

LET US SMILE.

The thing that goes the furthest toward making life worth while, that costs the least and does the most is just a pleasant smile. The smile that bubbles from a heart that loves its fellow men will drive away the clouds of gloom and ease the sun again. It's full of worth and goodness, too, with many kindnesses blended; it's worth a million dollars, and it doesn't cost a cent.

There is no room for sadness when we see a cheery smile; it always has the same good look; it's never out of style. It serves us on to try again when failure makes us blue; the smiles of encouragement are good for us and you. It pays a higher interest, for it is merely lent; it's worth a million dollars, and it doesn't cost a cent.

A smile comes very easy; you can wrinkle up with cheer a hundred times before you can squeeze out a sorry tear. It ripples out, moreover, to the heartstrings that will tug. And always leaves an echo that is very like a hug. So smile away. Folks understand what by a smile is meant. It's worth a million dollars, and it doesn't cost a cent.

—Baltimore American.

ETHICS OF THE KITCHEN.

In the Big Restaurants the Chef Exercises Military Discipline.

"The cooks employed by the four or five big New York restaurants form an interesting coterie," said the old restaurateur. "They are a clannish set and guard the secrets of their profession most jealously. Like the best waiters, they are of Swiss or French birth and have learned all they know about cooking on the other side. Their esprit de corps is remarkable, but perhaps no more remarkable than the almost military discipline which the chef exercises in his relations to his assistants.

"As you probably know, the cooks, as a rule, receive so much a month and 'found'—that is, they are given their meals. With their meals they have what they want to drink, and, strange to say, it is generally beer. When the meal is ready, no one sits down until the chef has taken his place at the head of the table and given the signal, like the interlocutor in a minstrel show. On the chef's right is seated the assistant chef, and on his left is the 'son of the house,' provided that the proprietor has a son, who is learning the business of restaurant keeping from its practical side, and this is not so unusual as it may appear.

"But to return to the chef. In addition to being the absolute ruler of the kitchen, he has the unique distinction of wearing a starched cap, jacket and apron. The other cooks wear garments which are not starched. The only other person who is permitted to don starched clothing is the son of the house. If one of the cooks, the sauce-cook, for example, should dare to appear in the kitchen with his cap stiff and glossy instead of limp and dull, somebody would be discharged, and it wouldn't be the chef. So you see that there are tricks in all grades and traditions in all callings."—New York Mail and Express.

Straightening Sticks.

In some parts of Europe roots are specially cultivated for the growth of straight sticks, to be used as walking and umbrella sticks, and great care is exercised to keep them straight. But, as a general thing, the sticks have to be straightened artificially.

A quantity of sand is placed on the top of a hot stove, and in this heated sand the sticks are buried until they become pliable. The workman takes the crooked stick, inserts it in a notch cut in a stout board which lies at an angle inclined from him and bends it until it becomes straight. It is then allowed to cool and become rigid. The degree of heat must be regulated according to the wood, for a temperature which will do nicely for one stick will quite spoil another.

A similar process is adopted in bending bamboo canes and all the various kinds of sticks that are required to be curled or twisted.

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GAS MANTLES.

How They Are Made, and Why They Do Not Burn.

Probably no one who has seen the shiny white mantle that hangs about the flame of the up to date gaslight has failed to wonder of what material this noncombustible affair is made. It looks so like tissue paper that, despite reason, one almost expects it to flash up in flame at any moment.

It is made of an ash consisting mainly of the oxides of certain rare metals. These metals are lanthanum, yttrium, zirconium and others, which are rendered incandescent by heating to a high temperature.

A six cord cotton thread is woven on a knitting machine into a tube of knitted fabric of a rather open mesh. This web has the grease and dirt thoroughly washed out of it, is dried and is cut into lengths double that required for a single mantle. It is then saturated in a solution containing the requisite oxides, wrung out, stretched over spools and dried. Next the double length pieces are cut into two, the top of each piece is doubled back and sewed with a platinum wire, which draws the top in and provides a means of supporting the mantle when finished from the wire holder.

After stretching the mantle over a form, smoothing it down and fastening the platinum wire to the wire mantle holder the mantle is burned out by touching a Bunsen burner to the top. The cotton burns off slowly, leaving a skeleton mantle of metallic oxides, which preserves the exact shape and detail of every cotton fiber. The soft oxides are then hardened in a Bunsen flame.

A stronger mantle is made upon lacemaking machinery.—Exchange

Strange Reciprocity.

What do you think of an alliance between a plant and an ant, a veritable reciprocal treaty, whereby the plant furnishes food for the ant and the ant furnishes protection for the plant? This is an actual existing relation in Australia, where a small, pugnacious ant and the bull's horn thorn live together under really remarkable conditions.

But for the plant the ant would be without food, and but for the ant the plant would be destroyed by several varieties of insects that attack its leaves.

The reciprocal plan and agreement are this: The thorn at the end of each leaf has a pair of hollow horns, around which is secreted a substance fitted for food for the ant and which is renewed by the plant as rapidly as it is consumed. In these horns the ant lives and finds his natural nourishment within easy reach.

He objects emphatically to the presence of other insects, and as soon as any of the little enemies of the plant alight on the leaf which he has pre-empted he darts from his home in the thorn and makes such a fierce attack on the intruder that he is glad to make a hurried escape or else loses his life in the attempt to hold his position.

Ends of Counterfeit Bills.

At a down town bank the other day I saw a teller counting a pile of bills, each one of which was upside down.

"Why do you hold them that way?" I asked.

"So as to view their left ends rather than their right ends," he answered. "It is natural to hold a pile of bills with your left hand and to turn them back with the right hand as you count. Counterfeiters know this, and so they are more careful with the work at the right hand end of the face. First impressions go a great way in judging of money, so they try to make it as favorable as possible. Of course, the safe way is to carefully examine all portions of a bill, but when counting rapidly I use this method."—New York Herald.

Miss Helen Grier.

Suitor—Pray, don't cry! I assure you I will love, cherish and protect your daughter, sir.

Prospective Father-in-law—Oh, rats! It isn't that! I am supporting two sons-in-law now!—Ohio State Journal.

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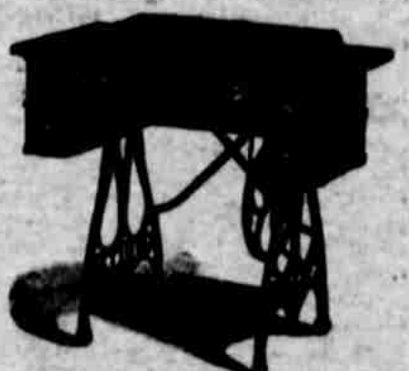
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