

Early Scientific Reasoning.
Among early scientist-theologians one question largely discussed was whether at the redemption it was necessary for God to take the human form. Thomas Aquinas answered that it was necessary, but William Occam and Duns Scotus answered that it was not; that God might have taken the form of a stone, or of a log, or of a beast. The possibilities opened to wild substitutes for science by this sort of reasoning were infinite.—Dr. Andrew D. White in Popular Science Monthly.



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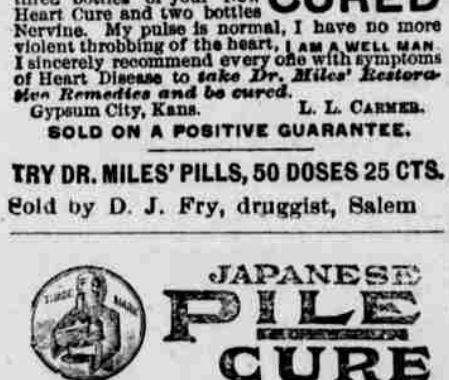
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BREVITIES.

PHYSIOGNOMY.

Coarse hair always indicates coarse organization.

Very full cheeks indicate great digestive powers.

A projecting under lip shows malignity and avarice.

A small mouth, with nose and nostril also small, shows indecision and cowardice.

A long, thin chin is commonly found only in persons of low mental organization.

A round, bullet head shows obstinacy, often combined with many petty meannesses.

A month that, when viewed in profile, turns up in a curve when smiling is a sign of frivolity.

A small head does not necessarily mean little wit, the old adage to the contrary notwithstanding.

A forehead rounded at the upper temples indicates large imagination, mirthfulness and good nature.

When the under part of the face, from the nose downward, is less than a third of the whole face, the indication is of stupidity.

Prominent, arched eyebrows show great powers of perception in regard to form and color. All great painters had such brows.

Finely arched foreheads are often seen on stupid persons. The deficiency is generally apparent in the scantiness of the eyebrows.

Strongly projecting foreheads, which, in the upper part retreat to a marked degree, associated with a long under face, are certain indications of folly.

Men of marked ability in any line have usually one deep, perpendicular wrinkle in the middle of the forehead, with one or two parallel to it on each side.

Whenever, in laughing, three parallel curves are formed in the cheeks round the corners of the mouth, the indication is of silliness and stupidity.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

ODDS AND ENDS.

St. Louis has an electric street railway

mail car. No passengers are taken. Mail clerks sort the mail as they ride.

California is greater in area than all the New England states, New York, New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland combined.

There are 27,000 places for the sale of liquor in Paris, and throughout the republic there is one saloon for every 87 people.

The Lanquedoc ship canal in France, by a short passage of 148 miles, saves a sea voyage of 2,000 miles by the straits of Gibraltar.

A London confectioner says that he is sometimes called on to furnish wedding cakes weighing 1,000 pounds each and puddings of a size sufficient for 500 hearty appetites.

The Chinese are shown by statistics to be longer lived than any other nation, which fact is attributed to their abstemious habits and their remarkable freedom from phthisis or pulmonary consumption.

To guard against poisoning, a law has been passed in Germany that all drugs intended for internal use must be put in round bottles, and those which are only used externally must be placed in hexagonal bottles.

FASHION'S FANCIES.

Buttons to match accompany many of the new gowns and galleons for trimming coats and costumes.

The boat shaped hat in felt, with a colored cloth crown and ostrich tips, is one of the successes of the season.

The empire round waist, with belt fastened at the side by a buckle or rosette, is growing in popularity.

The openings of gowns are more deftly concealed than ever before. A close and thorough search of some corsages fails to disclose the fastenings.

Velvet ribbons and galleons in both wide and narrow widths are in great use for skirt borders that reach to the knees from the hem up and for decorating the corsages of directoire gowns.

Bias cut double ruffles of velvet, gathered with heavy buttonhole twist twice through the center, trim the skirt hems, neck, front and wrists of fine wool, satin striped and plain or figured bengaline gowns.

Worth is dressing all his devotees in empire style or that of Louis XV. Doncey favors the quaint garb of 1830. Laferrere's customers are being dressed in Henry II period costumes, and Morin-Blossier favors Louis XIV and directoire suits.

AROUND THE THRONES.

The sultan of Johore has \$10,000,000 in jewels.

Queen Victoria was made colonel of a Prussian regiment of dragoons in 1889.

The German empress, who is a clever artist all around, is particularly successful with water colors.

Carmen Sylva is a rapid worker, writing quickly with a fountain pen and tearing off the finished sheets from the pad with almost feverish eagerness.

The czar's son, Grand Duke George, has established a new astronomical observatory at Abastouman in Tiflis. A 9-inch refractor has been mounted 1,300 feet above the sea.

Bayazet I of Turkey was defeated and taken prisoner by Tamerlane, who locked him in an iron cage and carried him to and fro on various expeditions, finally putting him to death with circumstances of extreme cruelty.

JUST RETRIBUTION.

