Originally "Jaws' Harp"

The name, Jew's harp, is probably a corruption of the original name of this simple musical instrument, jaw's harp, so called because when in use it is held between the jaws. A musician named Charles Eulenstein produced remarkable effects with Jews' harps at the Royal Institute, London, on February 15, 1828.

Record for Bad English

The record for bad English is still held by a man who was not long ago a governor of one of our large states. He performed the unusual feat of making three grammatical errors in a sentence composed of two words: "Them's them!"—Scribner's Magazine.

Madame Le Brun.

Mme. Le Brun was a French painter who gained considerable reputation in Paris. Her paintings, historical pieces as well as portraits, were exhibited in the Louvre. Mme. de Genlis speaks of the talents of Mme. Le Brun with much warmth of praise, and complains that the men "sought to depreciate her paintings because she was a woman."—Cicago Journal.

Universal Force.

Force, force, everywhere force! We ourselves a mysterious force in the center of that. There is not a leaf rotting in the highway but has force in it; how else could it rot?—Thomas Carlyle.

Chase Evil Spirits.

In many parts of South America wooden crosses are still erected on the outskirts of the towns and villages to frighten away the evil spirits.

Primitive Matches.

Early matches were called lucifers, and a match that would ignite by means of friction was invented by a man named Walker, of Stockton-on-Tees, England, in 1829. In March, 1842, Reuben Partridge took out a British patent for a machine for manufacturing the splints. All these early matches depended upon phosphorus for their lighting by means of friction. Safety matches were first brought out in 1862.

Apostle Man of Learning.

St. Paul was educated in all the learning of the Jewish doctors of the law, as he states himself. His addresses also show that he had a knowledge of classical literature, particularly the literature of the Greeks. There were many seats of learning in the East in his time. One, that we would call a university, was situated in his native city of Tarsus, in Cilicia.

Marriage Solemnity.

The two stages through which marriage has developed are: Marriage by force and marriage by contract. In the latter stage of development there was a solemn surrender of the bride by her guardian in the Anglo-Saxon marriage service. This ceremony is the prauung, and the custom of "giving away the bride" is traced to this solemn surrender.

The Earnest Man.

The earnest men are so few in the world that their very earnestness becomes at once the badge of their nobility; and, as men in a crowd instinctively make room for one who seems eager to force his way through it, so mankind everywhere open their ranks to one who rushes zealously toward some object lying beyond them.—Dwight.

Twig as Tooth Brush.

Kim, the little boy in Kipling's story, was an English orphan brought up as a native in India. He cleaned his teeth with a twig, chewing the fibers thoroughly to penetrate all crevices, and scrubbing energetically to remove tartar. Most East Indians have white, strong teeth.

Caledonian Art.

At pottery the Caledonians could not compare with the Romans, since the potter's wheel seems to have been unknown amongst them. But they almost excelled the "masters of the world" in their ornaments. The mountains yielded their craftsmen gold, silver, bronze, amber, rubies and rock crystals such as agate, jasper and cairngorms and jet. From these they made ornaments and weapons.

Height of Redwoods.

Two hundred and fifty-five feet is the average height of the big redwood sequoia tree, although specimens exceeding 320-feet with trunk diameter of 30 to 35 feet near the ground have been measured.

Keep Goal in Sight.

Let a man but have an aim, a purpose, and opportunities to attain his end shall start forth like buds at the kiss of spring.—Bishop Spalding.

Woods in Combination.

Gum and mahogany is not considered real mahogany. Only solid mahogany or solid mahogany with a mahogany veneer could be considered real mahogany. However, gum and birch with mahogany veneer is quite generally used.

Carbonated Drinks Popular.

Carbonated drinks, which were originated in 1807, in this country, have attained immense popularity here. More than 8,000,000,000 bottles are consumed yearly, according to the United States Department of Commerce figures.

A MODERN MARTYR

By SUSAN A. MATHER

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AFTER Philip Raymond M. D., was graduated from the medical school as a physician and surgeon, it took him but a few weeks to locate in a small suburb beyond Yonkers. A cottage with a neat little office, a cozy den, comfortable bedrooms and dining room and kitchen constituted his bachelor apartment. The house was just off the main business street of the village, and his swinging sign, brave in gold and black, could easily be seen by those who were passing along the thoroughfare. When he had spent all he dared of the small amount his education had left of his patrimony upon the furnishing of this little home, and had installed a capable Irish housekeeper, he felt at leisure to sit on the tiny porch with his book, behind the screen of the rambler rose, and watch for the messenger to ring the bell, ready to slip into the office and gravely receive the message himself if it were during office hours, or, if it were not, to listen while Bridget took the order and answered, "Ol'll tell the docthor whin he comes in." If the book sometimes slipped to the floor and the possible patient was forgotten in the vision of a certain dainty figure with laughing eyes, who should one day be near him when the bachelor quarters should swell to larger proportions—well, that is another story. Certainly, the office bell did not often disturb the day dreams.

