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## BLIND MEN SMOKE.

**How a Would Be Scientist Discovered This All Important Fact.**

I saw a blind man smoking a cigar the other day. Now, as there has been some scientific controversy as to whether a man can enjoy a smoke who cannot at the same time see the smoke curling up from the cigar or pipe, I was struck with this apparent solution of the question.

I have heard it repeatedly stated that nobody could tell in the dark whether his cigar was alight or not, if he couldn't see the fire. I had tried it myself and had come to the conclusion that the statement was correct. Nevertheless here was a blind man who was not only smoking, but apparently enjoying the process.

I knew the man was blind because there was a placard slung around his neck announcing "I am blind." Then I had seen him standing at the foot of the elevated stairs month in and month out selling lead pencils to sympathetic people who didn't want any lead pencils—who never used lead pencils. He was not on duty at the time. I don't know, but a blind man selling lead pencils and smoking a good cigar at the same time would seem an incongruous thing. Not because he hadn't a perfect right to do so, but somehow the prevailing public idea is that a blind man has no use for the ordinary luxuries of life, and to see him indulging in any such thing would have a tendency to destroy his trade. He probably understood this, for he was at a free lunch counter, having evidently just quenched his thirst with a glass of beer.

"Does it give you pleasure to smoke?" I inquired, softly observing the marvelous instinct with which he discriminated between the bits of sliced ham and bologna.

"W'at d'ye s'pose I do it for, eh?" says he.

"In the interests of science," said I.

"W'at're ye givin me?" says he.

"I'm not giving you anything," says I. "You are helping yourself by all indications. I have been told that a blind man never smokes. It is said that"——

He stopped his onslaught upon the edibles long enough to turn the sign over. Then he turned his weak and watery eyes upon me.

"Hang your science!" says he and walked calmly out of the place.

I felt somewhat put down myself, but science is all right. Let this evidence be spread upon the record—blind men do smoke.—New York Herald.

**A Curious Marriage Custom.**

The marriage customs in some parts of Brittany are very curious. In Cornville the village tailor is the important personage to whom the candidate for matrimony applies for a list of eligible girls. Having selected one, the tailor at once proceeds to the maiden's father, carrying a wand or broom. He is dressed for the occasion in official stockings, one of which is of violet color and the other red, and with him is the suitor and his nearest relative. While the family chiefs are making their arrangements, the lovers retire to the other end of the house and discourse their own "sweet music."

It is necessary that the engaged pair should put an end themselves to the term of the negotiation. They approach, holding each other by the hand, to the table where their parents or relatives are seated, when bread, wine and brandy are brought in. The young man and the maiden eat with the same knife and fork and drink out of the same cup, and the day for the union is then agreed upon.—Million.

**Making Bread on a Big Scale.**

In the large bakeries the dough is mixed in huge oval tubs of oak, which hold five barrels or 1,000 pounds of flour made into dough, which is worked by machinery. The tub is elevated on a platform so as to permit the working of revolving steel blades. Three men are thus enabled to work up in one day without touch of hand 150 barrels of flour, which, if done in the ordinary or old method by hand, would require the services of 30 men. A huge lump of 24 pounds of dough is cut by a machine in a few seconds into 12 loaves. Economy of material, better bread and low cost are the results of these mechanical improvements.—F. N. Barrett in Food.

**Bricks as Cargo.**

The captains of ships which carry bricks have to be very careful. An ordinary brick is capable of absorbing a pint of water. So with a a cargo of bricks in the hold serious leakage may quite well go on undetected, for the water that enters is sucked up as fast as it gets in. If this should be the case, the consequences are found to be most disastrous.—Yankee Blade.

**Colors For Dining Rooms.**

For dining rooms warm colors, such as soft reds and browns, are frequently used. We may also use combinations of blue, green and silver, which are cool and refreshing in the daytime and light up brilliantly at night.—Decorator and Furnisher.

**Better Than Nothing.**

Servant—Please, sir, the coal is all out.

Mr. Wearie—Well, here's a big pile of dunning letters for that last ton. Burn them.—New York Weekly.

## LESSONS IN DYING.

**Some Instances of the Heroic and Self Sacrificing Deaths of Physicians.**

Medical men have the reputation among the profanum vulgus of being "nervous" about themselves when they are ill, and it is no wonder if they are so, seeing that they are denied the bliss of ignorance as to the possible developments of apparently trifling symptoms. Captain Marryatt tells us that when a boy he passed among his companions for a coward, not, as he is careful to explain, that he had less courage than they, but because he had more intelligence, and therefore saw danger where they saw none. Knowledge, in fact, as well as conscience, does make cowards of us all. But it will be generally admitted that a man who is keenly alive to the dangers of a battle or a pestilence, and yet nerves himself to face them in the cause of humanity, is more truly brave than one who exposes himself out of mere recklessness.

