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## FIGURE PROBLEMS

Gems That Are to Be Found in the Old Arithmetics.

ALL OF THEM "PRACTICAL."

That Was What the Inquisitive Boy's Father Told Him, and the Lad Started Out to Verify the Statement—The "Practical" Examples He Dug Up.

Was education more practical a generation ago, or did John's father study his books more thoroughly than John does? John is a seventh grade student in the public schools. He asked his father to help him solve the following problem:

"A. asked how much money he has in the bank, replied, 'If I had \$10 more I would have \$1,000 more than half what I now have.' How much money had A.?"

"Such a fool problem," said the father. "Tell that teacher to ask the cashier. You have been pestering me with problems like that for a week. Suppose your teacher asked you how old you are. Would you tell her 'If I were ten times as old as I am, diminished by forty-two, I would be thirty years older than dad, and if dad were one-fourth as old as he now is he would be my age?' What would your teacher do if you answered in such a manner? In my day we had practical problems in our arithmetic."

In order to investigate his father's statement John went to the public library and asked for an old arithmetic. The librarian gave him Richard's Natural Arithmetic. He turned to the page marked "Practical Exercises" and read:

"A. puts his whole flock of sheep into three pastures. Half go into one pasture, one-third into another and thirty-two into a third. How many in the flock?"

"That's queer," said John. "Practical exercises too. Here is a man who wants to find how many sheep he has. He counts them so he will know when he has half of them. This half he puts into a pasture. Then he counts out a third and puts it in another pen. Next he counts what's left and finds he has thirty-two. After a little figuring he finds how many in the whole flock. Very practical. I guess dad didn't study that book."

The next book he examined was Milne's Inductive Arithmetic, edition of 1870. In miscellaneous examples he found the following:

"Two ladders will together just reach the top of a building seventy-five feet high. If the shorter ladder is two-thirds the length of the other, what is the length of each?"

"Why didn't he measure each ladder separately?" John asked himself. "That problem is not practical. I guess dad is older than I thought. I want an older book."

The text written in 1808 was handed to him. The book was evidently influenced by the civil war, for it was filled with problems dealing with battering down fortifications and the sustenance of soldiers. One problem was:

"If twelve pieces of cannon (eighteen pounders) can batter down a fortress in three hours, how long will it take for nineteen twenty-four-pounders to batter down the same fortress?"

"That's fine for a general," John reflected, "but dad says that I am going to be a captain of industry."

Another arithmetic of the same date had the famous fish problem with which John's teacher had troubled him for six weeks before he himself finally explained it to the class. The fish problem is:

"The head of a fish is ten inches long. Its tail is as long as its head and one-half the body. The body is as long as the head and tail both. How long is the fish?"

Very handy problem for a butcher. John turned to the Common School Arithmetic, edition of 1853. "Here I'm sure to find something good," he reflected and read:

"A hare starts up twelve rods before a hound, but she is not perceived by him till she has been up one and one-fourth minutes. She runs at the rate of thirty-six rods a minute, and the hound runs at the rate of forty rods a minute. How long will the race last, and what will be the distance the hound runs?"

"What difference does it make how far the hound runs?" John asked as he turned to the Scholar's Arithmetic, edition of 1807. The present high cost of living made the first problem impractical for present day purposes. John concluded. The problem was as follows:

"If I give eighty bushels of potatoes at 21 cents a bushel and 240 pounds of flax at 15 cents a pound for sixty-four bushels of salt, what is the salt worth a bushel?"

Another problem was:

"A good man driving his guest to market was met by another, who said, 'Good morning, master, with your 100 geese.' Says he in reply, 'I have not 100 geese, but if I had half as many as I now have and two and one-half geese besides the number I now have already I should have 100.' How many geese had the man?"

How long would you permit a man to live if he made such an answer to you?

"Phew!" John sighed as he wiped his forehead and handed the book back to the librarian. "Dad must have skipped these practical problems."—Kansas City Star.

We are never so ridiculous by the qualities we have as by those we affect to have.—Rochefoucauld.

