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AN OLD FLAME
 By F. Harris Deane.

I had not seen Kitty for nearly a year until she passed me in the reception hall at Lady Trouthbeck's, and her surprised look had the added, "assassination of novelty." I made it my business to see her later in the evening.

"By jove," said I.
 We shook hands gravely, and she laughed. The last time we had met had been to elope, but the motor had broken down, and it had rained, and well, we met again, as I say, at Lady Trouthbeck's dance.

"No," she said, interpreting my glance, "not for five dances."
 "That is absurd," said I, firmly, "besides it is the duty of your partner to find you."
 "My partner will need to have a strong sense of duty," suggested Kitty when she eventually shook her skirts out.

"I doubt if he will search for you a year," said I meaningly.
 "A weary, heartbreaking year." I did not intend to be done out of my commission.
 "You look older," she said sympathetically.
 "You are older, too," said I firmly, "a year."
 "Do, I look it?" she cried in alarm.
 "Yes, I said regretfully, "I am afraid you do."
 Kitty looked at me with wide-eyed reproach. Then she smiled with relief.

"Oh, well, twenty-one is not so very old," she reflected.
 "You are not passe yet," I was forced to confess.
 She clapped her hands joyously.
 "Have you any regrets?" I demanded again. "Are you sorry it rained that night?"
 "I got very wet," she murmured, looking at me over her fan. "Fancy, not even an umbrella."
 "If we had had one?" I asked.
 "Kitty looked at me from the corner of her eye.
 "Well, we shouldn't have got wet, should we?" she remarked.
 "And I should not want to kiss you," I said deliberately.
 "Why not?" she cried.
 "We should have been married a year," I reminded her.
 "Absence makes the heart fonder," she began.
 "Don't be quite so obvious," I protested. "Besides I am not any fonder. That would be an impossibility."
 "I wonder," she cried suddenly, "if my partner is looking for me."
 "Don't worry," I added, "he won't find you."
 "But I want him too," she protested.
 "Who is he?" I asked.
 "I don't know," she rejoined.
 I looked at her reproachfully. Had I become so familiar that the unknown was preferable?
 "Ah, well," I reflected, "doubtless this is a very humiliating position for you."
 "Humiliating!" she flashed. But she resumed her seat.
 "Surely," I said, addressing a large palm which stood near a most respectable and elderly palm, "it must be humiliating to have to confess to an error of judgment; to have said that one loves a man; to discover, but a mere three hundred odd days later, that one was mistaken. But perhaps," I added, turning to Kitty, "it was not a mistake."
 "Well, it was not," said she. "Then! But, of course, I had to see it through."
 "Darling!" I cried, seizing her hand.
 "I mean I did not love you in the first place," she explained, trying to draw her hand away. "It was only a young girl's foolish fancy."
 "And I have matured," I said dolefully, "from a foolish fancy to a delicious reminiscence."
 "Hardly that," she said at length, "say an amusing error."
 "Oh," I said. "And really there was not much else I could have said."
 "You took it all so seriously, too," she said amusedly.
 "While all the time, you were laughing up your sleeves," I suggested.

She nodded brightly.
 "That," I said bitingly, "was why you carried a heavy portmanteau for half a mile, and left a note on your dressing table, was it?"
 She flushed.
 "When you got back they had discovered the note," I continued, "and you were sent to an aunt in Yorkshire. By jove. You have a strong sense of humor."
 "I think," she said, "that you have grown from a silly boy to an unpleasant young man."
 "You had a lucky escape, then," said I.
 "So had I, Vixen!"
 "You," I continued, "have grown from a girlish girl into a womanly woman."
 Kitty turned her back to me.
 "That," she said, over her shoulder, as she walked away, "is meant to be nasty, I suppose?"
 "No," I murmured. "It is meant to be a truthful appreciation."
 "That is the worst of trying to rekindle a dying fire. It generally smokes."