In the same way a medical man, who knowing himself to be smitten with a mortal ailment, yet goes on doing good while strength holds out, is entitled to all the more honor, as for him the hope of recovery, which, springing eternal in the human breast, buoys other men up to the very brink of the grave, does not exist. He knows that he is under sentence of death without the possibility of reprieve. Many readers no doubt remember Thackeray's "fine and touching story" about a great doctor, who while ministering to the wants of crowds of sufferers had a suspicion that there was something wrong with himself. So Dr. London, as he calls him, went to Dr. Edinburgh, who punched his comrade's sides and listened at his heart and lungs, and when he had done gave a prognosis of only a year of life.

Dr. London came home, made up his accounts with man and heaven and went about "healing and cheering and soothing and doctoring" as usual, and living "cheerful and tender and calm and loving" among his family, to whom he said not a word as to his condition. "And it was winter time, and they came and told him that some man at a distance—very sick, but very rich—wanted him, and though Dr. London knew that he was himself at death's door, he went to the sick man, for he knew the large fee would be good for his children after him. And he died, and his family never knew until he was gone that he had been long aware of the inevitable doom."

We do not know who the hero of Thackeray's story—evidently founded on fact—may have been; but, mutato nomine, it might be told of very many members of our profession. Dr. Murchison and Dr. Hilton Fagge—to mention only the first names that rise to our memory—must have been fully aware of the sword of Damocles hanging over their heads by something even more brittle than a hair, and they both died valiantly doing the work they had taken upon themselves.—British Medical Journal.

**Why People Listen With Open Mouth.**

People, when listening intently, open their mouths for two reasons, the first of which is that the hearing is under some circumstances intensified by that action. The sound wave may enter the mouth and the impulse be conveyed by means of the bones of the head to the ear, or the sound may be conveyed along a short tube, 1½ inches in length, called the eustachian tube, which runs from the inner side of the drum of the ear to the cavity behind the mouth, and so affords a direct passage from the mouth to the ear.

Secondly, just as after death the lower jaw drops by its own weight, so during life it will not remain in contact with the upper jaw unless held by muscular power, and the intent listener neglects to supply the necessary nervous stimulus to the muscles whose duty it is to keep the jaw closed.—Yankee Blade.

**Two Graves In Death Valley.**

As one enters the easterly end of the road through Death valley two unmarked graves are seen in the salt crust near the track. They are the graves of unknown men who died there from the heat, and after the fashion of the country were buried where they fell. They were covered over with pieces of salt broken from the pinnacle near by. The crust was too hard to warrant digging into it. One must travel a long time to find two more graves like these, if indeed two more can be found in the world.—Age of Steel.

**A Maryland Tradition.**

There is a tradition in Maryland local history that a sea captain found a little boy lost in Lincoln's Inn Fields, London. He offered to take the child to his father, got him on shipboard and sold him into Maryland. The lad was never able afterward to trace his family. The story is that when he became a prosperous planter he bought from a convict ship the self same captain who had sold him, whereupon the captain committed suicide.—Edward Eggleston in Baltimore Sun.

**No Sham About Him.**

"You're a real boy, aren't you, James?" said the visitor.

"Certainly I am," replied James. "You didn't think I was an imitation, did you?"—Harper's Bazar.

# WOMAN'S WORLD.

## YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION OF BROOKLYN.

**Boston's Mixed Club—The Daily Morning Scrub—Women and Theology—The Rustling Underskirt—Children's Ailments—A Woman Arctic Explorer.**

Brooklyn is celebrating the completion of the building of the Young Women's Christian association, an institution which promises to do an important work for Brooklyn, where so many working women reside. The building, which is erected on a site partly purchased and partly given by the late Congressman S. B. Chittenden, is the munificent gift of Cornelius B. Wood, and is erected as a memorial of his wife, who was a sister of Robert C. Ogden, of the firm of John Wanamaker. Mrs. Wood was a woman of an exalted type, and her life was notable for its spirituality and charity. Mr. Wood is a retired banker of wealth. In December, 1890, Mr. Wood offered to give $125,000 to erect a building for the association, provided $100,000 additional was raised as a permanent endowment. "This gift," said Mr. Wood in his letter, "is made to honor a life of charity and love by husband and children in memoriam of one who was a friend of working girls, who rejoiced when the association was organized, who labored for it and had faith in the grand work it would accomplish."

Mr. Wood not only gave $125,000, but increased this to $142,000. The endowment fund now amounts to $122,501, and the association is aiming to increase this to $150,000. The building is centrally located, and architecturally is an ornament to the city. The vestibule contains a big open fireplace. Opposite to this is the secretary's room. On this floor are also the cloakroom and the entrances to the elevators, and through a great well in the center one can look up through the six stories to the roof. In the basement are a medical department and a fully equipped pharmacy, a gymnasium and the intelligence office. The library, already filled, is on the second floor. It is a light and airy room and is furnished with a gallery and storage apartments. A room for typewriters is off the library, and from this floor access is had to the gallery of the memorial hall.

