

OUR POOR RELATIONS.

TWO TYPES MET WITH IN FICTION AND IN REAL LIFE.

Some the Prosperous Need to Run After and Beg Them to Accept Kindness—The Other is Mercifully the Common Garden Variety.

Poor relations belong to two extremely different types; one common in fiction and rare in real life, the other seldom encountered in the printed page, but abounding in the flesh throughout the length and breadth of the world.

The first type includes all the good but despised poor relations—that well known family of saintly and talented persons; the misundervalued genius of a father; the worn, sweet mother; the pretty, gentle, modest daughters; and the hard-working, admirable, stalwart sons.

They are dear creatures and I always rejoice when I meet any of them in the first chapters of a new novel. I know a once that I am going to enjoy myself, that I shall shed tears by the death bed of Mamma or little Florrie, and chuckle delightedly over the last chapter, when the purse-proud insolent rich relations are humbled to the dust and the poor relations acquire wealth and fame, and sit down round the Christmas log-fire in the splendid new home, to tell each other what a lot of good they are going to do with their income and their influence.

This kind of poor relation does exist, though few and far between; I have met one or two of them myself (so far none have attained to the fortune of that final chapter, though!) but these are not the kind that worry any woman's husband, because their honorable pride and their noble independence put them on to do their utmost to conceal their straits. So that in real life, it is you who have to run after them, and persuade them to come to your parties, and beg them to acknowledge you as their cousin, and coax them to accept checks and clothes and so forth.

It is the other type of poor relation—the common or garden variety—which is frequently a bore and sometimes a trial, and has always to be the most tactfully dealt with, if one wishes to avoid the reputation of being a snobbish icicle on the one hand—or being dragged down and victimized on the other.

It consists of all these people who, whether they are Peers or organ-grinders by birth, sink instead of rising on their way through life, and sink through their own fault.

For whatever may have happened centuries ago, when the rich had most things their own way, and only the very talented and determined persons could be certain of rising in spite of circumstances, and at some risk of being burnt as a wizard, or popped in prison by a rival; it is very certain that in modern England no man and no woman who has average health and sense need sink below the level in which he or she was born. He may not make a fortune, but he need not become a "poor relation."

When he or she does, however, they will tell you, and honestly believe it is the truth, too, that it's because they are so unlucky, or someone had a down on them, or circumstances were against them, or they were put into some ungenerous business at the start—or all these things together.

It is this, they eagerly explain, never their own slackness and love of taking things easy, their rooted objection to doing what successful men have to do in the way of "putting up with" disagreeable things.

NEW STYLE UMBRELLA.

So Made That a Person Alone Can Walk Under Its Centre.

The ordinary umbrella, as is well known, has the handle-rod or stick in the centre. If the person is alone, carrying the umbrella elevated, he can only occupy one-half



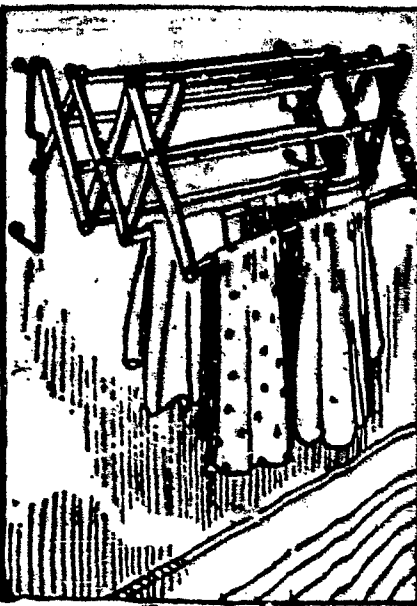
NEW STYLE UMBRELLA.

of the space beneath it, with the result that the outer shoulder is usually beneath the drip. The outer side of the person is thus unprotected, while one half of the covered space is not utilized. To overcome these objections, two Virginia inventors have designed the umbrella shown here. This umbrella has the handle located at one side leaving the central portion unobstructed.

IMPROVED CLOTHES RACK.

When Not in Use Can Be Folded Into Compact Form.

A clothes rack entirely new in construction has been designed by an Iowa man and patented. As shown in the accompanying illustration.



IMPROVED CLOTHES RACK.

tration, it can be readily expanded in service and folded up into compact form when not in use. It is adapted to be placed against a wall or other support at a suitable elevation. The racks are in the form of the well known lazy-tongs which are supported on a bracket. When the rack is opened the upper bars are in advance of the lower bars, so that the extra supports are provided for the drying of the clothes. It will be readily seen that this clothes rack has the advantage over many others by reason of the fact that it need not occupy much room.