## PAWNSHOP LINGO.

A Business Chat Between a Customer and His Uncle.

Maybe you never had occasion to go to a pawnshop. Probably it's just as well. If you ever have gone there, though, you may have learned that the pawnshop has a lingo of its own.

Here is a conversation overheard—oh, a man told me about it—in a place on Ontario street.

A young man with a worldly wise expression had just walked in, unhooked a large gold watch from a chain and handed it to the man across the counter for inspection.

"How many do I cop on the chimer?" he inquired nonchalantly.

"Cough your figure," said the duck behind the counter.

"Would four snubucks find you in the front parlor?"

"Not so, my cheeld. I c'n get a dray load of 'em for forty."

"Aw, well, pass me over sixty Mexicans, then."

"Nope. Come again. Thirty's too strong too."

"Say, bo, where do you think I gets this ticker—by findin' six out o' twelve faces in the picture?" inquired the young man with a disgusted leer.

"Anyhow, twenty-five's the rock figure. That goes. Nothin' less."

"Twenty-five on a gilt dial," murmured the money lender as he wrote out the ticket and the transaction was ended.

The next customer was a red haired youth with a forehead about one and one-eighth inch high and carrying a suit of clothes under his arm.

"How often for me happy toga?" he asked, spreading them out on the counter.

"Up to you."

"Bout four, then. They're gay ones."

"Split," said the other laconically.

"Better rake it down too. Can't play the high one."

"Whut—on'y a double on them giddy rags?" in a tone of injury.

"Two's the limit."

"You win." And, taking the two dollar bill and his ticket, he went his way.

—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

## FAULTS OF GOLFERS.

To Cure Them the Play of Experts Should Be Studied.

The common faults of the golfer may be named in the following order of importance: Swinging too quickly, taking the eye off the ball, holding the left hand under the club, keeping the hands too near the body and standing too near the ball.

The easiest, says Outing—indeed, the only satisfactory—way of curing all these faults is to go out and watch some first class experts play. If you cannot find any expert of the first class go for the best available.

This, of course, is rudimentary advice and certainly not original. The youngest caddy at St. Andrews has learned to request his master to keep his eye on the ball and not to press. The trouble is that no amount of book teaching will make you follow this advice.

There is only one way to hit a golf ball. You must watch a good player and imitate what he does. Most beginners make the serious mistake of taking lessons from professionals who watch their pupils play and try to correct them. The pupil would get twice as much good out of the lesson if he would watch the professional play and think as little as possible about himself.

The human being is naturally imitative. If you sit and watch a good tennis match between first class players you will unconsciously snub your stroke better the next time you take up a racket. With golf this is particularly true, because nothing is so important as the rhythmical timing of the stroke which distinguishes a good player from bad.

## Made a Social Outcast.

In court circles in England it is a serious matter to incur royal displeasure. The man or woman who does so intentionally ceases to be recognized by his majesty, which means social extinction. The offender's name is struck out of the visiting list of every person who is anybody in society, and should the offender be a man he is politely informed that his resignation from his club or clubs would not be out of place. No man or woman of social repute will in future know him, and if he be in the army or navy he has no option but to resign, for he will find himself cut dead by every one of his brother officers.—London M. A. P.

## His Own Hands.

A fashionable painter, noted for his prolific output, was discussing at a studio tea in New York a recent scandal in the picture trade.

"Look here, old man," said a noted etcher, "do you paint all your own pictures?"

"I do," the other answered botly, "and with my own hands too."

"And what do you pay your hands?" the etcher inquired. "I'm thinking of starting an art factory myself."

## Awaiting Her Chance.

Maud—I do wish Tom would hurry up and propose.

Ethel—But I thought you didn't like him.

Maud—I don't. I want to get rid of him.—Boston Transcript.

## In and Out.

Wigg—There seems to be quite a difference between a job and a situation. Wagg—Oh, yes. For instance, when a fellow loses his job he often finds himself in an embarrassing situation.—Philadelphia Record.

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