Over the hall on the third floor is a large lecture room with a seating capacity of 400, and there is a well furnished parlor connected with the lecture room. The fourth and fifth stories are devoted to eighteen classrooms, where millinery, dressmaking, sewing, embroidery, cooking, language, history, bookkeeping, arithmetic and penmanship are taught by eighty-seven instructors. The memorial hall which has been alluded to is a beautiful room containing seats for 650 and has been furnished by the Alumnæ association of the Brooklyn Heights seminary. This hall has been named in honor of Mary A. Brigham, who was a famous teacher of her time.—Cor. Philadelphia Ledger.

**Boston's Mixed Club.**

Among the new clubs of Boston is the Unity, a club composed of men and women whose object is the furtherance of art and the promotion of social interests. Its members include a large proportion of the artists of the city, and it inaugurated its second season by a water color exhibition.

There are no lack of men's clubs and of women's clubs in Boston, as in other cities; but the club where men and women meet is as rare as are most ideal things in this world. The regulation women's club is a rather dreary affair, as it is now conducted. Instead of having parlors, reading room and dining room always open, as is the case with men's clubs, where members may drop in at any time and meet each other, and invite friends and enjoy informal sociability, the women's club unlocks the doors of its portals for some one afternoon a week when its members and guests assemble, and after routine business, carried on in strict parliamentary order, a paper is read and discussed as formally as at any public meeting, and then the club adjourns till another week, to go through the same routine again. This may be all very well in some ways, but it is not the social pleasure that club life should render possible.

The Unity club here starts out on other lines. It is, first of all, a club for men and women together. It has secured ideally beautiful rooms on Arlington street, overlooking the public gardens. It has a fine gallery for picture hanging, and it is based on an idea that should develop, as the club grows stronger, into a very attractive and happy social center.—Boston Cor. New Orleans Times-Democrat.

**The Queen in Journalism.**

The queen's appearance in the pages of The Strand Magazine as the editor of an article written upon information supplied by her on the dolls of her childhood is an interesting event in her long reign. It will be followed up by another and even more directly personal contribution. Her majesty, it is well known, has for some time been a student of Hindoostanee. Her tutor is a native gentleman, who has another interesting pupil in the head of the Mahammedan faith. According to his testimony the queen in her faculty for acquiring language far outstrips the sultan. Her majesty, though coming late in life to the study, takes a keen interest in it, and delights in communicating with her Indian servants in their native tongue.

Her contribution will consist of a translation into Hindoostanee of two letters. One was written some time ago by her majesty to the shah of Persia; the other is a letter addressed to the English people and was penned shortly after the death of the Duke of Clarence. The latter is certainly the most charming of the many simple and unaffected messages the queen has from time to time penned.—London Letter.

**Longevity of Turtles.**

The age of turtles, like the age of some excellent women, will never be known. In many parts of the country boys cut their initials on the shell of the tortoise, with the date, and then watch for them in later years. At Hatboro, in Pennsylvania, one was found with L. W., 1833, cut on the shell. Mr. Levi Walton, who cut the lettering, is still living, but the slow going turtle will probably outdo him in the race of life.—Meehan's Monthly.

**Beethoven's Ear Trumpets.**

At the Royal library in Berlin is a collection of the ear trumpets and other instruments used by the great composer, Beethoven, in his futile attempts to overcome the deafness which assailed him in 1797, and rendered him incapable of hearing until his death.—New York Evening Sun.

**Another Kind of an Irishman.**

A woman, against whom a very plain case of drunk and disorderly was made out, endeavored to curry favor with Judge Murphy by saying, "Sure, judge, I'm Irish, like yerself."

"Not like myself," was the reply, "for I was never on that side of the desk. Ten days."—Brooklyn Eagle.

**Far and Wide.**

Not on this broad continent alone, but in malarial breeding tropical regions, in Guatemala, Mexico, South America, the Isthmus of Panama, and elsewhere, Hostetter's Stomach Bitters afford to inhabitants and sojourners protection against malaria. The miner, the freshly arrived immigrant, the tiller of the virgin soil newly robbed of its forests by the axe of the pioneer, finds in the supurb antifebrile specific a preserver against the poisonous malaria which in vast districts rich in natural resources, is yet fertile in disease. It annihilates disorders of the stomach, liver and bowels, fortifies those who use it against rheumatic ailments breed and fostered by outdoor exposure; infuses genial warmth into a form chilled by a rigorous temperature, and robs of their power to harm morning and evening mists and vapors laden with hurtfulness; strengthens the weak and conquers incipient kidney trouble.


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