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WORKING A SWINDLE.

Clever Scheme Carried Through by a Plausible Woman.

An elegantly dressed Spanish lady one day visited a specialist in mental diseases in Madrid on behalf of her husband, who, she said, was a sufferer from religious mania. Having explained the case, it was arranged that she should return in about an hour with the afflicted husband.

The lady's next scene of action was a jeweler's shop in another part of the city, where she selected diamonds to the value of $5,000 on the understanding that she would buy them if her husband approved. Would some one accompany her home in a cab and the money would be paid immediately? A trusted clerk was sent, and with him the lady drove back to the doctor's house. In an anteroom she took the stones "just to show than to her husband." Then, entering with sublime assurance the doctor's study, she informed the specialist that her husband was now in the anteroom and ready to be examined.

Leaving a visiting card, the lady took her departure, and the doctor, bidding the supposed patient enter, proceeded at his leisure to ask professional questions. The jeweler's man was puzzled at first, but soon he realized that he had been made the victim of a clever fraud. The doctor, however, interpreted his agitation as caused by his complaint, and when after two hours matters were finally explained the lady impostor had vanished with her spoils without leaving any trace.—London Tit-Bits.

CATARACT OF THE EYE.

How the One It Attacks May Watch the Obstruction Grow.

Cataract is said to be due to the gradual deposition of oxalate of lime in the substance of the crystalline lens, at first in small spots or streaks, sometimes in one part and sometimes in another. The deposit gradually increases until it penetrates the whole of the lens, causing blindness. The remedy, then, is to remove the lens, and after its removal the patient needs a substitute in the form of highly magnifying spectacles.

All that is necessary to enable a patient to see his own cataract for himself is a piece of card and a needle. A visiting card will do very well. Pierce a clean round hole near the middle of the card and hold the card up to the light close to the eye, looking preferably in the direction of a piece of blue sky. With the card near to the eye the patient will not see the small hole pierced by the needle, but he will see a comparatively large, faintly illuminated field with his cataract projected upon it. He is, in fact, observing the shadow cast by his cataract on the retina at the back of his eye. With a small puncture in the card the shadow so thrown is comparatively sharp. But with a normal eye an evenly illuminated field or clear disk will be seen. The patient may thus map down his own cataract and settle for himself whether it is extending and whether he will have an operation or not.

The Traveler's Tree Myth.

Among the romantic stories of far-off lands that have long maintained their circulation and commanded more or less belief is that of the "traveler's tree," credited with possessing a reservoir of pure water fitted to save the lives of wanderers in the desert. G. F. Scott Elliot declares from his own experience that the tree grows only in the neighborhood of swamps or springs and that, although it has a considerable amount of water in a hollow at the base of its leaf, the water possesses a disagreeable vegetable taste and of course is inferior to other water to be found in the vicinity.—Youth's Companion.

How German Beats English.

"We speakers of English," said a lecturer, "are handicapped by our language. We can never hope for such sonorous titles as the German's have.

"A young German matron once said:

"'Ach, how glad I am that my dear Fritz has been appointed hauptkassenverwaltungsassistent'—assistant cashier. 'Now,' she went on, 'in my title of hauptkassenverwaltungsassistentin I boast of five letters more than the wife of the governor's general amts inspector'—excise inspector's wife—'can claim.'"

Why the Market Wabbles.

"The financial balance is so extremely delicate that the slightest movement affects it and throws it out of gear. I once heard of an important "deal" being spoilt because a prominent financier had his big toe cut by a chiropodist so badly that he was obliged to keep his room.—Maurice Mortimer in Grand Magazine.

Apples as "Nightcaps."

The apple is such a common fruit that very few persons are familiar with its remarkable efficacious medicinal properties. Every one ought to know that the very best thing he can do is to eat apples just before retiring for the night.—Family Doctor.

An Easy Mark.

"Sir, I am an old member on the bourse. I took shares in all your companies and am now ruined, so I thought perhaps you would employ me in your office."

"Oh, no; I want only intelligent men in my business."—Bon Vivant.

The Other Way.

"If I were younger," said the rich old man, "I believe I might win you for my wife."

