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### CLINICAL THERMOMETERS.

The Care That Is Taken to Make These Delicate Tubes Accurate.

Little does one think when he is in bed with fever, with a piece of glass sticking out of his mouth and the doctor waiting impatiently for it, to what great trouble the makers of the thermometer have gone to make the instrument accurate. The things necessary in a good clinical thermometer are, first and above all, one that reads accurately; secondly, one that will show the temperature change in the shortest possible time; thirdly, one that will not carry germs, and fourthly, it must be self registering.

The self registering device is ingenious. It shows the highest temperature to which the thermometer has been subjected and does not "come back" till put back by the physician. Just above the mercury bulb there is a smaller bulb, nothing more than a widening of the tube. Above this is a contraction in the glass, making the tube very small indeed. When the mercury expands it is forced up through this contraction by the enormous pressure of heat expansion, but when it cools off and starts to come back with nothing pulling it but its weight, it cannot come. The physician, after looking at it, generally gets it back by holding it in his hand, bulb outward, and describing a semicircle very quickly with his arm. The centrifugal force here developed is greater than the weight of the mercury and so brings it back.

The United States government, through its bureau of standards, took an interest in the accuracy of clinical thermometers on the market and requested several firms to submit samples for inspection. All did so and awaited with anxiety the result of the bureau's tests. It was found that a large number of the ones submitted did not agree with recognized standards and that their accuracy was therefore none too great. So the bureau undertook to examine and fully test all thermometers got out, at small cost, and to put on them the mark of the bureau, which guarantees their accuracy at the time of testing and their continued accuracy within small limits for the rest of the time. Their inability to guarantee accuracy after testing is due to the unknown factor of glass contraction, due to cooling from excessive heat in their manufacture.

On the end of every thermometer tested, therefore, are to be found etched in the glass the letters B. S. and following them the serial number of that particular thermometer, so that whenever it is desirable or necessary one can always see whether or not he is using a government tested instrument.—New York Tribune.

### Dames of the Revolution.

The Society of Dames of the Revolution was organized in 1896. Its membership is composed of women above the age of eighteen, of good moral character, who are descended from an ancestor who, either as a military, naval or marine officer, or official in any one of the original thirteen colonies or states, assisted in establishing American independence during the war of the Revolution between April 19, 1775, when hostilities commenced, and April 19, 1783, when they were ordered to cease. The chief aim of the society, apart from the cultivation of patriotic sentiment, is to preserve as well as possible the history of the Revolutionary war.

### A Divorce Suit Ruined.

"Poor thing, she is terribly worried."

"What's the matter?"

"Her divorce case comes up tomorrow."

"And she dreads the publicity, I presume?"

"Not at all. Her dressmaker promised her a new velvet gown for the occasion, but she called her up today and said she is afraid she can't finish it. You know nothing prejudices a woman in a divorce case like an old gown."—Detroit Free Press.

### Man.

Man is of earth, but his thoughts are with the stars. Mean and petty his wants and his desires, yet they serve a soul exalted with grand, glorious aims—with immortal longings—with thoughts which sweep the heavens and wander through eternity. A pygmy standing on the outward crest of this small planet, his far-reaching spirit stretches outward to the infinite and there alone finds rest.—Carlyle.

### The Largest Flower.

The rafflesia of Sumatra is said to be the largest and most magnificent flower in the world. It is composed of five roundish petals, each a foot across and of a red color, covered with numerous irregular, yellowish white swellings. The petals surround a cup nearly a foot wide.

### The Age of an Egg.

In a glass of water the fresh egg will assume a horizontal position. The egg of three to five days makes with the horizon an angle of 30 degrees. The angle increases to 45 degrees for an egg eight days old, to 75 for one of three weeks, and at thirty days the egg rests on its point.—London Globe.

### THE NAME "MARK TWAIN."

Story of How the Famous Humorist Came to Adopt It.

In Harper's Albert Bigelow Paine tells how the great humorist, Mark Twain, first really adopted the name when writing for a Nevada newspaper in 1863.

"He was not altogether satisfied. His letters, copied and quoted all along the coast, were unsigned. They were easily identified with one another, but not with a personality. He realized that to build a reputation it was necessary to fasten it to an individuality—a name.

"He gave the matter a good deal of thought. He did not consider the use of his own name. The nom de plume was the fashion of the time. He wanted something brief, crisp, definite, unforgettable. He tried over a good many combinations in his mind, but none seemed convincing. Just then—this was early in 1863—news came to him that the old pilot he had wounded by his satire, Isaiah Sellers, was dead. At once the pen name of Captain Sellers recurred to him. That was it—that was the sort of name he wanted. It was not trivial; it had all the qualities. Sellers would never need it again. Clemens decided he would give it a new meaning and new association in this faraway land. He went up to Virginia City.

"Joe," he said to Goodman, "I want to sign my articles. I want to be identified to a wider audience."

"All right, Sam. What name do you want to use—Josh?"

"No; I want to sign them 'Mark Twain.'" It is an old river term, a leadman's call, signifying two fathoms, twelve feet. It has a richness about it; it was always a pleasant sound for a pilot to hear on a dark night; it meant safe water."

"It was first signed to a Carson letter bearing date of Feb. 2, 1863, and from that time was attached to all Samuel Clemens' work. The work was neither better nor worse than before, but it had suddenly acquired identification and special interest. Members of the legislature and friends in 'Virginia' and Carson immediately took it up, and within a period to be measured by weeks he was no longer 'Sam' or 'Clemens' or 'that bright chap on the Enterprise,' but 'Mark'—'Mark Twain.' No nom de plume was ever so quickly and generally accepted as that."

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