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FARMER'S BUSINESS COURSE BY CORRESPONDENCE

IBSEN AS A TAILOR.

The Only Help He Needed Was in Threading the Needle.

An interesting story of Ibsen as a tailor is told in a Paris contemporary. Jonas Lie, a Norwegian poet, was accustomed to spend part of the summer at Berchtesgaden, in the Salesburg Alps. On one of these occasions, while sojourning in the neighborhood, Ibsen turned up at his friend's residence and asked to see Mme. Lie, adding that they need not disturb the poet. When Madame appeared Ibsen apologized. It was only a trifle—a button had come off. He had purchased a needle and thread. Mme. Lie, womanlike, offered to sew on the button, but the poet would not hear of it. All he asked was that she would aid him by threading the needle. He had found it most difficult. The lady, of course, complied, and Ibsen went on his way rejoicing.

Mme. Lie did not meet Ibsen again until some days after the needle difficulty was surmounted. This time he called to see the poet. There was no demand for an interview with the poet's wife. In the course of conversation the lady, "wishing to get her own back," inquired somewhat satirically if she could be of any service to her husband's friend. Could she thread another needle for him? "A thousand thanks, my dear Madame," replied the author of "The Doll's House." "I took care when you threaded the needle for me to make the thread long enough to last the whole summer."—London Globe.

CHANGED HER MIND.

Strategic Game in Domestic Economy the Husband Played.

Strategy can sometimes be made as effective in domestic economy as in the operations of war. By way of illustration consider an instance that recently arose in a certain city.

An ambitious young housewife there had an opportunity to buy at a great bargain a handsome rug which she needed. The price was only \$200, but the owner declared that the rug was actually worth \$400. The young woman's husband gently protested that even \$200 was more than persons of their income could afford for a single article of household furnishing, but after much persuasion he consented to the purchase, as most husbands do in such cases.

But this particular husband played a strategic game. When he gave his wife the money to pay for the rug it was not in currency notes of large denomination, but in the form of 200 round, sound silver dollars. The young woman was astounded. Until the money was counted down dollar by dollar she never had realized that it would take so many to pay for that rug. She decided to buy a sixty-five dollar rug, but declared that if the money had been given to her in two notes of \$100 each she would have bought the costlier one without hesitation.—New York Mail.

Origin of the Dog.

It has been supposed that the dog, like the jackal, descended from a special race. Examination of the skulls of the canidae in the museum of the French Academy of Sciences shows that nearly all of the jackal and wolf species differ from those of the little wolf of India. The little wolf of India is the only wild beast possessing the salient eyebrow or crest of the dog. The little wolf has not only the dog's eyebrow crest, but all the canine characteristics and none of the characteristics of the wolf. It is presumable that the little wolf of India was the original ancestor of the dog. The two primitive canine races, the "dog of the bogs and the dog of the age of bronze," were domesticated first in Asia and were introduced into Europe from Asia, like most of the domestic animals of Europe.—Harper's Weekly.

The Origin of Fasting.

As is the case with all very ancient practices, the origin of fasting is obscure. Herbert Spencer gives us an understanding that the custom arose out of the habit of providing refreshments for the dead. The offerings to the dead were often made in so lavish a manner as to involve the survivors in temporary starvation, and it is suggested by Spencer that the fasting which was at first the natural and inevitable result of the sacrifice on behalf of the dead, may eventually have come to be regarded as an indispensable concomitant of all sacrifice and worship and so have survived as a well established usage long after the original cause had ceased to operate.—New York American.

Stopped in Time.

Little Bob's father was fond of telling bear stories to his little boys. One evening he was telling a thrilling one about a bear chasing a little girl and "how he crept nearer and nearer and nearer." At this point Bob caught his father's arm, and, with the big tears falling down his cheeks, he cried: "Oh, father, don't tell any more. He might catch her!"—Detroit Free Press.

Sanitarium Fame.

First Invalid—You must think you are somebody, judging from the way you talk. Second Ditto—I want you to realize, sir, that I've been fought over in some of the best hospitals in the land.—Puck.

Easily Pleased.

Friend—I suppose it is hard work pleasing the editors? Post—Not very. All one needs do is stop writing.—Town Topics.

