out from the table, and dinner was sent to his room. He made no protest against the treatment, but when it was attempted again he told the servant he had ordered a dinner at a neighboring town and should need nothing. When this had been done a few times an explosion came. The master of the house called Chalmers to account for insulting his family. Chalmers replied that he had been insulted by banishment from the table. The young teacher conquered and ever after held his place as one of the family at all social gatherings.

She Kept Her Word.

A funny story is told concerning Catherine of Berain, a Welsh woman, who was known as the mother of Wales because she founded so many families. "She was first married to John Salusbury of Llewenni and became the mother of Sir John Salusbury, who was born with two thumbs to each hand and was noted for his prodigious strength. At the funeral of her husband Sir Richard Clough gave her his arm. Outside the churchyard stood Maurice Wynn of Gwydir awaiting a decent opportunity of proposing to her. As she issued from the gate he did this. 'Very sorry,' replied Catherine, 'but I have just accepted Sir Richard Clough. Should I survive him I will marry you.' She was as good as her word and married yet a fourth before she died in 1591."

BUYING RUBIES.

The Methods of the Gem Merchants of the Orient.

Oriental merchants have business methods which would arouse the wonder of the American storekeeper. Perhaps the most peculiar methods are associated with the sale of rubies in Burma.

The prospective purchaser takes a seat near a window and has before him a large copper plate. The sellers come to him one by one, and each empties upon this plate a little bag of rubies. The purchaser arranges the gems all in separate little heaps in order that he may set a valuation upon them.

He first divides them into three grades, according to size. Each of these groups is again divided into three other piles, according to color, and each of these piles in turn is once more divided into three groups, according to shape.

Artificial light is never used in the examination of rubies, the merchants believing that full sunlight alone is capable of bringing out the color and brilliancy of the gems. All sales must be made between the hours of 9 a. m. and 3 p. m., and the sky must be clear, so that nothing can dim the radiance of the crimson stones.

The copper plate is brought into requisition in more ways than one. The sunlight reflected from it through the stones brings out with true rubies a color effect different from that of spinels or tourmalines, which are thus readily separated. Many spinels bear a close resemblance to the ruby, but this simple test made under the keen eye of the oriental never fails.

When the various stones have been segregated the buyer and seller begin an odd method of bargaining by signs or, rather, grips, in profound silence. After agreeing upon the fairness of the classification they join their right hands, covered with a handkerchief or the flap of a garment, and by grips and pressures understood among all these dealers they make, modify and accept proposals of purchase and sale. The hands are then uncovered and the prices are recorded.—Milwaukee Sentinel.

Introducing Himself.

Scottish country people call a corpse "the body," solemnly lengthening the word into "bo-ody." This mode of expression is due to religious feeling. The object lying dead is no longer to them their relative or friend. He or she is elsewhere, leaving behind merely his or her husk or shell. A somewhat ludicrous illustration of this use of the word occurred some time ago before the sheriff of a northern county, says a Scottish journal. He, with the procurator fiscal and the medical officer of the county, was engaged in a country village investigating the circumstances affecting the death of a person found drowned. The corpse was in the room, and there was considerable difficulty in preventing the neighbors and friends of the deceased from crowding in upon them. One man in particular presented himself with so earnest and confident an air that the sheriff thought he might have something to tell. "Well, my man," he said, "why have you come here?" "Please, your honor," the man gravely replied, "I'm the body's brither."

The Electric Eel Is Very Old.

Certain species of electric fishes have been known from very early times. Occasionally we find people ascribing mysterious powers to them both of good and evil. It is certain that the Abyssinians knew an electric eel and used it "as a remedy for nervous diseases," and the Hindus and other nations of the east in times past were also conscious of its powers. Humboldt describes an old method of capturing this eel practiced by the East Indians, which consisted in driving horses into water inhabited by the eel and allowing the eels to exhaust themselves by attacking the horses with their electric organs, when they were "easily harpooned by the Indians," but subsequent travelers in the same parts where Humboldt says the custom was practiced have denied the report, and it is now not generally believed. However, the electric eel has been known to those people for centuries.

The Firefly.

Just why the glowworm, the firefly and other insects do glow is not determined. One theory is that the females are given this distinction in order that they may be readily found by their mates. Another, adhered to by Darwin, is that the light is for self protection merely. Light bearing insects are notoriously ill tasting, and the light may serve as a notification to birds and insectivorous animals of this fact, the life of the insect being thereby saved.—St. Louis Republic.

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