

MEN AS FICTION READERS.

In Demand For Such Reading Are Said to Outrank Women.

That men have taken to reading fiction more than ever before is a statement made recently by some persons in charge of public reading rooms and libraries.

It used to be said some years ago that women had a monopoly of fiction and that men read the "heavier" literature.

Now it is claimed by some authorities that the conditions are becoming somewhat reversed and that women do a good deal of the heavy reading.

There is a tale of a woman in one of the suburban towns who is so eager to learn all that she can on these deeper subjects and the volumes which contain the precious matter are so heavy that she is obliged to bring a toy express wagon each week to carry them back and forth.

A cataloguer in a large public library, is of the opinion that the men and women about average on reading fiction. "You see," she said, "the businessman reads for recreation and tired out with the routine of the office, requires something light—something which will not tax his brain too much. So he resorts to fiction. Women take out books on travel and the domestic sciences, to be concretions, either vesical, renal or biliary, and were found in the bladder, kidney or liver of some animal—those taken from the deer, supposed to be the best."

"When a person is bitten by a reptile or a dog supposed to be mad and the porous stone applied to the wound the blotting paper action begins and the blood, saliva from the mouth of the animal and whatever poison these fluids contain will naturally, by capillary attraction, be absorbed by and into the substance applied, no matter what name you may give it."

"The saying that if a stone sticks the wound is poisonous and if it does not take hold there is no venom present is untrue. If the stone is clean and dry it will adhere when moisture is within reach until it becomes saturated."

"For instance, a new red brick will absorb one pint of water. After the venom has been taken into the circulation the madstone is worthless, but, as the victim is usually filled with whiskey or alcohol at the same time the stone is being used, the spirits may counteract the effect of the poison."

"I know of a stone which has a wide reputation and makes a good living for the family owning it. They never let it go out of their sight and, when the victim cannot be taken to the stone, one member of the family can be hired to take the stone to the victim. In addition to traveling expenses they charge \$5 each hour that the stone sticks."

"This stone is busy a large part of the time. Not long since, the stone held to a man's leg for over 100 hours, yet the man died. His life could have been saved if dependence had not been placed entirely in the stone."

Writing in Science, Dr. Charles R. Stockard of Columbia University gives a brief account of an interesting experiment inartificially producing a single median eye in the fish embryo by means of sea-water solutions of magnesium chloride. It seems that Fundulus embryos when developed in certain strength solutions of MgCl2, in sea-water form a large single median eye. This condition is comparable to the one-eyed human monsters known as Cyclops, or Synophthalmia.

The single eye results from an antero-medio-ventral fusion of the elements of the two optic vesicles at an early developmental stage. This fusion is more or less complete in the different embryos.

The large compound optic cup induces the formation of a single lens. This lens is formed from ectoderm different in position from that of the normal lens-forming region. The lens is abnormally large in size as is also the optic cup and the size of the former varies directly with that of the latter. It is probable that there is no localization of lens-forming substance in the ectoderm of the fish embryo. This inter-relationship in the development of the optic cup and lens is interestingly compared with the processes of development in the amphibian eye, as shown by recent experiments.

Mixed sea-water solutions of MgCl2 and NaCl also cause the one-eyed condition. Since such a defect is characteristic of the MgCl2 action when used in sea water solutions one must infer that the Mg constituent in the mixture is responsible for the result.—Scientific American

Where They Die Only Once. A lumbering old stage was winding in and out over a remote road in the Adirondacks. There was only one passenger and he had chosen to sit outside beside the driver. Several times he had tried conversation, but had met with so little encouragement that he had given up and was silently watching the landscape.

Presently they came to a tiny mountain burying ground, containing a few gravestones and a few unmarked graves. The passenger looked at it, struck by its air of loneliness, which seemed to stir in him a fresh desire for human intercourse. He turned again to the driver, pointed toward the graveyard, and observed: "People around here don't seem to die very often, do they?"

"And without turning his head, 'Just once,' said the driver.

What was probably one of the largest cargoes of fruit ever carried from any port in the world in cool chambers recently left Hobart in the steamer 'Albatross' for England. The cargo exceeded 125,000 bushel

CLAY PIPE FOR MADSTONE.

It Will Do the Work Just as Well, Says a Physician.

Physicians are often asked whether there really is any virtue in what are called madstones. One of them declares they would be of more value if their limitations were understood.

"There is no particular variety of stone or substance which may be designated exclusively as the madstone," he says. "I have seen many of them, so called, and no two were of exactly the same composition, geologically considered."

"Madstones act on the same principle that a blotting paper does when absorbing ink, and there is nothing that makes a better one than baked pipeclay. A new clay pipe, procurable for one cent at nearly any store where tobacco is sold, cannot be expelled by any madstone, no matter how great its reputation. The action can be clearly demonstrated by placing a common dry red brick in contact with the margin of a puddle of water and noticing what capillary attraction will accomplish."

