

DESTRUCTIVE ARTISTS.

The Rain They Wrought While Smarting Under Criticism.

By no means unusual was the destruction of the Borghese angels in the Cathedral of St. John the Divine by the sculptor himself while smarting under the criticism that there were no male angels shown.

Gerome, the famous French sculptor, had been working for weeks on the clay model of a group representing Spring. It had almost reached completion when the artist became convinced that the treatment was wrong, and in a minute he had beaten the entire group into a shapeless mass of damp clay.

Hogarth destroyed a picture which had been somewhat severely criticised by one of his friends, but the most spectacular destruction is related of Chartran, who for a time had a studio in New York. He was visited by the husband of an American woman whose portrait he was painting, \$5,000 being the agreed price. The husband, while admiring it for his splendid work of art, declared that he could see absolutely no likeness to his wife in the pictured face. Chartran laid down his brush and, taking out his penknife, slit the canvas into ribbons, after which he bowed his critic out. It afterward developed that the man was disparaging the portrait merely in the hope of obtaining a reduction in the price.

ERRORS OF SPEECH.

Common Abuse of the Verbs to Get, to Lay and to Lie.

The verb to get is one of our much misused words. It means to acquire, win, obtain, and primarily it signifies the putting forth of effort to attain something. Consequently it is not only superfluous, but incorrect, to speak of a man as "getting drowned" or "getting sick," and you may unfortunately "have a cold," but it is impossible that you "have got a cold." At this moment no exceptions occur to the writer to the rule that got should never be used in connection with have, which alone sufficiently expresses possession. Say "I have the picture," not "I have got the picture." "The dog has a broken leg," not "The dog has got a broken leg."

The irregular verbs lay and lie are frequently confounded. Lay is a transitive or intransitive verb, and lie is passive or intransitive. We lay things down or have laid them down, but we and things lie at rest. You lie down, have lain down, will lie down or are lying down; she lay down yesterday and is going to lie down this afternoon. A frequent error is to confound the past tenses of these verbs. One should say, "Mary laid the book on the table and lay down herself," but the book lies on the table.

THE STOMACH.

How It is Affected by the Use of Mixed Fatty Foods.

The stomach never has the least power of digesting true fat. This is disposed of in the intestines. When eaten in the ordinary forms, as fat meat, butter, etc., the fat separates out in the stomach and does not in the least interfere with the work of the gastric juice on the other food, but when a nonfatty food has been intimately mixed with grease the latter prevents the gastric juice getting at the food it could digest. Fish fried in oil or butter is by no means the most marked example, as the fat does not penetrate very deeply. Potatoes mashed with butter are rather worse, and mixed vegetables fried with butter are bad offenders. The reason advanced explains why pork is difficult of digestion. The muscular fibers are mixed up with fat cells, and by the liberation of the oil in each tiny cell the eaten pork is made into an oily paste. A very strong stomach will do the work required, but it is not a fair task to impose frequently, and a weak stomach will refuse to do anything beyond reminding its owner by a few stabs that it will not stand such treatment.

Webster's Portrait.

Daniel Webster once sat for his portrait to G. M. Healy, and the senator's remark when he surveyed the completed picture became one of the artist's favorite anecdotes in after years. "I think," said Webster as he looked at his countenance, "that is a face I have often shaved." Healy found Andrew Jackson a disagreeable and unwillful "subject," and he compensated himself by painting Old Hickory with absolute fidelity to nature, not glossing a single defect. The portrait gives Jackson an ugly, savage and pallid face.

Napoleon's Poison.

A curious detail of Napoleon Bonaparte's costume was the religious care with which he kept hung around his neck the little leather envelope, shaped like a heart, which contained poison that was to liberate him in case of irretrievable reverses of fortune. This poison was prepared after a recipe that Cabanis had given to Corvisart, and after the year 1808 the emperor never undertook a campaign without having his little packet of poison.

He Was Tender.

"Young Mr. Softy paralyzed Dr. Simton when he went to be vaccinated," observed Gaswell to Dukane. "How was that?" "He asked the doctor to put him under the influence of anesthetics."

A Frightened Girl.

"I will work night and day to make you happy," he said. "No," she answered thoughtfully, "don't do that. Just work during the day and stay at home at night."

Patting yourself on the back is a difficult task—seldom done gracefully.

Stone in the Heart.

A Greek woman employed in the American hospital in Caesarea, Turkey, was stirred by a revival. She straightway asked leave to visit a woman whom she had engaged and to whom she had not spoken for ten years. When she trudged through the snow three or four miles to ask her "enemy's" forgiveness her relatives were sure she had gone daft, but the next day, when she came back to the hospital, she said, "We made peace, and the stone in my heart is gone."

NATURE'S CRUELTY.

The Ichneumon Fly Makes Its Natural Enemy Serve Its Purpose.

