

BURGERS' SIGNAL CODE

As Practiced in This Country and in England.

PLAN OF PICKPOCKETS

The Chosen Signal May be to Scratch the Ear, Motion with the Fingers or Some Such Usual Action—If Captured One Seldom Betrays His Partner.

Through the writing of the late Josiah Flynt and others who, in recent years, have become tramps in order to learn the ways of the hobo tribe, it has developed that the Weary Willies have their regular code and cipher by which one member of the tribe leaves a warning or a hint for the next comer to read and profit by. A certain chalk mark on the barn door means that here the tramp will find "a good thing," another mark on the gate post gives its warning to beware of the dog. By these insignia, which are but meaningless marks to the uninitiated passerby, the vagabond learns of the perils of pigs, dogs and officers of work, or finds out the places where there is a soft snap awaiting him, says the Brooklyn Eagle.

It has been said that criminals likewise have their code or signs by which with a gesture or a move, they communicate to one another warnings of danger or hints that they can profit by. This suggests that criminals have a sort of free-masonry among themselves, with certain signs that all of them know and can interpret at a glance, while the well behaved looker-on would not even discern that a sign had been made. A converted thief in London revealed the fact that such a code exists among the crooks of the British capital, even posing for a group of pictures showing the signs that are known to the fraternity of criminals.

Thieves, then, have their secret code like the members of any other class of workers. One discerning finger to another, though he be not a confederate, will give the warning and open an avenue for escape to him who is in peril. If the thieves of this country have any widely recognized code, it has never been detected by the police, the men who come more in contact with them than any outside of the fraternity.

Pickpockets or thieves who work somewhat in the open use signs that are not unusual enough to awaken suspicion. The chosen signal may be to scratch the ear, or to take a handkerchief from the pocket, or some such usual action. Safe robbers usually post their watchers on the outside, and it is understood between them that a certain number of knocks means that the place is wired, that there is danger, that the way is clear or that some one is coming. But these signals, the police from their varied experience, believe are always chosen especially for one job, and are changed for fear they might be understood by others besides the thieves.

Thieves usually work in groups and they have to adopt signs and signals that can be communicated as quickly as the flash of the telegraph instrument. In these days of specialization and expertness the criminal, too, has his specialties. A job of cracking a safe requires several men, each expert and skilled in his own task. The man who pours in the "soup," the art of using the explosive through the closest study. He has gone into the chemistry of the thing as deeply as many another man goes into the study of his legitimate trade. He knows to a second how long after the fuse is lighted before the explosion will come. Another member of the gang has studied the entrances of the building, the best hours for making the attempt, the avenues of escape, etc. Another or one or two others are placed on the outside to give warnings of danger. The job is one of careful study and planning, often, and takes time as well as thought.

The modern pickpocket makes a sole business of picking pockets and would scorn to be a burglar. Often he is trained to his trade from a youngster and sticks to it until he becomes master of all the tricks and works with an expertness that defies detection. The pickpocket, by the way, does not work in the thick of a crowd, as people usually think. He is too wily to get wedged into a crowd from which he cannot escape in the twinkling of an eye. His plan is to work on the outskirts of a crowd so he can make his escape quickly when there is the least danger of detection. Burglars stick exclusively to their job and are even divided into classes. One does a "climbing job" exclusively, in other words, robs by climbing to the second story; another is known as the flat thief. He steals by going about to flats in the guise of an agent and when he gets no response to his knock at the door enters by means of a skeleton key. Or perhaps one makes it his specialty climbing down dumbwater shafts.

There is not necessarily anything allied to honesty in real estate. Nevertheless the possession of it often impels its possessors to pay their debts.

HOW CHEWING GUM IS MADE

Twenty Million Dollars Worth Sold Annually in This Country.

Twenty million dollars' worth of chewing gum is sold over the retail counter every year. This is the estimate made by S. T. Britten, manager of a branch of the American Chicle company, the so-called chewing gum trust.

