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The Officer (after a complaint)—This tea's all right. What's the complaint?

Tommy—It ain't tea, sir; it's stoo! The Officer—And very nice stoo!—London Sketch.

Optical Astonishments.

"Seeing is believing," said the ready-made philosopher.

"Not always, when you are looking at the movies."—Washington Star.

Falling in Line.

"I am going to a preparedness meeting, my dear, of our club."

"All right, William. You had better leave me all the loose change you have about you."—Baltimore American.

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QUESTION OF FINANCE

MORE WAYS THAN ONE OF GETTING A CHECK CASHED.

Proof That There is Always, to the Ingenious, a Possibility of Getting Around the Soul-Chilling Edict "Insufficient Funds."

He was in high spirits as he strolled whistling down Central Park West.

It was spring; his health was good, the sun was shining brightly, the birds in the park were twittering merrily, and in a poker session the night before he had won \$276, of which \$76 was in cash. In an inside pocket a check for \$200, the balance of his winnings, nestled against his heart.

He reached the bank on which the \$200 check had been drawn and blithely swung through the doors, indorsed the paper and presented it at the paying teller's window.

There was a pause while the teller got busy with his books. In a moment he was back at the window:

"Insufficient funds," he said.

The sun was obscured behind black clouds, the birds in the park were squawking horribly, forgotten pains began to remind our hero of their existence.

If the maker of the check was the kind of man who would give an N. O. check to pay a poker loss, he was surely not the kind of man who would make good later, thought the holder of the worthless paper. Then he had an idea. He asked the teller how much the check's maker had on deposit, but the teller refused to inform him; saying it was against the rules.

Over on a park bench our hero pondered his problem. At length he reached a solution.

The check's maker was in the theatrical business. Our hero visited a press agent of his acquaintance and got a couple of complimentary tickets. Then he visited the bank again. From the special guard he learned the paying teller's name.

Then he wrote a note to the paying teller, enclosing the theater tickets, and to it he signed the name of the maker of the check. He sent the note and tickets by special messenger to the teller.

Then after waiting half an hour he called up the bank and asked to talk to the teller. When he was connected he gave the name of the maker of the check, talked pleasantly for a moment about the theater tickets he had just sent, and then asked how large his balance was.

The teller, glad to do the favor to one who had just sent him two theater tickets, answered:

"One hundred and forty-three dollars," he said.

Our hero after a comment or two hung up the receiver and walked straight around to the bank.

Here he questioned the receiving teller to make sure there would be no slip in his plan.

"Can I deposit money to another man's account?" he asked.

"Certainly," said the receiving teller. "We're always glad to get money from everybody."

Our hero then made out a deposit slip for \$60, under the name of the maker of the check, and shoved the slip and \$60 through the receiving teller's window.

Then he walked to the paying teller with his \$200 check.

"I'd like cash for this," he said.

The paying teller looked at the check and repeated his "insufficient funds," but our hero said loftily:

"Pardon, but a deposit which makes the check good was just received."

The paying teller looked it up and found this to be correct, so there was nothing left for him to do but pay out the money. At a cost of \$60 our hero had made a bad check for \$200 good.

Again was the sun shining and again were the birds twittering.

Mongoose Rat-Catcher.

Accidentally I found the chemist's method of dealing with the rat. His shop was—one presumes—full enough of poison to send the whole street to the cemetery. But he pinned his faith to a small animal, which was taking a siesta on the best chair. A mongoose, he explained, as he carefully stroked its tail. Now how many mongooses (if that is the plural) are required to deal with how many rats?

And where do you get a mongoose, and what do you feed him on—if he wants anything but rats?—London Chronicle.

How to Cool Water.

Travelers in desert lands carry water bags of heavy canvas or linen duck. These bags, when filled, constantly "sweat" or exude enough moisture to cool the contents of the bag by evaporation. Wet canteens do the same. A covered pail or other vessel may be used; wrap cloths around it, keep them wet, and hang in a current of air.—Outing.

Panama is rising three feet in each century.

JAPS KNOW NO PROFANITY

Their Language Contains No "Swear-words," Unfortunately So Common in the West.

The Jap is always polite, but once in a while he slips from grace—and when he does he is up against it, for there are no swearwords in the Japanese language, says a writer in Leslie's Weekly. When a Japanese meets you he bows three times and takes off his hat, but does not shake hands. When he greets you his first concern is about your ancestors and next about your stomach. It would be almost an open insult for one Japanese to meet another without asking him how his stomach fared. On the third bow he asks: "This morning, how is it with your honorable inside?" As you come up on your third bow you answer to the effect that the place mentioned is doing as well as could be expected and in turn ask him what news he has from the front. Then he lifts his hat again and says: "Your delightful head this morning. I hope it have no commotion." When you tell him that you are pleased to report that it feels well this morning he asks about a few generations of honorable ancestors and then you are free to take up the weather.

Even though they are elaborately polite, once in a while one Japanese will get mad at another. Their anger kindles slowly at first, finally fanning to a blaze that knows no staying. But even though there is a torrent of emotion seething in his soul there are no words to give it vent; it keeps surging harder and harder until it throws aside all restraint and gives up all idea of decency by putting into one phrase all his bitterness and snapping squarely into the other man's astonished face the worst thing that can be said in the whole language: "Your stomach is not on straight!" This is the final insult; nothing more can be added—he has cast the glove. There is nothing left for him to do but to give his enemy a cutting look, turn on his heel and haughtily clap-clap away on his wooden shoes.

