

SCHOOL DAYS



WHO SAID

"Graves tell the truth scarce forty years?"

THIS expression of Sir Thomas Browne, the celebrated English physician and writer, is decidedly open to question. Every reader can cite instances where graves have failed to tell the truth in a considerably shorter period than 40 years. In fact, it is safe to say that in many cases graves fail to tell the truth at all. Death and the grave often serve to magnify the good traits of a person and raise him to a pinnacle of perfection in the eyes of the living that he could never have attained in life.

Sir Thomas Browne, however, was a man whose greatness has grown with the years. While the people of his own day did not appreciate his contributions to the knowledge of the world, succeeding generations have appreciated them and today he is regarded in his true light, as a benefactor of humanity.

Sir Thomas was the author of a work, "Pseudodoxia Epidemica," or a "Treatise on Vulgar Errors," in which he scored unmercifully the superstitions and errors that were popular regarding the science of medicine. In this work he did a great good, and it is safe to say his right to fame rests largely on this one book.

It is a strange thing, however, that despite the fact he wrote extensively on "vulgar errors," he was himself a believer in alchemy, witchcraft, and astrology. To him, by some unknown magic process, base metals could be turned to gold; certain persons were endowed with the powers of second sight and mysticism; and the stars, if read aright, could foretell the destiny of a man.

The works of Sir Thomas Browne earned him a high place among the learned men of his day and he conducted a voluminous correspondence with other noted men in England and on the continent. In 1605 he was made an honorary member of the College of Physicians, and in 1671 he was knighted by Charles II. Sir Thomas was born in London in 1605, and his death occurred in Norwich in 1682.—Wayne D. McMurray.

Among the NOTABLES

GEORG HEGEL

THE study of German philosophy and Germany's greatest philosophers is peculiarly interesting.

Georg Hegel, for instance, preached "the absolute superiority of the state, over those who laid hands on the established order of things, even when the state runs contrary to humanitarian sentiments." The state, in his philosophy, was supreme; the individual existed for it, instead of the state existing for the comfort and convenience of the individual, as democratic lands believe.

But Hegel himself did not at first believe this. He was a serious student, dubbed the "old man" even when he was a boy. One of his first works was a life of Christ in which he ignored the miraculous facts and ended with a query as to why this man should be the hope of humanity? He traveled with friends through a wonderful region of waterfalls, but took no interest in the trip. He at first, admired Napoleon and gloried in the fall of Prussianism, but later, when he rose from poverty to become a professor and wealthy professor at Berlin, his attitude changed.

Then it was, that he preached the state and the ruling class, and, needless to say his teachings brought him favor with the Junkers.

Hegel was born August 27, 1770. He died in a cholera plague in 1831. (© by George Matthew Adams.)

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

By F. A. WALKER

MENTAL INERTIA

IT IS the fine solid sort of man or woman, who by power or will alone can overcome the various ills or inertia which habitually cross his or her path, or stand on the highway of life like a common bandit and shout out: "Stand up and deliver!"

It matters not what course we may be pursuing in business or among professional callings, we are pretty sure at some time or another to come face to face with this form of sluggishness and drag along for days and days under its strange spell in spite of all the energy we can summon or all the good intentions we can muster to help us out of our difficulty. And when we finally emerge from the torpor, we realize that we have been in the clutches of an inertia that had slowed us down and frightened us until we were not our normal selves.

There is always in such a state as this, the nice critical moment of finding our bearings, breaking the heavy fetters and regaining again our old-time vitality and aggressiveness.

From timidity to boldness is but a short jump, but the man or woman who can make the leap, confident in his or her strength, is certain to land on solid ground, ready to fight the way to victory.

Those dull, blunt and passive persons whose mental faculties function slowly from habit can in a little while by well-directed, persistent effort become forcible, active and energetic.

But when they once set their faces toward an active life of usefulness they must not be persuaded to turn back to the old disease, or they will never get an inch beyond the boundary line that separates success from failure.

In point of fact, mental inertia is one of the most formidable obstructive and destructive forces with which the world has to reckon.

It creeps in upon the mind like a thief in the night. It lures its victims to delightful hopes and dangerous illusions and later taunts them for their lifeless incapacity.

Nor does mental inertia preach what it practices, for in its deplorable work it is ever alert in the pursuit of unsuspecting dupes, and never a moment during the fleeting years of time does it discontinue to dethrone and destroy. (© by McClure Newspaper Syndicate.)