HUES FROM FLOWERS.

Chemistry Succeeds in Isolating a Number of Dyes from Flowers.

The delicate and fleeting tints of the flowers when looked at purely from a chemical point of view, are due to dyes—certainly chemical compounds contained in the petals. Many of these have been isolated.

The buttercup owes its brilliant golden hue to a pigment called carotin (from its presence in the carrot root) which is amassed in discoidal bodies that nearly fill up the cells of the epidermis, especially toward the base of the petals. In other parts, especially when the flower is fully expanded, it seems diffused in oily droplets of amorphous granules.

In either case the starch grains in the subjacent tissue act as a reflector, and contribute greatly to enhance the effect. The lower heads contain a considerable amount of sugar, starch, calcium oxalate, and soluble phosphates, in these respects approaching more to the character of leaves than is usual. The stem and root of this buttercup are remarkable for the presence of an acid camphoraceous body easily decomposed into a volatile bitter principal and an acid, even during the drying of the plant, so that its original poisonous character disappears.

Bird's foot treflow with brilliant orange and crimson tints of its little flower is known to everyone. To produce this vividness and lustre, the epidermal cells are swollen into papillae, and contains no less than three distinct pigments. They and also two coloring matters in solution in the cell sap. One is a clear, yellow juice, the other is identical with the anthocyan of the rose. Where the latter predominates, we get the deep red color.

The tiny flowers of the cheerful little yellow bedstraw contains carotin, much yellow resinous matter, and a curious purplish substance (possibly purpurin) insoluble in cold alcohol or benzene after purification. The flowers also contain a species of ferment which, like rennet, has the power of coagulating boiling milk. A substance known as rubichloric acid is present, not only in the flowers, but in the stem and root. It forms a colorless solution in water, but when boiled with a few drops of hydrochloric acid suddenly produces a deep blue, then a green color, and deposits a dense, dark green precipitate soluble in ammonia. The disk florets of the daisy are tinged with carotin granules, the crimson of the ray florets is due to a soluble pigment described as a tannin anhydride. The blue of the barbell and chicory is again a tannin derivative.

Two coloring matters are engaged in the decoration of the primrose. At the base of the petal limbs where the tint is more deeply orange, carotin granules are present; the rest of the corolla contains a pale-yellow soluble pigment. Although the tints are comparatively feeble, chemical analysis shows that the plant is capable of an infinitely richer wealth of coloration than it shows in our climate, since it seems almost impossible to exhaust the flower heads of substance which yield vivid and powerful orange and yellow dyes.

A new broom can be made more pliable and it will last longer too, if it is dipped in boiling soda.

To remove fruit stains from table cloths dip them in boiling water.

WHAT THE YOUNGEST GAVE.

Girl Accosted by a Spanish Beggar Had Each a Present for Him.

From Romantic Spain comes the beautiful story by Catala-Morales. The text here given is from a translation by Wilfred Clarke and is printed in "Transatlantic Tales."

Upon a Spanish highway where all the pretty girls and handsome youths were returning arm in arm from the corrida (bull fight), a youthful mendicant with a ragged cloak thrown round him was praying for alms, vowing no food had passed his lips for two whole days.

Notwithstanding the firmness of his tanned skin which could be seen peeping out through the rents and tears of his ragged clothes, one felt at a glance that he was no impostor. The half-starved look in his eyes and his sunken cheeks betokened the want of nourishment.

The crowd, however, paid but little attention to him and passed him by, singing Spanish love songs and, heavily plaudits and peals of laughter. Would they all leave the poor boy to die of starvation on the road?

From out all the throng only three young girls stopped and gazed upon him. They were fresh to look, plump, rosy cheeked and not more than twenty years of age. They paused and gradually their laughter gave place to looks of pity. The eldest girl gave him one real. "Thank you," he said. The next girl gave him a piece; "God will reward you," said he.

The third, the youngest, who was also the prettiest of the three, had neither real nor piece. For a moment she stood undecided, then, standing on tiptoe, she gave him a soft little kiss on his lips.

The poor, famished lad said nothing, but seeing a flower vendor passing, he gave to him all the money he had just begged for a large bunch of tea roses, and, with tears in his eyes, silently handed them to the young girl.