Few persons know what the substance is made of. Now and then someone speaks of the horses' hoofs and the cows' horns that are by some secret process transformed into a delicious lot of gum. But these are detractors of the popular product. There is no foundation in fact for such tales. The chief ingredient of chewing gum is "chicle," a substance produced from the sapodilla tree in Mexico and tropical countries of South America. Chicle is a resin-like sap, which oozes from the sapodilla tree when it is tapped, as are maples in this country. It is sent from these tropical lands to the cooler climate of Canada to be cleaned and refined. It leaves the factory looking very much like red clay. This is the body of chewing gum. Chicle is absolutely insoluble. No liquid has ever been found that will dissolve it. Alcohol will not affect it, nor will any acid. It might be chewed for 999 years and more and still lose none of its volume.

The manufacture of chewing gum is a very simple process. A quantity of chicle is put in a vat with about an equal quantity of glucose, made from corn. This is heated by steam and churned or beaten until thoroughly mixed. Then peppermint, wintergreen, banana, orange and other flavors are added to give it the desired taste. The whole mass—500 pounds at a time—is steamed and churned by machinery until it begins to harden. It is then placed on a working table, where girls and women shape it into squares an inch or more thick and a foot square. It is then run through rollers, which press it into thin sheets the thickness of the cakes sold at retail. These sheets are about six feet long by two feet wide. Another machine cuts the sheets into cakes, he size we buy. Wrapping, boxing and crating are done by hand.

"Chewing gum never grows smaller from chewing," Mr. Britten said. "After a cake of gum has been chewed for a while the glucose and flavoring gradually work from it. Everyone has noticed that gum is sweetest and best when it is fresh. After it has been chewed for a certain time nothing is left but the chicle, and it is harmless. However, there is little or no taste to it."

The durability of gum would limit its sale were it not discarded soon after it loses its sweetness and fresh flavor. Then, too, many a treasured "quid" is misplaced. Who could estimate the number of millions of these that are even now sticking to the under side of tables, mantels, chairs, and on the headboards of beds?

The Slow Gordon Setter.

Years ago the Gordon setter was quite a favorite and much in use by sportsmen of this country. In later years, however, this really good dog was displaced in greater part by the pointer and English setter.

The Gordon, says Ed F. Haberlein, in Dogdom, is the largest and heaviest of all bird dogs, more clumsy and usually slow. Where most hunting is done in woodland and thickets and a slow working dog is needed so as not to get lost almost continually he fills the bill well—works close to gun, has good nose, is steady on point, and, if properly trained, a very good retriever from land and water.

The Gordon is easily trained and retains his training well, is also of good pleasant disposition and admirable companion. At this age, however, when so very much stress is laid on speed and wide range, the Gordon is not in it because he is a slow pottering dog as a rule.

World's Oldest Newspaper.

One of the oldest newspapers in the world is one named the Woenenblatt, which is published in Gruningen, a small town of some 1,200 inhabitants in the canton of Zurich, in Switzerland. It is the only newspaper in the place and is at one and the same time the organ of the liberal conservatives and the social democrats. Pages one and two belong to the liberals and pages three and four to the socialists and the two parties abuse one another heartily in its pages.

Throwing a Chest Injuries.

It cannot be repeated, too often that the more that appalling system of chest-swalling was practiced the greater was the invaliding for circulatory diseases—the Foot Guards, who were more set-up than the Line, always heading the list for invaliding for these diseases; and who will say of the Guards that they were originally defective?

It was hopeless to expect men to be content and not to take any opportunity to quit the army, who felt the injury to health being inflicted on them. They were taught to regard the dilated, rigid chest as essential, that soldiering could not be thought of without it! Happily, we have changed all that. What mainly stood between the army and popularity was interference with natural breathing.

Sometimes when a man has been done to a turn the turn is awfully swift and the comeback extremely sudden.

RISKED LIFE FOR A PONY

Buffalo Bill's Dual for Possession of Tall Bull.

IN A DEATH MANOEUVRE

Monument Erected Over the Grave of This Horse at Fort McPherson—In Vain Had the Indians Tried to Have Their Favorite Stead Beat Him in Races.

