

## THE BULLET OR THE HOLE?

Which Gets Through the Board First—Answers to Odd Questions.

When a bullet is shot entirely through a board, which gets through first—the bullet or the hole the bullet makes? The hole and the extreme point of the bullet get through the board at the same time, but the bullet does not get entirely through the board until after the hole is entirely through. It is evident that the rear of the bullet must be out of the hole it makes before it is entirely through the board, while the hole is entirely through just as soon as the widest part of the bullet has passed through.

How cold is it when it is twice as cold as 2 degrees above zero? There are two zeros, one marked 0 on the thermometer, and one known as absolute zero, which is understood to mark the absence of all heat. The zero of Fahrenheit's thermometer is obtained by immersing a tube of mercury in a mixture of snow and common salt and marking the place where the mercury stands in the tube. Absolute zero is 459 degrees below this zero. Now, "twice as cold" is exactly equivalent to half as hot; therefore, when it is half as hot as 2 degrees above zero, or 461 F., it is 230.5 degrees below the zero on the thermometer.

Is any man strong enough to break an egg held and to end between the palms of his hands? The force required to break an egg in this manner has been found to be between seventy-five and eighty pounds. A great many men can exert this pressure. The probable reason for the failure of many to accomplish it is that they are a little afraid of the result and do not press so hard as they can.

If there was a tunnel through the center of the earth and an iron ball was dropped into it, where would the ball come to rest? Unless it was retarded by the resistance of the air, the ball would go through to the other side and then fall back to its starting point, repeating this operation forever. If retarded by the resistance of the air, it would ultimately come to rest at the center of the earth.

When an automobile turns a sharp corner at a rapid rate of speed, which pair of wheels, inside or outside, leaves the ground? The centrifugal force developed by the automobile is directed outward; therefore it is impossible for it to tip inward. The outside rail of a railroad track on a curve is made higher than the inside rail because of the tendency of the train to tip outward. A practical demonstration may be had by standing on the rear platform of a street car and noting which way the body is thrown when the car turns a curve.

A chicken does not eat anything dur-

ing the first twenty-four hours of its existence, yet it doubles in size. What does it live on? The amount of the egg left in the chicken's stomach after it is hatched will supply nutriment for several days. As to the apparent increase in size, when the organs are relieved from the compression of the eggshell they expand, therefore the chick appears larger. The down becomes fluffy when dry, and this also increases the size of the chicken, but it is not a fact that there is any great change in the weight during the first day.

Why does an egg weigh more after it has been boiled than before? The increase in weight is due to the moisture which has been absorbed by the porous shell of the egg.—Sunday Magazine.

### A Member For Cork.

A famous character in London when Frazer's Magazine was in its heyday was Sergeant Murphy, member of parliament for Cork. The sergeant was one day at dinner with Samuel Warren, author of "Ten Thousand a Year," and one of the most conceited authors of his own or any other time. This novel was then appearing in Frazer's in serial form. Warren, who was always fishing for compliments, said to Murphy across the table, "Have you read that thing that is coming out in Frazer's?" "What thing?" said Murphy. "Ten Thousand a Year," replied Warren. "Yes, I have read it," admitted the sergeant. "What do you think of it?" continued the novelist. "Hardly fair to ask me," said Murphy, "considering I wrote it myself."

Another acquaintance of Murphy's was constantly addicted to boasting of his aristocratic friends. At a dinner party where there were several Roman Catholics present conversation centered around the subject of fasting, when the sergeant's friend struck in: "It is very strange how little the highest ranks regard fast days. I was dining at the Duke of Norfolk's on a fast day three weeks ago, and there was not a bit of fish at dinner." "I suppose," said Murphy in the midst of the deep silence that followed, "that they had eaten it all in the dining room."—London Tribune.

### Charlotte Bronte's Writing.

"It is generally believed that 'Jane Eyre' was written by Charlotte Bronte on the backs of old envelopes or very small scraps of paper, which the author carefully pinned together and numbered. Miss Bronte wrote so small a hand that some of her manuscripts can only be read by the aid of a magnifying glass. It is declared that on a piece of paper no larger than a playing card she would write from 400 to 500 words, and after that would insert so many corrections that the printer found it

well nigh impossible to set it up. When she wrote 'Jane Eyre' Miss Bronte had read few novels but those by Thackeray, whom she greatly admired. Thackeray complimented the authoress on her great book, but complained that the plot was familiar to him, whereupon Miss Bronte meekly replied that she thought it was original, inasmuch as she had read so little.