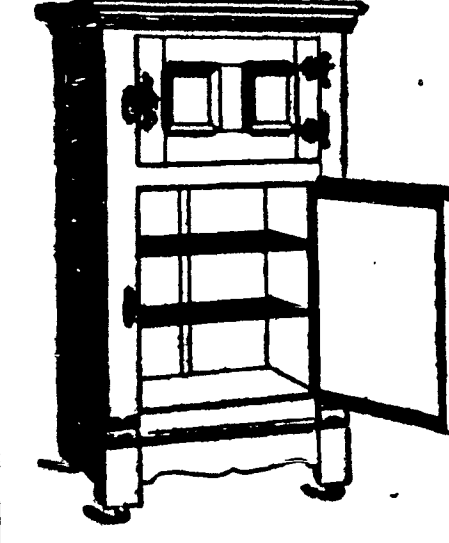
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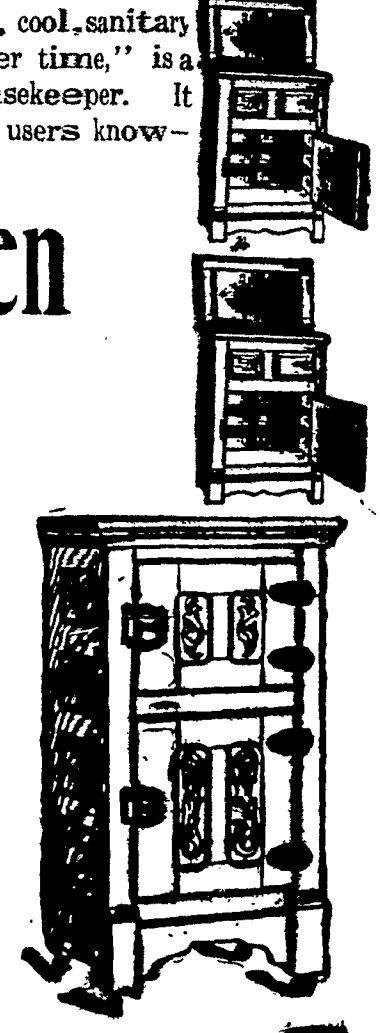
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Moreover, it confers its properties more or less upon copper and silver when these metals are alloyed with it. Thus, for example, twelve karat gold will withstand the action of nitric acid and the atmosphere at ordinary temperature, but some of the copper will be oxidized during annealing. Nine parts of gold may be alloyed with ten parts of platinum in an ordinary crucible and fire, but such an alloy will not be uniform; a larger proportion of platinum will free itself from the solidification and a homogeneous alloy of the two metals cannot be obtained.

FOR THE LAWN PARTY.

Ginger Beer for the Children.
 Turn a gallon of boiling water on four large spoonfuls of ginger, then set where it will cool. When just lukewarm add a half pint of molasses and a cup of "lively" yeast. It will be fit to drink as soon as fermented.

LOBSTER SANDWICHES.

Remove the meat from as many fresh boiled lobsters as are needed and cut in dice.
 An hour before using dust with salt, red pepper and lemon juice, and spread between "buttered" slices of bread brown bread. Press the two slices together and cut in triangles.

WHAT STATISTICS SHOW.

It is figured that for the 20-year period from 1887 to 1906 the applications filed for divorce throughout the country reached the total of 1,400,000, and probably on these applications about 1,000,000 divorces were granted. In the 20-year period from 1867 to 1886 the number of divorces secured was 328,000.

HOME MADE LINIMENT.

One cup of vinegar, 1 cup of turpentine, 1 raw egg, put in a bottle and shake well; good for sore throat.

WHERE WOOD PAVEMENT IS USED.

The five cities in which the largest amounts of wood pavement are found are, in order, Indianapolis, New York, Minneapolis, Toledo and Boston. Together these cities have more created wood pavement than all other cities in the United States combined. The total amount of this pavement in use in this country at the end of 1905 was about 1,400,000 square yards, equivalent to nearly 80 miles of pavement on a street 30 feet wide.

USE OF HOLLOW TILE.

Hollow tile was first used in this country in the Vanoclears flats, New York City, erected about 30 years ago. This was the first tile of that style made in the United States. The experiment was successful and in 1877 there were 100,000 tons of hollow tile fireproofing material sold in the United States. Today the output exceeds 2,500,000 tons a year, a plant at Perth Amboy alone having a capacity of 20,000 tons a month.

Prevalence of Flat Foot.

Flat foot is a very common affliction. It is also one which is frequently overlooked by physicians, says the Medical Brief.

The patient complains of pain in the heel, the ankle, the inner border of the foot, great toe, the muscles of the calf, the knee or even the hip. The busy practitioner notes these symptoms in a hurried, casual way, attributes them to rheumatism, prescribes salicylates and what not, and another flat footed individual plods his weary way.

Increased deformity is added to what may have been merely foot strain in the first place. A curable case has become well-nigh incurable, and the medical profession is again justly liable to well deserved censure.