If Civilians Learn to Shoot. Civilian rifle clubs are lately receiving much attention. They have developed a number of men who are excellent shots with 22-caliber rifles, indoors, at a distance of 50 to 75 feet.

Comparatively few, however, are able to handle the modern high-powered 30-caliber United States magazine rifle and hit a target 1,000 yards away. Moreover, even were all our men good shots, it must be remembered that shooting is merely one of the important parts of a soldier's training, and that it is a very small part.

The soldier who can do nothing but shoot has about the same relative value as a polo player who can sit on a fence and wield a mallet skillfully, but who can't ride a horse.—Capt. Richard Stockton, Jr., in Collier's Weekly.

Sunday and Holiday Spring.

Is it not Isaac Walton who tells of a river in Palestine that never flowed on Sunday? A strictly veracious story to match this is told in a recent number of the Proceedings of the Connecticut Society of Civil Engineers by Mr. Robert E. Horton. It appears that in the red sandstone of the Passaic valley there is a spring, located in a picnic ground, which formerly flowed perpetually. Its habits have changed, and it now flows only on Sundays and holidays. The mystery is easily explained: A number of artesian wells were bored into the sandstone in the vicinity of the spring to supply water to adjacent silk dyeing establishments. Except on Sundays and holidays, when the pumps are not running, the artesian slope is drawn below the level of the spring outlet and the spring ceases to flow.—Scientific American.

Book of Mormon.

Joseph Smith published his work known as "The Book of Mormon" in the year 1830. He claimed that the work was a transcript, under divine guidance, of certain golden plates buried in central New York, the existence of which had been supernaturally revealed to him by an "angel from heaven."

When Moving Rugs.

In packing rugs, when moving, I always sprinkle with powdered alum and fold a few moth balls in when rolling them. Then, if not used immediately, as is sometimes the case, there is no danger of their being destroyed by pests.—The Mother's Magazine.

Acquiring Mohammedan Title.

Any Mohammedan who commits the whole of the Koran to memory is given the title of Hafiz.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

Worry's Evil Effects.

What rust is to iron, worry is to these bodies of ours—it corrodes them Selected.

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Comforter.

Dr. Bates Bingham of Boston, on his return home from doing ambulance work in France, was asked by a reporter his opinion of a German note. "There is no more real satisfaction," the distinguished physician replied, "or comfort in it than there was in the blacksnake's ruse."

"A Pike county mother once left her little one seated outside the shack and pulling on a full milk bottle when a blacksnake came gliding up.

"The snake nestled close to the child, drew the rubber nipple from its mouth and proceeded to drink the milk; but at the same time the snake did not forget to slip the end of its tail gently between the infant's lips by way of a comforter."

Rub it In Thoroughly.

A sprain or strain should have immediate attention to check the swelling. Rub on, and rub in thoroughly Hanford's Balsam of Myrrh and you should have quick relief. Always have a bottle on hand for accidents. Adv.

Plain Enough.

"How do you like America, count?" "Quite much, but your figures of speech are somewhat hard to understand. Now, when it dawns upon you

"You begin to see daylight!" explained the other man.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Wisdom.

During a lesson on elementary composition a little girl read the following as her effort:

"Once a Penny and a Shilling met in a man's pocket. The Shilling turned up its nose at the Penny, and said, scornfully:

"'Why, I am worth a dozen of you.'"

"'Yes,' said the Penny, 'but even at that I am a good bit better than you are. I go every Sunday to church, and you never do.'"

—London Tit-Bits.

Use Hanford's Balsam when all else fails. Adv.

Same Line.

"When I was a boy," said the gray-haired physician, who happened to be in a reminiscent mood, "I wanted to be a soldier; but my parents persuaded me to study medicine."

"Oh, well," rejoined the sympathetic druggist, "such is life. Many a man with wholesale aspirations has to content himself with a retail business."—London Tit-Bits.

To keep clean and healthy take Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Pellets. They regulate liver, bowels and stomach.

Now's Their Chance.

"And so you are convinced, my friend," asked the curate, "that there is a place of eternal punishment?"

"I am," replied the uncharitable parishioner. "There's nothing in this world bad enough for some people."—Browning's Magazine.

For corks use Hanford's Balsam. Adv.

Poor Picking.

"What's the matter?" asked the first flea. "You looked starved."

"They are making these toy dogs so natural," explained the other flea, "that I arranged to summer on one of them by mistake."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Innuendo.

"Wombat says he tries to put as good a face on things as possible."

"He's the man to paint your portrait, old top."—Kansas City Journal.

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Granulated Eyelids. Eyes inflamed by exposure to Sun, Dust and Wind quickly relieved by Marine Eye Remedy. No Smarting, Just Eye Comfort. At Your Druggist's 50c per Bottle. Marine Eye Salve in Tubes 25c. For Book of the Eye Free Ask Druggists or Marine Eye Remedy Co., Chicago

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"The Wogges seem to have a high opinion of themselves."

"Yes. You see the same cook has consented to remain in their employ for three or four years. So they feel entitled to think that they are rather nice people."—Washington Star.

Ask your dealer for the free booklet, "Useful Hints for Horse Owners," issued by G. C. Hanford Mfg. Co., Syracuse, N. Y., manufacturers of Hanford's Balsam of Myrrh. Adv.

No Alibi.

"The war is doing me a good turn, anyhow."

"In what way?"

"I don't have to think up excuses for not taking my family to Europe this summer."—Detroit Free Press.

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