Gown of Point D'esprit.

Much in the way of genuine elegance and apparent extravagance can be accomplished with inexpensive fabrics of semi-transparent description, and point d'esprit plays an important part in this way. A striking dinner frock is pictured here, fashioned of point d'esprit built over pale pink silk mull. The skirt is cut circular with no fullness at the hips, while the bottom is draped.



GOWN OF POINT D'ESPRIT.

fashioned with a wide band of draped silk net, below which is a facing of plain pink silk.

In this instance the collar, too, does much to beautify the person, and more and more women of fashionable pretensions are realizing the importance of arranging the hair becomingly. The chignon is form of of satin puffs, while the rest of the hair is arranged to form soft, full waves about the sides and front.

A pretty rival of point d'esprit for a simple dinner gown is coarse silk net and added to it are scroll smudges carried out in bebe ribbon. The net falls over one or five layers of chiffon, or, less expensive, silk mull, which, in turn, are mounted on tight-fitting slips of silk.

HOME COOKING.

Cooking Beef Fish. Split in two after being dressed and lay on a table or board, with the flesh side down, cut crosswise at least every quarter of an inch, from head to tail, with a sharp knife. One will not know that the little bundles of bones had been there.

Grated Ham.

This is one of the nicest relishes for supper or lunch or sandwiches. Cut a good sized piece from the thickest part of a boiled ham, trim off the fat, grate the lean part and put in the centre of a platter; slice some thin slices of the fat and place around the edge together with some tender heads of lettuce and serve for tea or luncheon.

Huckleberry Blauz.

One quart of flour sift into it 2 teaspoons of baking powder and 1 teaspoon salt; mix it 1-3 cup of butter and pour on mixture a scant cup of milk to which has been added 1-2 cup molasses. Add a pinch of soda; mix dough and add one pint or more of berries; stir gently; do not roll out, but take spoonful of dough in hand and mould in small balls.

REVOLVING LOCKER.

Has Chosen in the Space Which One Usually Occupies.

The latest development in the manufacture of steel furniture is a revolving locker which is especially designed for offices and in surrounding whole square lockers would appear commonplace.



REVOLVING LOCKER.

Another, and equally important consideration, is that, while it occupies a liberal capacity, it takes up but little floor space. In the locker shown herewith there are six good sized compartments and yet the floor space occupied is not much more than usually needed for a single locker.

Fables About Mermaids.

There is a decided fascination about the mermaids of legend. Considering their traditional form it does not seem quite certain whether or they can be included among the fair "humanities" of old religion, but it would be extremely interesting to see one. In all seriousness, saying the London Globe, the fables and poetry underlying and inherent in the old myths are well worth attention, but apart from these, there is something distinctly entertaining in the quasi-historical accounts that we have of mermaids and the heroic attempts at rationalistic explanation. The fancy has often been held on popular imagination than many of the old legends. Of course, they are recognized as non-existent, but, unlike the majority of mythological beings, they are invested colloquially with a spot of humorously reality. One might almost think that Autolyon recognized this in the care he takes to impress his hearers with the absolute veracity of his burlesque story of the fish that appeared on the coast.

"A History of the Netherlands" gives a circumstantial account of a great tempest which washed ashore near Haarlem a "sea woman," as she was swimming about. She was captured and cleaned from the "sea" mews that had grown about her, and became a humanized creature, except that she was always trying to escape into the water. And it is added: "Many persons worthy of credit have justified in their writings that they had seen her in the seaside towns of Haarlem." In the sixteenth century of Caylus, some sailors captured several mermaids and mermaids, several priests and physicians testifying to the fact that the latter leaving it on record that, after examination and dissection, they found that external and internal structure resembled those of human beings. Hudson, the famous navigator, declared that his ship's company had seen a mermaid, the upper part of her body like a woman, skin very white and long black hair. An old Icelandic history, "The Book of One-mear Greenland," the book had had in all respects like a human being. The Norwegian Bishop Pontoppidan, who wrote in the eighteenth century, records the appearance of a mermaid, which was reported to on path by the fishermen. And, not to multiply quotations proving the belief even of the learned, in the actual existence of mermaids, Pliny asserts authoritatively that, "as for the mermaids," "it is no fabulous tale that goeth of them, for looks new painters draw them as they are indeed."