Over the grave of Tall Bull, a little gray horse buried at Fort McPherson, Neb., is a marble shaft bearing a brief record of the achievements which made him the dearest possession of Col. William F. Cody, or Buffalo Bill. At the risk of his life Buffalo Bill had made Tall Bull his property at the battle of Summit Spring.

Renegade Sioux, Cheyennes and Arapahoes had been on the warpath for weeks murdering and committing depredations through Kansas and Nebraska. The Fifth United States Cavalry, under the command of Gen. E. A. Carr, had been sent against the Indians, and was close on their trail. At the head of Gen. Carr's scouts was Buffalo Bill, and the Indians were found at Summit Spring and a fight began.

While the engagement was under way Buffalo Bill was so amazed at the speed displayed by a little gray horse ridden by the Indian chieftain, Tall Bull, that he determined, if possible, to capture the horse and kill its owner.

The task, if accomplished at all, must be done after the battle and while the Indians were in full flight. When the result was no longer in doubt Buffalo Bill detached himself from the main body of the troops and rode nearly half a mile to the mouth of a ravine through which it was certain the Indians would flee.

Isolated and in danger of his life, Buffalo Bill waited and, true to his calculations, the Indians in less than half an hour broke into flight and headed direct for the hidden scout. Well in the rear, as though guarding his tribesmen from attack, was Tall Bull the Indian chieftain. In a moment the opportunity Cody had sought was at hand and a manoeuvring duel followed.

Time after time the scout had opportunities to wound and possibly kill his antagonist at the risk of injuring the horse, but each time he refrained. The animal was the prize for which he was striving, and in the end he succeeded. The Indian was sent tottering from his saddle and the animal he was riding.

From that memorable afternoon until his death the little gray, whom Buffalo Bill named Tall Bull, after his former owner knew no other rider and master than the scout. The history of Tall Bull from then on is wisely linked with that of the frontier during the perilous days of Indian warfare that followed.

From one fort to another, as the constant changes in the scene of the Indian warfare carried him, Buffalo Bill found time between the fights to race his horse in long or short distances, it made no difference, against the best horses of the Pawnee Indians who were friendly to the whites and against the horses of the regulars, and the little gray was always victorious.

On the occasion of a race at Fort Sedwick, the Indians had brought a horse from far in the interior. They believed that at last they had found a champion that could defeat the wonderful gray horse of Buffalo Bill, and they stipulated that at the conclusion of the race which was to be for a mile, the horse that lost was to be shot. They believed that at last they saw a way to get rid of Tall Bull and again make their own horses supreme on the plains. They had reached the conclusion that there was something supernatural about Buffalo Bill's pony and wanted it killed.

Buffalo Bill accepted the conditions and rode Tall Bull himself. It was close but again was the gray horse successful. As the gray fairly ran across the finish line the Indian chieftain who had arranged the race with Buffalo Bill drew a rifle from the folds of his blanket and shot dead the horse he had brought hundreds of miles to beat Tall Bull.

That was Tall Bull's last race against Indian ponies. Tall Bull's final race was years later on the track at Fort McPherson, which had been named after him. Undeclared, Col. Cody had sent the little gray to Fort McPherson to live out the rest of his life in comfort and rest. Buffalo Bill had intended that his little gray should never run again, but on a Fourth of July the officers of the post decided to hold a race. Tall Bull had not been ridden in a race for some years and it was only after repeated solicitation that Buffalo Bill permitted his pet to contest once more, and again he won. It was shortly after that race that Tall Bull died and Buffalo Bill always believed his end had been hastened by the last race.

A Mean Dig.

Miss Passe—I have had many chances to marry. Only a short time ago a man told me of his love. Miss Pert—Did he also tell you the name of the lady?—Megendorfer Blatter.

Equality is an evanescent something that your superiors ought to observe and your inferiors ought to expect.

BLUNDERS OF AUTHORS

Some of Their Readers Are Better Posted Than Themselves.

That writers of books are painstaking and careful in most of the more important details of their stories may be taken for granted, for one reason, because it is only natural that they should, and for another because their shrewd publishers are ever taking advantage of opportunities to enlighten the public at the time—often years, quite commonly months—which some author has taken to certify certain facts upon which the story may be based. This, after all, is only a natural condition, for such care and research is but a part of the framework about which form and substance is to grow. But if they are careful in what they consider the essentials of their story, they are all too often careless of details about which even some of their most unworried readers are better posted than themselves.