The monotony of this life could not always last—it had to end one way or another. One day a group of laborers upon the trolley line which was to link the little suburb with what was destined to be the great chain of Greater New York had reached a point within the doctor's range of vision, when a sudden commotion among them aroused him at his station on the porch. Then he saw that a man had fallen, and, as one pointed to the doctor's sign, several others lifted him and brought him toward the house. Doctor Raymond received them with his most dignified manner, heard their report that the foreman of the gang—for it was he who had fallen—had eaten no lunch and seemed to be in pain—that after they had returned to work he had suddenly clapped his hand to his right side and dropped to the ground; that he lived by himself, and had no relatives, so far as they knew.

While the doctor listened he was hurriedly using restoratives and thoroughly examining his patient. He was soon convinced that an acute attack of appendicitis had caused the loss of consciousness, and that an operation should be performed at once.

His elation at having an opportunity to use his knowledge and skill was somewhat tempered by the severity of his patient's attack and the fact that he had neither trained assistants nor the conveniences of a hospital. However, it was impossible to evade a plain duty, and as there was no other physician nor any sort of a nurse to be had in less than two hours' time, he quickly improvised an operating table and gave such instructions to Bridget and two of the most intelligent-looking of the men as would enable them to help in the task.

The delicate operation was performed with complete success and the patient put to bed in the doctor's own apartment, for he dared not risk a removal. It was one of those cases where the appendix showed no sign of obstruction; indeed, there was an unusually healthy condition, which promised a safe and speedy recovery, especially as the patient was a strong man not over thirty years of age.

"He will need very little attention tonight," said the doctor, "and tomorrow morning I will procure a nurse. If he has friends who wish other medical attendance for him, they are at perfect liberty to send any one they choose."

"Faith, an' himself is all the frinds and rilatives he has," said one, "but it's mesilf will take wurrd to the boss."

The patient recovered consciousness quite suddenly, just as the doctor was beginning to feel uneasy at the prolonged state of coma which did not show any signs of yielding to his efforts.

"Wal, I've sure got a fine berth this time," suddenly greeted the doctor's ears. He turned quickly to the bed in time to see his man preparing to rise. "No! no!" expostulated Doctor Raymond. "Wait a moment and I will explain." Then, as gently as possible, the doctor told the man what had occurred. "Appendicitis! Appendix to the dictionary! and didn't ye go through my pockets?" "My good man, I'm not a highway robber," said the doctor beginning to fear that the patient's mind was unbalanced. "Wal, good Lord, I wish 't ye had 'a' bin. I'd be better off now with all my appendixes and suppelmunts, fur thn' wa'n't nuthin' in my pockets that I'd miss ef yed only stopped at them. Now, jess go look in the inside pocket to my coat, 'n' see what ye'll find." Doctor Raymond obeyed, and found a paper on which was written: "I have fits. Take off my coat and put me where it is cool and quiet. I'll come to in two or three hours."

"Ye see, Doc, I thought o' course they'd look in my pockets, ef I was took 'ith one o' my spells, to see where to take me or who my folks was. I ain't hed one now for nigh or five year; tho't mebbe I'd got shet of 'em. Anyhow, 'twouldn't do to tell the men—'twould queer me with 'em. But I'll be dummed ef I ever tho't of anybody cuttin' me up. I've had 'em ever sence I was a kid, 'n' they've done everything."

It seemed best for both his patient and himself to avoid conversation for the rest of the night, so, making him comfortable and telling him to call if he wished anything, Doctor Raymond lay down on a couch in his den. There was little danger that sleep would interfere with his duties as a nurse. The chagrin and mortification at his professional error was not his only trouble, though he realized what the result might be if the man wished to be disagreeable. Youth has strong confidence in itself, and he felt sure of being able, by starting anew elsewhere, to overcome any adverse criticism which might arise. But, alas! his finances would hardly bear the strain of entertaining the invalid, if he proved to be a guest instead of a paying patient, though no thought of this had entered Raymond's mind when he took the sufferer in as an act of common humanity; and so, if the small revenue his meager practice brought were cut off, and he must move and wait again, is it strange that the morning found him more haggard than his patient, who slept heavily until daylight?