How a Fat Man Was Constituted the Unwilling Agent of Avenging Providence.

There are some philosophers who cling to the belief that there is no future of rewards and punishments, but that we get our just deserts as we go along. Once in awhile there seems to be some slight justification for this doctrine. For instance, it happened that a day or two ago a lady coming up on the Sixth avenue elevated monopolized two seats. I say it happened—for a lady rarely does such a thing. The cars were crowded, every seat being occupied, including the two occupied by this particular sample of the gentler sex. Several gentlemen came in, took a longing look at the lady and at the small, fragile parcel at her side and politely seized the most convenient strap. Whatever their thoughts, they did not express them by word of mouth. Perhaps they were of that school of philosophers of whom I have just spoken. If they were they were waiting for the retributive justice to come along, and were possibly wondering what form it would take. They didn't have to wait very long, for a sudden lurch of the car at the turn into Fifty-third street sent a man weighing some 200 pounds plump into the seat by the side of the astonished monopolist. That individual gave one plaintive scream and all was over. The thoroughly frightened gentleman jumped to his feet as soon as possible—so quickly indeed that he never could have been said to have been down but for the havoc he had innocently wrought. For there, smashed as flat as the traditional flounder, was—well, whatever it was or had been!

Did the unfortunate lady turn and read him with her tongue? Did she tell him what she thought of him? Not at all. She simply gathered the miserable wreck unto her bosom and wept.

No one saw what the wreck was and consequently could arrive at no idea of its awful awfulness.

To tell the truth, the public sympathy with the miserable wretch thus made the blind instrument in the hands of Providence to administer punishment to the guilty as the guilty go along. He was the most unhappy looking mortal I ever saw. What I wish to know is, When and how does he get his reward?—New York Herald.

Compass Plants.

Several different countries—America, Asia Minor, Tartary, Madagascar and Australia—have shrubs and flowers which are, locally at least, known as "compass plants." The compass plant of the United States is the common "robin weed" of our western prairies, which has the long leaves near the ground set in a vertical position in such a way as to always present the edges to the north and south. This peculiar propensity of the rosin weed is attributed to the fact that both the upper and lower surfaces of the leaves demand an equal share of light, something which can be said of but few known plants, the upper surfaces usually being much more sensitive to both light and heat than the lower. This demand for a share of old Sol's attention causes the leaves to stand in the manner mentioned above.—St. Louis Republic.

Disturbing the Balance of Nature.

Sable Island, near Nova Scotia, was overrun with rats, and the lone islanders, whose chief duty is the relief of shipwrecked mariners, imported a cargo of cats from the Canadian mainland. The cats did their work of slaughter so well that they soon had to fall upon the rabbits for food, and themselves became so plentiful that an importation of foxes had to be made to keep them in check.

The foxes, like the cats, did their work too well. They not only exterminated the cats, but killed all the young birds and destroyed thousands of eggs. Tired of the warfare, the islanders are now appealing to the government to exterminate the foxes.—London Tit-Bits.

The Idiot.

Some men haven't any more finesse than a horse block has. Detroit has one of that kind. Possibly there are more, but one, at least, is on record. Not long ago he was calling on a young woman and birthdays came up for discussion.

"You wouldn't think I was twenty-two, would you?" asked the young woman with a mild smile.

"Indeed I wouldn't," he replied earnestly.

"About how old would you think I was?" she simpered again.

He studied a moment.

"About thirty-two," he said innocently, and she went down in a heap.—Detroit Free Press.

A Lesson in Street Cleaning.

A well known woman in New Orleans was seen the other day in a public thoroughfare scraping up bits of broken pottery, and gently chaffed about having joined the ragpickers' brigade.

"No," she answered brightly, "I am just giving my neighbors a lesson. This glass was dumped into the street by my neighbor, who evidently had no idea that she may cripple a dozen horses, to say nothing of rendering our pretty block hideous. I only hope she will see me."—Exchange.

Pleasure and Recreation.

If man be a gregarious animal, woman is no less so, and requires a certain amount of intercourse with her kind for her best development, but the great mistake often made is that pleasure becomes the business of life instead of what it was meant to be—the recreation. It is impossible that character should not deteriorate when such is the case.

Social intercourse, kept in its proper position relative to other and higher things, certainly has a distinct influence for good. It broadens the mind; it brightens the intellect; it develops the power of pleasing and makes one the more agreeable companion. It even educates the love of one's kind by increasing our interest in one another. But when it becomes a "life"—"social life"—and occupies the greater part of woman's thoughts, time and money, it is not only a sin, it is a crime against her own happiness and that of those nearest and dearest to her.

It has been said by a wise Frenchman that "a happy people need few pleasures," and when the world sees a woman to whom social success is the aim and object of life it guesses pretty shrewdly that all is not well at home, and no woman wishes to make a present of such a secret to a captious and critical world.—Ladies' Home Journal.

Passing of the Earring.