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HANDEL'S TEMPER.

Sorry Tried by a Joker Who Knew the Composer's Weakness.

The celebrated composer Handel had such a remarkable irritation of nerves that he could not bear to hear the tuning of instruments, and therefore this was always done before he arrived at the theater.

A musical wag who knew how to extract some mirth from Handel's irascibility of temper stole into the orchestra on a night when the Prince of Wales was to be present and untuned all the instruments. As soon as the prince arrived Handel gave the signal of beginning, con spirito, but such was the horrible discord that the enraged musician started up from his seat, and, having overturned a double bass, which stood in his way, he seized a kettledrum, which he threw with such violence at the leader of the band that he lost his full bottomed wig in the effort.

Without waiting to replace it he advanced bareheaded to the front of the orchestra, breathing vengeance, but so much choked with passion that utterance was denied him. In this ridiculous attitude he stood staring and stamping for some moments amid a convulsion of laughter, nor could he be prevailed upon to resume his seat until the prince went in person and appeased his wrath.

THE PLANET MARS.

Its Orbit and its Distance From the Sun and Earth.

While the astronomers are still debating and weighing the problem of Mars and its inhabitants a few words about the distance of the planet from the sun and earth may be of interest.

The average distance of Mars from the sun is 141,500,000 miles. The distance from earth to sun is 93,000,000 miles. When sun, earth and Mars are in line, with the sun and Mars on opposite sides of the earth, Mars is said to be in "opposition," and it is then closest to the earth. If earth and Mars both moved in circles about the sun the distance from earth to Mars at opposition would be forty-eight and a half (48 1/2) million miles. But neither of the orbits is circular, that of Mars being much more elliptical than that of the earth, with the result that at opposition Mars may be as far away as 61,000,000 miles from the earth when there is an unfavorable opposition, or Mars may come as close as 35,000,000 miles away, when it is as near as it can possibly come to the earth, and its opposition is then the most favorable possible. At such times Mars is brightest in the sky and appears of greatest size.—New York World.

Biggest of Cannibal Banquets.

Probably the biggest cannibal orgy on record is one of which Miss Beatrice Grimshaw tells in her book "The New New Guinea." "In 1858 a shipload of Chinamen was being taken down to Australia. The vessel was wrecked upon a reef close to Rossel Island (New Guinea). The officers escaped in boats, but were never afterward heard of. As for the Chinamen, numbering 325, the natives captured them and put them on a small barren island, where they had no food and no means of getting away. They kept their prisoners supplied with food from the mainland and every now and then carried away a few of them to eat until all but one old man had been devoured. This one succeeded eventually in getting away and told something of the story, which seems to have met with general disbelief. True it is, however, on the evidence of the sons of those who did the deed."

Knew What He Was Doing.

The stalwart policeman who guards the traffic at Euclid and a cross street rescued a well dressed old gentleman from beneath the very wheels of an automobile.

"Officer," said the rescued man, "are you married?" "No, sir," answered the policeman. "Ah, well, you will hear from me in a day or two nevertheless."

After he had gone a friend of the officer asked: "Tom, why did you tell the old guy that you wasn't married? You've got a wife an' kid at home, and I know it."

"Sure I have. But if I'd told him so he'd have sent me a ham or a basket of grapes. As it is he'll probably come through with a little purse. I ain't no fool!"—Cleveland Plain Dealer

Sense of Direction in Bees.

The directive sense possessed by bees is the object of research made by M. Gaston Bonnier of Paris, and he seems to have proved that bees possess a special sense like carrier pigeons. Experiments showed that bees can fly two miles to their hives even when deprived of the organs of sight and smell. Many scientists and among others Iadent have always declared that bees are guided by the sense of smell and that they can smell flowers at one and a half miles. Bonnier's experiments proved that bees detect odors at only short distances.

No Props.

A noted sociologist tells the following story of a woman in a manufacturing town. Approaching her for statistics, he asked: "Madam, have you any children?"

"No," she replied. "I have to work in the factory myself."—Life.

Indigestion For Two.

Ells—They are very much in love with each other. Stella—Very. She doesn't even want him to have indigestion unless she can share it.—New York Press.



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