As the doctor sat before his untasted breakfast, the Irish laborer brought a note from the superintendent, saying that Thomas Wheeler was a valuable man and the company would bear the expense of his illness and keep up his pay. The doctor was instructed to procure whatever help was needed to care for him properly. Raymond assured the man that the patient had passed a comfortable night, and that there was every reason to believe he would be out in two or three weeks' time. When the message and the good wishes of his fellow-laborers were repeated to Wheeler, he exclaimed: "Well, Doc, ye look's if ye was as much cut up 'bout this as I be, tho' it's all in yer feelin's in your case. Now, I've been doin' a spell o' thinkin' over this here situation, 'n' I do' know's it'll help matters any fer me to kick. My appendix is gone—can't never have appendiceetis now, for sure, that's one comfort. 'Twouldn't do me no good to tell folks that 'twa'n't your high-soundin' disease after all, jes' a plain, common fit, 'n' no use o' me losin' my sequel, 'n' I kin see how if might give you a mighty lot o' trouble. I'm havin' a vacation on full pay 'u' you're bein' put to all the onconvenience. So let's shake on it, Doc, 'n' we'll call it square. Mebbe it's helped yer git yer eye-teeth thru' a leetle further."

So the little household, with the addition of the invalid and his nurse, moved smoothly on for two weeks, when the patient was pronounced able to leave for his own lodgings. It was with real regret that Raymond bade him good-by.

Five years later, Doctor Raymond had become one of the visiting physicians at a large city hospital, when one day he was hurriedly called into the operating room to assist the chief surgeon with a case of appendicitis. The patient was prepared for the operation when Doctor Raymond entered, and they silently fell into their places and watched the skillful work. Everything proceeded as usual until the culminating point of the task was reached, when it was found that there was no appendix to be removed. As the man was being taken to a ward, a sudden suspicion caused Doctor Raymond to look intently at his face, and he recognized his old friend, Thomas Wheeler. It was not his duty to visit that ward, and he found no opportunity to speak with Wheeler until a few days before he was discharged from the hospital. The nurse left the bedside as Raymond passed, and he took the opportunity to step quietly before the patient.

"Wal, Doc, is it you?" he said. "'Twa'n't so strange ye made a mistake, boy as ye was, now, was it, when this here big gun went 'n' done the' same thing? 'N' I thought I had 'em fixed sure this time with a piece o' parchment sewed to my shirt; but I'll be dummed ef th' blamed sweat didn't blur the writin' so't they couldn't read it. I'll fix it some way tho' for the next time."

Again an ambulance responded to a hurry call, and a patient was taken at once to the operating room. The examination of the head physician confirmed the report of the emergency doctor: An acute attack of appendicitis. Immediate operation necessary.

Doctor Raymond was summoned. Suddenly, the nurse who was preparing the patient for the operating table exclaimed:

"Oh, doctor, please look at this!"

The surgeon stooped over the prostrate man and found tattooed across his abdomen these words:

"Stop. Don't cut. Appendix removed twice."

Stepping to the man's head he found again his old patient, about to be for the third time a martyr.

Indolent Readers

He who complains that he has no time to read is one who does not fundamentally care for making contact with the minds of others. We always find time to eat and sleep and to do other things that we consider necessary to the upkeep of our physical life. When we have realized that mental food is equally necessary to the maintenance of our intellectual life we shall take as much time as is necessary for reading also.—Dr. Arthur E. Bostwick in Current Opinion.

Zodiacal Light.

The sun is circled by a ring of matter, somewhat like the rings of Saturn, and extending into space for more than 100,000,000 miles, which is known to astronomers as the Zodiacal light.

Canadian Game Refuges.

In the northwest territory of Canada six game refuges with a total area of 261,800 square miles have been set aside for the exclusive use of Indians and Eskimos.

Weariness in Success.

Leisure and solitude are the best effects of riches, because the mother of thought. Both are avoided by most rich men, who seek company and business, which are signs of being weary of themselves.—Sir William Temple.

Prosperity in Sheep.

The ducal family of Marlborough of England prospered by raising sheep, having 20,000 head at one time.