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**FLATFISHES' EYES.**

**A Migration Which Takes Place After the Creatures' Birth.**

Flatfishes keep their white and blind side on the muddy or sandy bottom and pretend that the upper and speckled side is a part of that bottom. This they do to avoid observation, for in spite of their awkward shape they are swallowed at sight by pertinacious enemies, to the manifest discomfort of both. A greedy cormorant curling up and attempting to swallow a plaice, which tries to be as disobliging as possible, affords an object lesson not soon forgotten on the way not to behave at mealtimes. But the bird usually succeeds in its object, and the flatfish, in spite of persistent efforts to retain its natural form, at last disappears down the round, elastic throat of the cormorant. With a view to avoid unpleasantnesses of this kind, soles are wont to hide themselves in the sand, keeping only their eyes above the surface to act as sentinels.

In reality the dark surface of a sole, plaice or turbot is its side and not its back. It is true that both eyes are visible, which is not the case when a mackerel or a conger is laid on its side, but this is simply owing to the fact that one eye of a flatfish has since the creature's birth passed across what we may call the bridge of its nose to keep company with the other eye.

The wandering eye begins its migration at a very early age—so early, indeed, that it is a little difficult to detect it on its journey. A plaice a fifth of an inch in length and 5 days old carries one eye on each side of its nose. When three-fifths of an inch long and about 2 months old, the left eye has crossed over to the right side. Lemon soles when one inch long or 2 months old have the left eye on the edge of the head, but when double that size and 4 months old both eyes are found on the right side. A sole assumes its lopsided aspect by the time it has been hatched 2 months. When a turbot is half an inch in length, the right eye just begins to peep over the center arch of the bridge, at three-quarters of an inch it is half way across, and at an inch the passage is complete and the two eyes look out from the left side of the head.—Longman's Magazine.

**AN ABANDONED FARM.**

**It Surely Was Hard and Stony Land, and No Exaggeration.**

She was on the witness stand in her own behalf, being also defendant in the action. She was a sturdy widow, hard working, shrewd in a deal and garrulous. A landlord was suing for back rent on a little farm she had abandoned.

"You say that the land was hard and sour and sterile?" suggested the attorney for the plaintiff.

"That's what I said, only I wasn't so persnickily about it, and I'll say more."

"Just a moment, please. We want evidence, not opinions. Did you raise anything on this land of yours?"

"Land of ours!" with a sniff. "You never owned a thimbleful of it. Yes, I did raise things on it. It took two hills to raise a bean and a whole row of corn to raise a nubbin. I raised a cabin. I raised a pigpen, and I tried to raise a goat, but it starved to death, poor thing! That ground wouldn't raise dog fennel or even Canada thistles."

"Don't exaggerate, please. You say the soil was sour?"

"I couldn't exaggerate about that ground if I was a lawyer. In the morning when the dew was steaming off in the sunshine you'd think you was lying next door to a pickle factory. I kept my sugar in an airtight jar."

"Pshaw! That's ridiculous. I suppose the ground was so hard you could not blast it?"

"Nothing of the kind. I'm here to tell the truth. I'll tell you how hard that ground was. I had to crop my set onions out with a hatchet, and a big gander I bought broke his neck trying to pull a tuft of spear grass." The landlord did not recover.—Detroit Free Press.

**Bedrooms and Breathing.**

While no scientist, I think, will recommend less than seven cubic feet of air each minute for an adult, Dr. Reed gives ten as the smallest amount that will meet the wants of the body. All of this, of course, is not absolutely used, only needed that purity may be secured. The average room—12 by 10 and 8 feet high—even if the room is empty, will consume only 900 cubic feet, or enough to supply air for one

person for about two hours. Now, when two or even four persons occupy such a room, the doors and windows closed to keep out the supposed "poisonous night air," it is not strange that the stench of vitiated air is overpowering to one who enters the room after breathing the pure air of heaven, such as the good Father intended for use.—Weekly Bouquet.

**A Hoisting Epitaph.**

The following epitaph is to be found in Dalketh churchyard, over the grave of Margaret Scott:  
Sleep, passenger, until my life you read.  
The living may get knowledge by the dead.  
Five times five years I lived a maiden's life;  
Ten times five years I lived a widow's chaste.  
Now, weary of this mortal life, I rest.  
Between my cradle and my grave have been  
Eight mighty kings of Scotland and a queen.  
Four times five years the commonwealth I saw;  
Ten times the subjects rose against the law.  
Twice did I see old prelates pulled down,  
And twice the clock was hunched by the gown.  
An end of Stewart's race I saw; nay, more—  
My native country sold for English ore.  
Such demutations in my life have been;  
I have an end of all perfection seen.  
This lady was born in 1613 and lived to the age of 125 and, therefore, must have lived through the following list of rulers: James I., Charles I., the commonwealth of Oliver Cromwell as protector, Charles II., James II., William III and Mary, Anne, George I and George II.—London Chronicle.

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