### Zoroastrian Beliefs.

The Zoroastrian faith acknowledges Ormazd, Ahura Mazda, "Lord Wisdom," as the supreme god, with six archangels, Amesha Spenta, and a company of angels, Yazata, about him to rule and guide the world. The infernal host of devils and archdevils who war against heaven and strive to destroy the future life of man is led by Anra Mainyu, the evil spirit. In discussing with these Zoroastrians the subject of the origin of evil I found that they look upon the supreme being, Ahura Mazda, as comprising within himself the two powers of good and evil—namely, Spenta Mainyu, the holy spirit, and Anra Mainyu, the evil spirit. This is similar to the monotheistic view held by the Parsis of India in opposition to the statement frequently made that Zoroastrianism is pure dualism. They believe also in the resurrection of the dead, which their faith has taught them since early times, and this doctrine is connected with the belief that there will come a saviour or messiah, called the Saoshyant.—A. V. Williams Jackson in Century.

### Blind From Birth.

It would be of great interest to know how much Helen Keller, losing her sight at nineteen months, really retained of the sense of sight. With Laura Bridgman, a woman of much less intellect, there was evidently little or nothing left, even as a memory. With her taste and smell were very feeble, so that communication with the world was, indeed, through a narrow passage. Her sensitiveness to vibration was so fine that without any trace of the sense of hearing she was aware of the tolling of a bell. But her biographer, giving us in detail the record of the slow steps of her education, tells us little of what idea she was able to form of things. It is Schopenhauer who gives one hint of what we all want to know of the born blind. He says that a man blind from birth to whom sight was given by an operation put his hand to his eye to grasp there and not in their place the things he saw.—London Chronicle.

### Not Committed.

Subbubs—I thought you said the cottage was half a mile from the station. Agent—Yes, but I never said how far the station was from the cottage.—New York Sun.

## ROBBED BEN FRANKLIN.

His Description of the Stolen Garments and the Thief.

The following advertisement is taken from the Pennsylvania Gazette, No. 532, wherein the reader of Feb. 22, 1783, was informed that the Gazette contained the "freshest advices, foreign and domestic, printed by B. Franklin, Post Master, at the news printing offices, near the Market Place, 10 shillings a year. Where advertisements are taken in and Book Binding is done reasonably in the best manner."

STOLEN on the 15th Instant, by one William Lloyd, out of the house of Benj. Franklin, an half worn Sagathoe coat lined with silk, four fine homespun shirts, a fine Holland shirt ruffled at the Hands and Bosom, a pair of black broadcloth Breeches, new seated and lined with leather, two pair of good worsted stockings, one of a dark color, cambric Handkerchiefs, marked with an F in red silk, a new pair of Calf skin shoes, a Boy's new Castor Hat, and sundry other things.

N. B.—The said Lloyd pretends to understand Latin and Greek and has been a schoolmaster; He is an Irishman, about 30 years of age, tall and slim; Had on a English colour'd Great Coat, red jacket, a pair of black silk breeches, an old felt Hat too little for him and sewed on the side of the crown with white Thread, and an old dark colour'd wig; but may perhaps wear some of the stolen clothes above mentioned. Whoever secures the said Thief so that he may be brought to Justice, shall have Thirty Shillings reward and reasonable charges paid by B. FRANKLIN.

### Triplets in China.

In some of the southern provinces of China there is a superstition that if triplets are born one of the three children will eventually become a noted rebel. In order to avoid that dread of Chinese curses, bad son, a "wise man" is sent for in order to decide which of the three children is the destined black sheep. The three infants having been conveyed into a perfectly dark room, the "wise man" takes three pieces of twine, red and black, and entering the room, ties one of these pieces of string around a wrist of each baby. The one which when brought out into the light is found to have the red string on its wrist is drowned like a puppy.