It seems hard after all these weighty testimonies that we should be assured that the "historical mermaids" were only dunces of madmen, seals or sea lions, especially as some of these interesting creatures measure some 4 feet in length and are by no means attractive in appearance, something in the shape of the head and the breast is relied on by the rationalistic scientists to explain the delusion. But one is at a loss to understand how this can account for the circumstantial descriptions that have come down to us. Coevals of those old writers have proved to us by their paintings that they held very much the same views as to what constituted feminine beauty as we have, and we should certainly not discover in the legends or legends anything that would suggest in the very least that the mermaids were dunces or madmen.

WORRY CAUSE OF INSANITY.

Insanity in Trouble the Cause of Mental Derangement.

Medical experts agree that worry is in its numerous phases is the chief cause of insanity.

"It is the chief cause of insanity," says a specialist. "We must bear in mind that all the cases resulting from intemperance are classed under one head, and figures amounting to 1,111 placed under it. These cases which might justifiably be classed as 'worry' are, on the other hand, divided up into sections. Put them all together and the following is the result: Domestic trouble 1,111 Mental anxiety and overwork 1,111 Adverse circumstances 1,111 Love affairs 1,111 Privation and starvation 1,111 Total 5,555

"These figures bear out in a striking manner the advice, 'Don't Worry,' which the medical faculty is constantly enforcing upon 80 per cent. of its patients. Worry is the inveterate foe of all doctors, and the worst of it is that it is generally without cause."

"It is a great mistake, when any trouble arises, to get into a rut, wonder what the end will be, and reproach oneself for not performing a certain thing or other which would have prevented it. Yet that is what thousands do."

"Surely, the only rational attitude is to look at the thing dispassionately—as it is, not as it might be, consider how far it has gone, and then sit down quietly to think of some way first to arrest the danger, and then to repair the damage."

"The pace at which we live and the keenness of commercial competition are all against this. People become excited, which leads to a frenzy of worry. They then find themselves in the doctor's hands, or worse still, often in the lunatic asylum, as the report, printed yesterday, proves so eloquently."—London Express.

BEGGARS' UNION.

French Organization for Protection Against Pretenders.

Not long ago an Austrian association of dancing masters sought redress at the hands of the law for the infringement of their prerogative by an unfortunate doctor of medicine who had found it impossible to make a living by the practice of his own profession. But the most remarkable trade union of which we have heard is one in the south of France, formed by beggars for the suppression of unequalled practice.

A meeting of street singers and of the lame, the halt and the blind who extract voluntary contributions from the charitable public was held at Marielles, a one-legged man being in the chair, for the purpose of organizing themselves into a body strong enough to resist the encroachments of pretenders. The association was duly constituted, with statutes and bylaws. It was decided that only French subjects with genuine malformations or sores could be admitted to membership.

Compliance with this condition may not be altogether easy to enforce, for the limitation of diseases is a fine art. Readers of the life of Ambrose Bierce may remember that when he was a boy, a beggar's approach was not only a nuisance, but a source of annoyance in his native town. In the exposure of a beggar who had stood at the door of the parish church, according to the play of the imagination, a beggar's approach was not only a nuisance, but a source of annoyance in his native town. In the exposure of a beggar who had stood at the door of the parish church, according to the play of the imagination, a beggar's approach was not only a nuisance, but a source of annoyance in his native town.

The headquarters of the association are to be in Paris, and the organization will be under the direction of one Donatien, who though he walks on crutches is said to be a man of extraordinary activity, going up and down visiting up recruits. Some difficulty seems to have arisen in regard to contributions, many of the members preferring to keep their earnings to themselves. A feeling of uneasiness seems also to exist lest the list of members should find its way into the hands of the authorities.

Longevity of Germs.

Some interesting observations on the ever-important subject of the vitality of disease germs is made by Dr. Miquel of the Berlin University Medical School. Some ten years ago he took some earth from one of the public parks of that city at a depth of ten inches below the turf. This he dried for two days at a temperature of 30 degrees Centigrade, and then by placing the dust in a hermetically sealed tube, which he put aside in a dark corner of the laboratory.

When taken, the soil contained an average of six and one-half million bacteria per gramme. After deduction the number had fallen to rather less than four million. Today, ten years later, he still found three million per gramme, and he was able to isolate the specific microbe of tetanus. The inoculation of this soil in guinea pigs determined death from tetanus after an incubation period of ten days, showing the remarkable power of resistance of the tetanus bacillus to heat and dryness.

THE CHINESE JOURNAL.

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