Take Kipling for instance. There are many grievous sins of this nature for which he has to answer. There is that exquisite story, "The Drummer of the Fore and Art." He has hardly got his story well started before the sentence occurs: "And gave orders that the bandmaster should keep the drums in better discipline." What was the bandmaster got to do with the drums? Of course he meant to say the drum-major, or to be still more correct, the sergeant-drummer, since drum-majors—officially—have been abolished these many years. A little further on he makes the Gurkhas come pouring over the heights at the double to the regimental quick step! A feat which no soldier could do as any son of Mars will promptly tell you. In "The Courtship of Dinah Shad," there occurs the passage, "Your—your blooming cheek," and she, ducking her little head down on my saah—I was on duty for the day—an' whelpin' like a sorrowful angel."

Now what is a lance-corporal doing with a saah on duty or no duty?—another time he uses the terms "my low" and "lay high" in relation to rifle practice—though they are, of course, only applied to gunnery. And yet with these and many another fault, who is there who would not forgive him.

The sun and the moon are two great stumbling blocks to many a noted writer. Mrs. Humphrey Ward openly acknowledges her ignorance of the moon's phases, and that she consults Miss Ward on all astronomical reference. Kingsley made one of his heroes row out into the Eastern Ocean after the setting sun. And another of this writer's errors occurs in "Alton Locke," where he says, "They rowed her in across the roiling foam—the cruel, crawling foam." The foam is not cruel, neither does it crawl," as Ruskin severely commented in one of his lectures.

Zola was one of the most painstaking of writers, and his two secretaries found it the greater part of their duty to constantly check and verify his statements, and yet in "Lourdes" he makes, "the deaf and dumb" recover "their hearing and sight." The famous Wilkie Collins once performed the marvelous feat of making the moon rise in the West. And Rider Haggard, in "King Solomon's Mines," relies for the great effect in one of his most thrilling scenes, upon an eclipse of the new moon. Coloridge, too, placed a star between the horns of the moon forgetting that to be visible in such a position it would have to be between the hearth and the moon. In which case it would be very probably bigger than the moon itself.

Discovery of Wine.

The grape, whose purple flood man for century after century has converted into wine, is a Persian by birth. Its cradle was on the sunny hills to the south of the Caspian Sea, and there the ancients ate it and enjoyed its acid taste. The men of Canaan ground it to a dry powder and ate it with relish, half as a medicine, half because they liked it.

And then those days went by, and we hear of the renowned grapes of Palestine, which grew in immense clusters and weighed fifteen pounds to the bunch. Noah planted the vine immediately after the Deluge; the book of Genesis mentions bread and wine; and the Israelites complained that Moses and Aaron had brought them out of Egypt into a dry and barren land where there were neither figs nor vines.

From the earliest times the evil effects of wine have been reported. The sin of Lot is supposed to have been committed under the influence of wine, and the evil power of the vine is well illustrated by the story of the monk to whom Satan offered a choice of three sins, one of which was drunkenness. The poor monk chose this, and when he was drunk committed the other two.

Hobson's Choice.

The phrase of "Hobson's Choice" originated in an English livery stable. Tobias Hobson was the first man in England to rent out hackney horses. It may have been through an unshakable sense of justice, it may have been through laziness, but at all events this eccentric stable keeper obliged all who applied to him to rent a horse to take the one which happened to be standing nearest the stable door. And so the phrase Hobson's choice came to mean no choice at all.

Impertinence is most amusing when you are in no wise concerned.

PULLING IN THE SHARK

Lively Water Sport Off Chincoteague Island.

THEIR MEAT PALATABLE

It Takes a Long Haul to Conquer a Six-Footer, and the Men at the End of the Line Need Muscle—Cotton Line Better than Any Wire.

Chincoteague is almost on the map. A more primitive and picturesque island is not to be found on the Southern coast. Situated at the southern outlet of Assateague Bay, it marks the extreme northeastern limit of Virginia. All around it are wonderful breeding and nesting places for many sorts of wild fowl. Wild ponies may be glimpsed occasionally in its desert parts.