THE YOUNG LADY ACROSS THE WAY



The young lady across the way says their coal dealer seems to be such a nice man and she is sure every ton he sells contains the full 1,500 pounds. (© by McClure Newspaper Syndicate.)

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Crime or Jest?

Not long ago a small box with an insufficient address was held up at an English post office. As the address could not be found it was opened and disclosed a parcel of bones, established to be human. The mystery was never cleared up. What crime it shrouded, or whether it was a joke on the part of some hospital student, must be left to conjecture.

Honor to Dead Soldier.

The War department says when a soldier is buried the following is the procedure: The body is lowered into the grave as the priest or minister reads a short service. Usually music is played or a hymn is sung. A bugle then sounds taps, after which a firing squad fires three round over the grave. The guns are pointed upward, in no particular direction. After the funeral party leaves the cemetery the cemeterial help closes the grave.

Ancient Pennies.

A silver penny struck during the reign of Ethelred H., the Unready, 979-1016, at Sudbury, England, where at that time there was a royal mint, has been presented to the borough by the town clerk. It passed into his possession several years ago, and he has ascertained on high authority that it is genuine. The coin has been deposited in the borough technical institute.

Money in Unsealed Packets.

The implicit faith of the public in the honesty of the post office is shown by the huge sums of money sent through this channel. One ordinary business letter, not stuck down, was found recently to contain a negotiable check for half a million. Frequently banks, and even private people, send unsealed letters with checks running into four and even five figures.

Rubens' Paintings.

Bryan in his "Dictionary of Painters and Engravers" says that the amount of Rubens' pictorial work was prodigious. A list records no fewer than 2,253, exclusive of 484 drawings. It was Rubens' practice to employ many student assistants. It is not possible to say exactly how many of the paintings are still in existence.

Exit Cant.

Honor to the strong man, in these ages, who has shaken himself loose of shams, and is something. For in the way of being worthy, the first condition surely is that one be. Let cant cease, at all risks and at all costs; till cant ceases, nothing else can begin.—Carlyle.

Earnings of Laziness.

Laziness begins with cobwebs and ends with iron chains.—Proverb.

Annapolis Gay City.

From a little settlement on the Severn in 1664, Annapolis grew in size and importance until it became the capital of Maryland. By 1750 it was famed for its gaudy and luxury and was often referred to as "The Paris of the Colonies."

Unable to Rescue Franklin.

Between 1847 and 1857, 39 expeditions were sent into the Arctic regions to find Sir John Franklin who set out for the North pole, May 19, 1845. The last one found relics of Franklin's expedition.

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How Easy the Public!

It is not notorious how small a fraction of society takes any interest in the conduct of public affairs? how important trades union issues, such as a strike, are left to be determined by a handful of the men who are vitally concerned? how great a part is played by catch-phrases and relatively unimportant local issues in our political elections?—The Right Hon. Herbert Fisher in the Common Weal.

Wild Guess.

The music teacher was trying to impress upon her pupils the meaning of F and FF in a song they were about to learn. After explaining the first sign, she said: "Now children, if F means forte, what does FF means?" "Eighty!" shouted an enthusiastic pupil.

Friars Left Names.

The Black friars, the White friars, and the Gray friars, whose names appear frequently in the topography and tales of London, were respectively the Dominican, the Carmelite and the Franciscan orders of friars.

Says Brother Williams.

Of course, Time ain't goin' to wait for you. Both of 'em has got business to attend to, and they've got to get there.—Atlanta Constitution.

It will aid greatly in cleaning the painted walls if they are gone over with thin uncooked starched water. Painted walls and woodwork can be cleaned easily and well by using equal parts of vinegar and kerosene. Wash with a cloth and dry with a dry cloth.

The first institution for the education of deafmutes in Germany was opened in 1778 at Lelpaic by Samuel Heinicke, whose experience as a teacher led him to devote all his time to the deaf and dumb.

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Simple Marriage Rite.

Marriage is celebrated in a strange fashion in some parts of India. The woman puts a pot of water in her prospective husband's house, and on his lifting it up the marriage is ratified.

Not Hampered by Cold.

One of the largest forests in the world, situated between the Ural mountains and the Okhotsk sea in Russia is said to grow out of what is practically icy earth.

What About "PD"?

What are the two most potent letters in the alphabet? The quick answer is "U. S." There is something to be said, however, in favor of "O. K."—El Paso Herald.

Easy on the Culpit.

When one judges one's self the verdict is pretty sure to be acquittal.

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