The Ichneumon fly of Ceylon is the natural enemy of the spider. This insect is green in color, and in form resembles a wasp with a marvelously thin waist. It makes its nest of well worked clay and then goes on a hunting expedition. Its victims are invariably spiders of various kinds, but all are subject to the same mode of treatment. A scientific sting injects some poison which effectually paralyzes the luckless spider, which is then carried off to the nest and there fastened with a dab of moist clay. Another and another victim is brought to this chamber of horrors. Then the prescient mother Ichneumon fly proceeds to deposit her eggs, one in the body of each spider, which can just move its legs in a vague, aimless manner, but can offer no resistance.

This done, the fly returns to her work as a mason. She prepares more clay and builds up the entrance to this ghastly cell. Then she commences a new cell, which she furnishes in like manner and then closes; then she adds yet another cell and so proceeds until her store of eggs are all provided for, and her task in life being accomplished, she dies, leaving her evil brood to hatch at leisure. In due time these horrid little maggots come to life and find themselves cradled in a larder of fresh meat. Each poor spider is still alive, and his juices afford nutriment for the Ichneumon grub till it is ready to pass in the chrysalis stage, thence to emerge as a winged fly fully prepared to carry out the traditions of its ancestors with regard to spiders.

ANTIQUITY OF FISHING.

The Art of Angling is as Old as the Human Race.

The art of angling no doubt had its origin in man's necessities. The earliest record of mankind makes reference to the taking of fish for food. There are frequent allusions to it in the Bible. Job, in the oldest book of all, says: "Canst thou draw out a leviathan with a hook or his tongue with a cord which thou tighest down? Canst thou put a hook in his nose?" Homer, in the "Iliad," speaks of fishing in these lines: "As bearing death in the falconous bait, From the bent angle sinks the leaden weight."

And it is recorded in the "Odyssey": "As when the angler, his long rod in hand, On a projecting rock assumes his stand, Casts to the dory fry the baited snare, Then flings the wriggling captives in the air."

The Romans, Greeks and other races of early days around the Mediterranean practiced the art of angling. Plutarch tells of a prank played by the fair Egyptian, Cleopatra, while out fishing with Antony. "They waded on their angling, and her divers did hang a salt fish on his hook, which he with fervor drew up."

The ruined walls of Herculaneum and Pompeii abound in frescoes of fishermen. All along the track of history are found traces of this gentle recreation, showing the gradual improvement from the hook and line and rude equipment of the cave man to the elegant accessories and belongings of the modern angler.

Apple Cure For Drunkards.

"For ten years," said a physician, "I have advocated apples as a cure for drunkenness. In that time I have tried the apple cure on some forty or fifty drunkards, and my success has been most gratifying. 'Let any man afflicted with the love of drink eat three or more apples daily, and the horrible craving will gradually leave him. The cure will be greatly helped along if he also smokes as little as possible. 'I know a woman who cured a drunkard husband without his knowledge by keeping always a plentiful supply of good apples on the dining table. The man ate these apples and finally stopped drinking altogether.'"—Philadelphia Bulletin.

Practical Eye Wash.

A little salt and water used as an eye wash will cleanse and strengthen inflamed lashes and rest tired eyes. It is safe to use it at any time that irritation is felt. A New York surgeon prescribes the ocean for bad eyes, particularly young eyes. "Get off," he says, "wherever you can and let the salt and the sea breeze wash and blow around your eyes. It will do them good. It will dislodge the germs of disease, for the air breathed by half the world is germ laden, and sore eyes are more quickly caught than smallpox and more fatal. It will brighten and strengthen them and prolong their beauty and usefulness."

The Laughing Owl.

One of the most fantastic of birds is the laughing owl of Florida and some other southern parts. He sits well up in a tree at night and emits a series of loud, strange ha-ha's that sound like half human laughter. The sound is sufficiently terrifying to a nervous camper unacquainted with the habit of the bird, though less greivous than the unearthly call of the Chesapeake loon heard at all hours of the night along the shores of that bay.—New York Telegram.

Fairy Stories.

Mr. Bacon—When a woman tells a fairy story she always begins like this: "Once upon a time." Mrs. Bacon—Yes, and when a man tells a fairy story he always begins like this: "There now, dear, don't be angry with me; you see, it was like this."—Yonkers Statesman.

A man fifty years of age has in ordinary cases undressed himself 18,222 times and of course dressed himself just as many.

Not So Reasonable as Most Girls.

Nell—Some of our proverbs are so ridiculous. For instance, "Where ignorance is bliss"—Belle—What's the matter now? Nell—Why, you know, Charlie gave me my engagement ring last week, and I simply can't find out how much it cost him.—Philadelphia Ledger.

Not Always the Unsuccessful.

Bobby—Were you ever married? Ned—No, I was never married. Bobby—Catch me if I ever get married. Ned—You've got home.

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