At half-past four o'clock before the night mist has fully cleared, the group of visitors embarked in Charlie Brown's sixteen-foot record, breaking "sharp-sail" for the fishing grounds. Charlie is the man who shot one leg off while out duck shooting; and then sailed twelve miles to get patched up. Needless to state, he is the best man on the island, makes his own boat and captures all the trophies for sale sailing on that part of the coast. He also plays a violin, the work of his own hands, and the cornet; makes his own decoys and his cock leg when the old one succumbs to the strain of his strenuous life. He has even painted his own portrait with some fidelity. His boat carries a staggering sail and with a fair wind will drive easily twenty miles to sea, far outside of the line of coaters making their long turn around the shoals. Then it is to anchor, says a writer in the New York Post.

When the anchor is out, please be lighted. Balancing on the long green rollers, the fishermen prepare for the day's sport. It is well to restrain any tendency toward sea-sickness, for the day will be long.

An in-drum fishing cotton line is used. These and all other necessities can be obtained of the natives. You may try piano or copper wire lead, as it is likelier. It doesn't matter. The sharks will snap them. But the dropped cotton line seems to get between their teeth and can not be broken by their usual method of twirling against the rocks. Of course, long shanked shark hooks are indispensable.

Any sort of a small fish such as are caught on the spot, are good bait for the hungry shark. With a skillful supply as a beginning, enough are caught casually to replenish the bait basket. Chum, king fish, fat backs and many a fish that nobody can identify are split, placed upon the huge hooks, and lowered to within a few inches of the bottom, where the lead-backed sharks are basking. Charlie will probably have the first strike. Without a word, he hauls hand over hand with straining arms, while the line cuts the water in vicious circles.

A flash of white gleams below. By on a four foot shark is so close. As he reaches the surface, it is ten to one that he will dive under the boat, out the stern, and depart, chewing the big hook with apparent enjoyment between his grinning teeth. But get a six footer on the line, and it is a matter of minutes before the shark is on his back. A long pull and a strong pull, merely to get him up to the surface. Perhaps all hands may have to "tuck in" in order to save him (or the fisherman). And then it is a problem to get him into the boat. If any sharks are given, he will take it and roll the line and all the other line into a heap and snarl. Get him speedily, and have the club and the shark snappers ready to give the coup de grace quickly. Let no unskillful hands play about those snapping jaws, or the fisherman will wish he had never seen a shark.

This sort of fishing, as in fact, all sorts, is full of surprises. There are other big fish to be caught besides sharks. The sharks themselves are of many varieties, but all of them are formed for swift swimming and voracious feeding. One peculiar kind has a fan shaped head with eyes projected to the ends of feelers—four or five inches long. This one is four or five inches long. This one can easily study his own scale or read down his own throat—the latter is of no small advantage to a fish that swims hastily.

While one may not believe that sharks are dangerous to a swimmer, in spite of tropical tales to the contrary, the writer would prefer not to experiment fully in person along this line. He would much prefer to eat the shark. The colored folk, by the way, are fond of them. "And why should not sharks be they call them be good food? They are as clean or cleaner feeders than the crab or lobster, and, when caught far off-shore in the green water from white sandy bottom, prolific of good life, they should make good food. Their meat is white and firm, better looking than that of the sturgeon, and as nutritious as the famous 'tomato' of the Italians. If more of them were caught and eaten, other fish-life would be far more abundant."

It is idle to talk about work to a person who regards this world simply as a rest cure.

CHANCE FOR A FISH

Considerable numbers have been caught in the bay by the use of so-called shark bait.

Considerable numbers have been caught in the bay by the use of so-called shark bait. The following hints will be useful in determining the age and value of the watch.

There are certain marks on the watch which serve as a fair guide to the authenticity of an antique watch. The following hints will be useful in determining the age and value of the watch.

According to the authorities, the first watch was invented about the year 1500. The original pocket watch was cylindrical in shape and made entirely of iron, including the plates, mains, wheels and pillars.

