## Silly Idea Prevalent That Idleness Is Sin

America is the only country in the world where idleness is one of the seven deadly sins, according to Irwin Edman, novelist and essayist, writing in Harper's.

"With us leisure has been a melodramatic escape into excitement," he points out, "or a moralistic flight into self-improvement. We oscillate between night clubs and outlines of culture. Every one has at some time or other been present at a determinedly gay party. He has seen ordinarily quiet, intelligent people become willfully noisy and stupid. He has seen men and women, separately delightful and entertaining, prance about, loudly screaming vulgarities, acting like grown-up babies of the age. And his pain has been increased by a sense that none of these people cared to do the silly things they were doing. They drank more than they really wished to, and uttered hiccoughing nonsense that they themselves despised.

"Every one, likewise, has listened to a group of people at dinner or afterward, talk with obligatory boredom about the modish books and plays and ideas. Spontaneity, which is the essence of any truly spiritual life, flies out of the conversation and out of the window when 'culture' becomes deliberate."

## Message Not Exactly Connected With Love

"You are wanted on the telephone," said friend stenog as she laid aside her powder puff and moved her vanity case to one side.

He responded.

"Is that you?" he asked in his best · voice.

"This is I," she responded.

"You don't know how happy I am to hear from you. You have brightened my whole day by calling." "What's that?"

"Oh, is that you, Hattle? I thought at first it was my sister."

"Yes, this is Hattie." He thought he detected a little ice in her voicehe wasn't just sure-but he thought so, "I wish that on the way home you'd stop in the market and bring home that salt mackerel I ordered. The clerk told me it would be a late delivery and I wanted it for supper." -Berkshire Eagle.

## "Shopping" Made Easy

Probably nowhere, unless it is in China, is the wandering vendor of evcrything imaginable so numerous as in Siam, where nearly every small householder does all his or her shopping at home. The wares offered from door to door cover a wide range, passing from beans and the smallest forms of foodstuffs on to combs, footgear and other necessities of life. Garments of all kinds, too, and the material for at department store prices.

Official health figures attest that the to the standard of those handled by and rectal ailments. stores, says the Bangkok (Slam) Daily habitants.

## Pocket Sundial

A pocket sundial is among the many curios in the collection at Old Courthouse, Hampton court, where Christopher Wren Hved.

It has a hinged style with a movable pointer. At the top end is a compass and on the back are the names of several towns in various countries, each indicated by a num-

To tell the time at any particular place, the number of the town is ascertained from the list at the back, and the style adjusted so that the pointer corresponds to the number of the town. The dial is then turned so that it faces north, and the time is given on the dial.-London Tit-

## "Ask Me Another"

Questions were being put to an Indianapolis lad, age six, from one of the intelligence test books with which saleswomen canvas the neighborhoods, and he wondered why his answers to two of the questions brought laughter.

Here are the actual questions and answers:

"From what animal do we get pork?"

"The porcupine."

"What do we get from bees?"

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Athena, Oregon. Pasture-I have good pasture for a few head of stock until harvest at 10c per head per day. Ralph Allen.

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## Cold Responsible for Error of Stevenson's?

Robert Louis Stevenson never was in sympathy with those to whom snow and ice brought joy. During a cold spell in Edinburgh he wrote: "I feel fit for little else besides prayer. I can not be comforted; my wits are frozen. . . . Life is an amusement totally unsuitable for winter. I place a claim to immortality on that phrase. How can you mind about Shelley? You wouldn't if you were as cold as I am."

It may have been this loathing of cold which, by some psychological twist, betrayed Stevenson's wits into his worst literary blunder, the Manchester Guardian suggests. When Marcel Schowb sought permission to translate "The Master of Ballantrae," Stevenson implored him to make a variation in the original.

"Pray do not let Mrs. Henry thrust the sword up to the hilt in the frozen ground," he wrote; "one of my inconceivable blunders, an exaggeration to stagger Hugo. Say she sought to thrust it into the ground."

## Much Good in Laughter

Laughter is to life what yeast is to bread. It is a leaven that lightens and makes palatable an otherwise sodden, lifeless mass. Don't be afraid to smile and "pep" things up a little.

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Joe Sheoships, Gibbon. D. I. Wagenblast, Portland. Remember above date, that con-sultation on this trip will be free and that his treatment is different. Married women must be accomp-

anied by their husbands. Address: 224 Bradbury Bldg., Los Angeles, California.

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### Few Readers Who Do Not Enjoy Pictures

There is a Chinese proverb, the purport of which is: "One picture is worth a thousand words," says Rear

which they are going to read.

asked what was wrong.

"Be-be-because you are growing cold towards me. You don't love me any more!"

could-you say that?"

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Admiral Snow in the Antiquarian Magazine. A reason for this saying, centuries old, may lie in the fact that the written language of the Chinese peoples, though truly pictorial, can only be mastered by prodigious exercise of the memory. However out of perspective are their drawings and pictures, it is much easier to gain an idea of a situation from one of their pictures than it is to commit to memory the Chinese ideographs used to

describe the episode. The oriental people are not, however, alone in their estimation of the value of illustrations as a means of quickly conveying information. Any occidental who has observed at all carefully the action of children upon picking up a new book, or running through a favorite old one, must have remarked their inclination, first and last, is to look through the pages and, from the pictures scanned with concentrated attention, fix in their minds the persons, places and incidents about

We are often told that "grown-ups" are very much like children wearing a mask. In looking at pictures or old prints we older people do gain useful information and experience much pleasure; we are like children.

### Inattentive

Suddenly a cloud seemed to overcast the bride's features and with an anxious note in his voice the groom

"What is it?" he cried, tremendously perturbed. "Why are you sobbing like that?"

"Oh, my dear," he walled, "how

"Well," she said, "I saw you look out of the window twice."

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