Any factor which tends to diminish the muscular power of the foot may cause flat foot. A great increase in the weight born by the foot may cause it.

This increase in weight may be actual, such as occurs in people who put on a great deal of fat, or it may be relative, such as occurs in athletes, jumpers especially. But by far the most common cause is the rambling of the foot, brought about by improper shoes.

For treatment of this condition mechanical support to the deformed foot is practically all that is necessary. This mechanical support is best afforded by means of the footplate made from highly tempered steel and moulded upon a plaster cast of the foot.

The footplate should be worn as long as it is required, but no longer. Additional wearing of the plate beyond the time necessary, as indicated by the symptoms, is simply an additional cause of harm. With the footplate a shoe should be worn fitting the normal contour of the foot.

Assorted Literary Food.

For clearness read Macaulay. For logic read Burke and Bacon. For wit read Homer and Scott. For consciousness read Bacon and Pope.

For sublimity of conception read Milton. For vivacity read Stevenson and Kipling. For imagination read Shakespeare and Job. For common sense read Benjamin Franklin.

For elegance read Virgil, Milton and Arnold. For smoothness read Addison and Hawthorne. For interest in common things read Jane Austen. For simplicity read Burns, Whittier and Bunyan.

For humor read Chaucer, Cervantes and Mark Twain. For the study of human nature read Shakespeare and George Eliot. For choice of individual words read Keats, Tennyson and Emerson. For loving and patient observation read Thoreau and Welton.

There is a movement in California to make robbery accompanied by maiming punishable with death. This is to put a stop to the operations of what are called the "gas pipe men."

Marrying in Italy.
 In Italy Sunday is usually selected for the marriage of those persons who have never been married before. Widows, however, in accordance with an old custom, usually choose Saturday.

Horses Have Insomnia.

The main cause of our terrible loss of horseflesh in South Africa was due to our cavalry horses, which were chiefly English and accustomed to stables, being always bivouacked and hence rarely getting sleep, combined with overwork and shortness of food.

Japan's War Horses.

Japan has bought and is buying large numbers of Normandy horses for the new cavalry regiments of the empire. Prize winners at trotting races are preferred. Many horses of the Breton breed are also being purchased for Japanese service.

Cost of Becoming a Briton.

Up to date it costs an alien \$35 in fees to become a nationalized Briton and he must wait five years and then produce evidence as to character. A Government bill is to be introduced to reduce the fees probably to \$5.

Lepers in Colombia.

There are about 4,000 lepers in Colombia, or one to every 1,000 inhabitants. Most of them are now isolated. Cases are rarely found among the classes living with hygienic care.

A Phonographic device that will call the police by telephone adds a new hazard to the ever increasing dangers of the burglar's profession.

When an attempt is made to force a window or door with which the proper connections have been made an electric current operates a phonograph in the garret. The machine calls up central and asks for the police station. The phonograph then informs the officers of the robbery, giving the street and number, and repeats this information as long as the receiver is down. Meantime, the intruder, all unconscious that an alarm has been rung in, virtually walks into a trap, and if the call is promptly responded to is soon in the lock-up.

There was a time when dogs did the roasting—at least they kept the meat turning, so it would not burn.

"Spit dogs" they were called, and their descendants are called "spitz" to this day. Spit dogs were trained to turn the spits on which roasted chickens, beef, ducks and turkeys. The little fellows did their work well. They were never known to let a fowl burn or to snatch a morsel or two from it. As late as 1816 spit dogs were employed.

The modern spirit thinks only of what is vast, grandiose, almost measureless.

Twenty years ago one talked of national movements; now it is pan-Islamism a movement destined, it is said, to enroll 200,000,000 of Mussulmans in an immense army which will reconquer from terrified Europe not only its religious, but its political rights.—L'Europe.

Don't be a pessimist. If you can't be optimistic be nothing and you will do less harm in the world.

The 'Water Hole.

The bussard floats above it, wings aloft—
 His feasts are those who perch at the brink—
 And, far off where the dying cattle pant,
 Like shadows do the desert skulkers slink.

Like burnished copper in a molten sky
 The sun has shone upon it through the day
 And toward it, o'er the reaches hot and dry,
 The creatures of the wild have dragged their way.

Upon its edge, among the footprints there,
 One reads with ease, upon the whitened slope,
 The story of each fight against despair,
 And how, at last, have man and beast found hope!

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