Watches of oval form did not appear earlier than about 1600. Most of the date back to the period around 1600. It is probable that there were no watches decorated with enamel before 1612.

The balance spring was invented about the year 1650, but was not generally employed until 1660. Before the watches were not invented before 1670. Watches with alarm movements were carried in the sixteenth century.

The minute hand was introduced only with the use of the balance spring and consequently is not found with until the end of the seventeenth century. Notwithstanding the fact that the cylinder escapement was invented in 1715, it is found only in later cases in the eighteenth century.

Almost all timepieces until the beginning of the nineteenth century were vertical watches. Watches having chased cases did not appear until the appearance of the beginning of the eighteenth century.

"Quality" watches are not found before the year 1800, watches with gongs not before 1780. Watches with movable figures on the dial and watch cases occur only during the eighteenth century. Watches with pearl cases also began to appear in the same period.

More or less valuable watches are called up watches, watches which are one hand, watches which are two hands, watches which are three hands, watches which are four hands, watches which are five hands, watches which are six hands, watches which are seven hands, watches which are eight hands, watches which are nine hands, watches which are ten hands, watches which are eleven hands, watches which are twelve hands, watches which are thirteen hands, watches which are fourteen hands, watches which are fifteen hands, watches which are sixteen hands, watches which are seventeen hands, watches which are eighteen hands, watches which are nineteen hands, watches which are twenty hands, watches which are twenty-one hands, watches which are twenty-two hands, watches which are twenty-three hands, watches which are twenty-four hands, watches which are twenty-five hands, watches which are twenty-six hands, watches which are twenty-seven hands, watches which are twenty-eight hands, watches which are twenty-nine hands, watches which are thirty hands, watches which are thirty-one hands, watches which are thirty-two hands, watches which are thirty-three hands, watches which are thirty-four hands, watches which are thirty-five hands, watches which are thirty-six hands, watches which are thirty-seven hands, watches which are thirty-eight hands, watches which are thirty-nine hands, watches which are forty hands, watches which are forty-one hands, watches which are forty-two hands, watches which are forty-three hands, watches which are forty-four hands, watches which are forty-five hands, watches which are forty-six hands, watches which are forty-seven hands, watches which are forty-eight hands, watches which are forty-nine hands, watches which are fifty hands, watches which are fifty-one hands, watches which are fifty-two hands, watches which are fifty-three hands, watches which are fifty-four hands, watches which are fifty-five hands, watches which are fifty-six hands, watches which 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watches which are two hundred and twenty-seven hands, watches which are two hundred and twenty-eight hands, watches which are two hundred and twenty-nine hands, watches which are two hundred and thirty hands, watches which are two hundred and thirty-one hands, watches which are two hundred and thirty-two hands, watches which are two hundred and thirty-three hands, watches which are two hundred and thirty-four hands, watches which are two hundred and thirty-five hands, watches which are two hundred and thirty-six hands, watches which are two hundred and thirty-seven hands, watches which are two hundred and thirty-eight hands, watches which are two hundred and thirty-nine hands, watches which are two hundred and forty hands, watches which are two hundred and forty-one hands, watches which are two hundred and forty-two hands, watches which are two hundred and forty-three hands, watches which are two hundred and forty-four hands, watches which are two hundred and forty-five hands, watches 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and sixty-five hands, watches which are two hundred and sixty-six hands, watches which are two hundred and sixty-seven hands, watches which are two hundred and sixty-eight hands, watches which are two hundred and sixty-nine hands, watches which are two hundred and seventy hands, watches which are two hundred and seventy-one hands, watches which are two hundred and seventy-two hands, watches which are two hundred and seventy-three hands, watches which are two hundred and seventy-four hands, watches which are two hundred and seventy-five hands, watches which are two hundred and seventy-six hands, watches which are two hundred and seventy-seven hands, watches which are two hundred and seventy-eight hands, watches which are two hundred and seventy-nine hands, watches which are two hundred and eighty hands, watches which are two hundred and eighty-one hands, watches which are two hundred and eighty-two hands, watches which are two hundred and eighty-three hands, watches which are two 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