### "Book of Advertisement."

The "Book of Advertisement" would at the present day mislead most readers by its title. It was prepared at the command of Queen Elizabeth and printed in 1565. The purpose of the book was to define the doctrines, discipline and ritual of the English church, so that uniformity should be secured in Great Britain. This book was the direct origin of a denominational title in England, for, after its publication, Sampson, dean of Christchurch, in Oxford, and Humphrey, professor of divinity at Oxford university, with oth-

ers, dissented from some of the doctrines it contained; hence they were called nonconformists.

### A Pinless People.

A member of the Chinese legation, clad in splendid, pale hued silks, was talking. "Pins," he said, "cause untidy habits. We have no pins in China. The right way to fasten things is with buttons and buttonholes or with loops and frogs. To fasten things with pins is to make use of an untidy makeshift. To employ pins is to become lazy and slovenly. We have no pins in China. Certain foreign manufacturers shipped millions of them to us in the past, but we sent them back. We had no use for them. We were too neat."

### LEAD GLASS.

The Processes by Which It is Cut and Polished.

Designs to be followed by the cutter are first drawn on the blank or plain glass with whiting and water and then traced with red lead and turpentine. The first cutting is classed as "roughing" in the glass factory, when the glass is cut or ground out wherever there is a red line. The first cutting or roughing is with a soft steel disk or which there flows a small stream of water and very fine sand. The disk is in a lathe, and the glass is held by the hands of the cutter, and on his ability to firmly hold the glass and true eyesight to see that lines are followed depends the quality of the article.

Cut glass in blank or plain form is known as lead glass or best metal glass, crushing or collapsing like sand instead of shattering or breaking like window or lime glass.

From the roughing or first cutting the article being cut goes to the smoothing process, the same lines or cutting being followed on two stone disks, one of Graleigh or gas stone imported from England and the other of blue stone, the finest cutting being done with the latter. The polishing is done with wooden disks, from which the glass goes to an acid bath and thence back to the polisher, who uses a chemical compound like putty, and finally to a felt disk or wheel, then the brush wheel and finally the wash with water.

### Called His Bluff.

"What?" cried the brutal husband "You gave that old overcoat of mine to a tramp? You should have asked me first. I had placed a hundred dollars in bills in one of the pockets of that coat, simply to have the money in a safe place until you should want to purchase some clothes." "William Henry Suddsworthy," replied the fond wife, fixing him with a judicial eye, "you worked that game on me two

years ago. I went through the pocket of that coat and found a wornout glove, six cloves, five cardamom seeds, four matches and a suburban time card. I'm going shopping for my dress tomorrow."

### Still Marks on China.

Hunting for still marks on old china is often good fun in itself. Almost every old piece of flatware—i. e., plates, platters, saucers, etc.—shows three little rough spots more or less clearly marked on both sides, usually on the margin. These spots were made in the firing by the cockspur of stills, the little tripods used between the plates in piling them up in the kiln. The three points where the cockspur touched the plate caused a defect in the glaze. Unfortunately still marks are not as sure a guarantee of authenticity as some collectors have supposed, for they are not only easy to imitate, but they are sometimes imperceptible on the old Staffordshire. Furthermore, they appear very frequently on modern tableware of the cheaper sort and so are no sign of antiquity.—Country Life in America.

### Weighting Common Air.

The weight of air has often been tested by compressing it in receptacle by the air pump. That it really has weight when so compressed is shown by the fact that the weight of the vessels is increased slightly by filling them with compressed air and that such vessels become specifically "lighter" as soon as the air contained in them is exhausted. Many elaborate experiments on the weight of air have proved that the cubic foot weighs 636 grains, or something less than one and a quarter ounces. The above experiment on the weight of air is supposed to be made at the surface of the earth with the temperature at 50 degrees F. Heated air or air at high elevations is much lighter.

### Youthful Impressionism.

"One of the lads in my Sunday school class," writes a correspondent, "had been to a musical service and had heard there a violin solo in which a number of the notes were played with finger instead of the bow—pizzicato, I think, is the musical term. The boy described it as 'a piece with a hic-cough in it.'"—Manchester Guardian.

### Rural Excitement.

"Was there much life in the country town from which you came?" "Well, I guess! You ought to have seen the gatherings in our cemetery of a Sunday."—Harper's Bazar.

Show us the man who never makes a mistake and we will show you a man who never makes anything.—Wayland.

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