"Yes," replied the cold beauty, dreamily considering his sixty years, "or, say, fifteen or twenty years older."—Philadelphia Press.

IMPURE FOODS.

Tricks of the Trades Recorded by a Diarist of 1783.

"The pure food question is as old," said an antiquary, "as the hills."

He took down a volume bound in gray calf.

"This is the diary," he said, "of Heinrich Cruger, born in Amsterdam in 1724; died in New York in 1870. Listen to the pure food kick that Henry put up in 1783."

The antiquary read:

"Monday, 18th October—If I would drink water I must quaff the mawkish contents of a cursed open aqueduct, exposed to all manner of defilement and impregnated with all the filth of the town.

"As for the intoxicating potion sold as wine, it is a vile, unpalatable and pernicious sophistication, balderdashed with cider, corn-spirit and the juice of aloes.

"The bread is a deleterious paste, mixed up with chalk, alum and bone ashes, insipid to the taste and destructive to the constitution.

"The table beer, guiltless of hops or malt, is vapid and nauseous. The tallowy, rancid mass called butter is manufactured of candle grease and kitchen stuff. The fresh eggs were fresh once.

"The greens are boiled with brass halfpence in order to improve their color, while the pickles, though very inviting to the eye, are often insupportably rank to the taste, the reason being that in their case also the housewife has boiled a shilling's worth or two of halfpence or a pound brass weight in the vinegar."—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

THE MORNING WAKING.

Getting Up Exercises That Will Put the Brain In Order.

The difficulty most people experience in getting up in the morning can be easily overcome by a simple operation, according to a medical authority. After the night's long rest the brain is laden with somewhat impure blood, and the lymph vessels which remove waste matter are overfull and sluggish. This is why we all crave another ten minutes in bed and why most people are so morose at breakfast. Very slowly the brain gets rid of the matters which interfere with its vigorous action, but the process can be expedited.

If the finger tips are placed against the neck just under the ear and moved swiftly down to the front of the shoulder along the course of the jugular vein, the used up blood is drawn away and room left for a fresh supply. This should be done twice at each side of the neck. Then the hands should be placed on the back of the neck just under the skull and moved downward as far as possible. This will set our the lymph vessels and effectually prevents swollen glands, from which so many people suffer.

After two brisk rubs of the lymph vessels return to the jugular veins and then back to the glands, half a dozen or eight times, until the operation will be found far better than a cup of coffee, and whenever the brain is dull through congestion this massage will be equally effective.—Pearson's.

Miss, Mrs. and Mistress.

"Miss" is an abbreviation of "mistress," which, as an English law dictionary explains, is the proper style of the wife of an esquire or a gentleman. By Dr. Johnson's time it had become "the term of honor to a young girl." In the earliest part of the eighteenth century, however, it was used respectfully of girls below the age of ten alone. After that age "miss" was rude, implying giddiness of behavior. In Smollett's writings an unmarried woman of mature years and her maid are both "Mrs." It is certain that "miss" has grown older, so to speak, while "master" has become confined to boys.

Danger In Linoleum Making.

In the manufacture of linoleum no unprotected lights are allowed in the mixing department. This is on account of the great danger of exploding the cork dust floating in the air. An additional danger in linoleum making is that the mixture of cement and cork dust has the unpleasant property of spontaneously igniting if left in a warm place. It is therefore customary to mix the material a sackful at a time in order to reduce the risks of an explosion.

A Figure of Speech.

"Dad," inquired Freddy, "what is a 'figure of speech?'"

"Where's your mother?" asked dad cautiously.

"She's downstairs," answered the boy.

"Well, then," began dad, "a figure of speech, my son, is a woman."—Harper's Weekly.

A Paradox of Poets.

"Poets have always had scanty encouragement."

"Yes," answered the sad eyed youth with inky fingers. "The idea seems to be that poetry is something everybody ought to read and nobody ought to write."—Washington Star.

The Ruler.

"Now that you've gone to housekeeping, which rules, you or your wife?"

"Neither of us. We have a provisional government."

"What is that?"

"The cook's."—Baltimore American.

Don't wait for Dame Fortune to knock at your door. She may be kidnaped by some one who is willing to meet her halfway.—Chicago News.

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