People often wonder where all the earrings go or have gone to. A few years ago the fashion of wearing these relics of barbarism was quite general, but now it is the exception and not the rule to see a well dressed woman with a pair. Indeed the ornaments have been left off so long that scores of women who used to wear them could hardly do so now without inconvenience and pain. But the pretty toys or gems have not been thrown away or wasted. Thousands have been worked up into other and more fashionable ornaments. Many very handsome brooches have been made out of earrings which have outlived the fashion, and there has been quite a large amount of ingenuity displayed in the work so as to do away with any suspicion of second-hand in the reconstructed adornments.

More than one pair has been made up into sleeve buttons and presented to a member of the sterner sex, and others have been fitted with pins and used by their fair owners as hat or hairpins. The best judges in these matters doubt whether earrings as such will ever become popular again, and it is very unusual for young women nowadays to have their ears pierced at all.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

An Undesirable Bedfellow.

A very remarkable circumstance occurred at Port Elizabeth, where a puff adder was actually in the bed of a sleeping lady. That it did not bite her can only be accounted for by the fact that it could not do so. It was under the bedclothes, and had no space for action. The lady had a pet cat who was allowed to sleep in her room. One night when too much asleep to arouse herself she was yet conscious of something lying on her chest, but supposing it was only her cat she did not bestir and arouse herself, but fell off again into deep slumber.

In the morning she saw puss asleep on a chair where she had settled herself the previous night, and a puff adder was in her bed. Happily these great deadly serpents are not aggressive, and do not attack unless provoked. The sleeping lady was also unaggressive, which fact, added to the cramped up position of the intruder, insured her life.—Cape Town Letter.

Whittier at Play.

In one of his letters to Elizabeth Stuart Phelps, as given in the Century, the late poet Whittier says:

"What a pity it is that we cannot shut down the gate and let the weary wheels rest awhile! For myself, I have to work hard to be idle; I have to make it a matter of duty to ignore duty, and amuse myself with simple stories, play with dogs and cattle, and talk nonsense as if I were not a Quaker. Dr. Bowditch says that a man of active brain ought to make a fool of himself occasionally and unbend at all hazards to his dignity. But to some of us life is too serious, and its responsibilities too awful, for such a remedy. The unsolved mystery presses hard upon us."

The Weather and Men's Spirits.

There is a rich field of study for some one in the investigation of the influence of the weather upon the feelings of people. A crowd on a bright, clear day is always a buoyant and merry one. Everybody is an optimist. The mental conditions are practically the same in a heavy storm, be it rain or snow, but when it is half between rain and fair weather, when it is dull and damp and muggy, every person one meets seems to be a follower of Schopenhauer.—Boston Journal.

A Pleasant Shave.

Customer—What makes your hand jerk so with that razor?

Barber—Why, boss, I've used to do it.

"The fits?"

"Yes, boss, but don't be scared; it's ten minutes before day come on. You see? easy; dat's de symptoms."—Times Bittings.

A Whaler's Crew.

"You would be surprised," said a sea captain, "what queer mixtures there are in a whaler's crew sometimes. Why, I've had lawyers and doctors and any number of young men with a degree of some kind or other, and once I shipped a fellow that turned out to be a preacher, and I wish I could get him again, for we got eight whales that season. I believe he was a mascot. One poor fellow, who went overboard in a gale, had in his trunk a physician's diploma and any number of letters with high recommendations, but I guess he had gone wrong somehow, and wanted to get out of the way for awhile. He succeeded better than he intended. I guess they won't think of looking for him at the bottom of the Arctic."

"We get lots of men for a season's cruise that way. If a fellow wants to hide himself for awhile I don't know of any place he could do it better than on board a whaler. Nobody would think of looking for such a man in this business, and then they couldn't look much if they wanted to. That kind of a seaman never makes you any trouble. It's the shiftless fellow you pick up here on the wharf that you've got to handle pretty roughly before he learns how to keep a decent tongue in his head."—San Francisco Examiner.

Land Lost by a Treaty.

The wording of the treaty by which Arizona was ceded to the United States by Mexico was loosely drawn, otherwise we would have enjoyed the distinction of having a deep water harbor. The line, which leaves Nogales and makes an angle at that point by taking a more northerly route until it reaches the Colorado river, should have kept on a continuous straight course, which was the intent of the agreement with Mexico. It was arranged to give Arizona a deep water harbor on the gulf of Mexico by making the treaty read that the boundary should be drawn in a straight line from Nogales to a point 20 miles below the mouth of the Colorado river. After the papers were drawn up and signed it was observed that the reading had been changed to make the line run to a point 20 miles below the mouth of the Gila river.

Besides losing the harbor of Port Isabel and 20 miles of deep water coast, Arizona lost some of the best land in Sonora. It was considered in the days when the treaty was signed that Arizona soil was not worth a cent a quarter of a section, and the matter was dropped without contesting.

Now that the discovery is made that the land which the United States gave up to Mexico by this error is worth more per acre for the growing of tropical fruits than any other part of America, it seems as though our government should take some steps to recover it, even though a few million dollars were necessary to move the line to where it properly belongs. It is worth agitating.—Tombstone (A. T.) Prospector.



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