"Therefore, to be efficient, the only necessity is for the stone to be porous and have a strong adhesive and absorbent qualities. Nothing mysterious about it."

"I have seen several that appear to be concretions, either vesical, renal or biliary, and were found in the bladder, kidney or liver of some animal—those taken from the deer, supposed to be the best."

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WORLD'S OLDEST HEAD.

Dates Back to Earliest Babylonian Civilization, 4500 B. C.

In Blamya, which the archaeologists are now calling the oldest city in the world," the party of Americans under Dr. Edgar J. Banks unearthed some relics of the earliest Babylonian civilization, dating back to 4500 B. C.

Among these are some pieces of statuary which show that the people of that ancient city had attained a wonderful high ability in the art of sculpture. They were Sumerians, a race that was not Semitic; they had round heads and shaved the hair from their faces.

The heads of statues dug from these ruins and the inscriptions on their pottery and seals make it possible to imagine what they looked like. The people of Blamya also understood the art of inlaying, and Dr. Banks has at least one fine vase beautifully inlaid, which was discovered on the site of the Temple of Ishtar.

Fish Cannot Hear. Much controversy has taken place on the question of sense of hearing in fish, and many experiments have been tried with a view to settling it. Some of the latest of these are those of which M. Marage has given an account in the Paris Comptes Rendus.

The fish he experimented with were carp, tench, pike, eel and others, and the author finds no evidence of a sense of hearing. Sounds were transmitted into the water close to the fish with an energy capable of affecting deaf mutes. No effect was produced on the fish. Forest and Stream.

Introductions. Always present a man to a lady. Always ask permission of the lady if you have time, it is not the form. "Mrs. Blank, my I present Mr. Dash."

Always introduce a younger woman to an older one. Always present a young girl to a distinguished older man.

In introducing two girls or ladies of equal age and station, it is informal to say, "Miss Blank, do you know Miss Dash?"

Conundrums. What is the center of gravity? The letter V. Why ought meat to be only half cooked? Because what's done can not be helped.

Why is a school boy being flogged like your eye? Because he's a pupil under the lash. Born at the same time as the world, destined to live as long as the world, and yet never five weeks old? The moon.

Naval Master-at-Arms. A master-at-arms is a petty officer in the navy who forms one of the police of a ship. In the United States navy there are four grades of master-at-arms: a chief master-at-arms, and master-at-arms of the first, second and third-class. Large vessels have one chief and several of the lower ratings. In small ships a first or second-class master-at-arms is the chief of the ship's police.

A Topsy-Turvy World. We find the world made to our hand. The wise men marry the fool; the virgins, and the splendid virgins marry dolt, and matters in general are so mixed up that the choice lies between nice things about spoiled and vile things that are not so bad after all, and it is hard to tell sometimes, which you like best or which you loathe the least.—Gail Hamilton.

In a Morocco Harem. Every woman in the harem has her face decorated in the most curious manner. The practice is to elongate the eyebrows to the ears and to embellish the chin with little points of black paint. In contrast with the men their complexions are very fair, as they are shut within walls and are never exposed to the sun.

Have Pity on the Teacher. If boys would only learn algebra, history and the rest as easily as they learn batting averages and the standing of the baseball clubs, how much easier the lot of the school teacher would be!—N. Y. Herald.

Devoutly to Be Wished. A magazine writer says that every married woman should have an income of \$5,000 a year. If more unmarried women had an income of that size there would be a heavier demand for wedding rings.—Washington Post.

Home-Made Umbrella Stand. Take a good sized sewer pipe and enamel it to match the hall. Use a small granite pan as catch basin. This makes a useful and cheap umbrella stand.

Home Never Like That. When the average American awakes in heaven he will be disappointed unless he finds an alarm clock and a cup of coffee.

New Wear for Poachers. English poachers have adopted khaki for wear during business hours. They find it makes the evasion of watchful gamekeepers easier.

Museum as Scientist's Memorial. It is to have a biological (physiological) museum as a memorial of Prof. Haeckel.

FARMS FOR PICKLE MARKET.

Young Miss Expects to Realize \$100 from Her One Acre of Cucumbers.

Pierceton, Ind.—"I don't know if I am champion, but I have yet to learn of any other person of my sex in the State that is growing so many cucumbers for pickles," said Miss Anna Rawlings of Pierceton.

Miss Rawlings is seventeen years old and has indomitable pluck and determination. Her father is cultivating a farm east of town and raising stuff for a canning company. Miss Anna has leased one of the acres which she has planted in cucumbers.

She declined the offer of assistance from her father and is doing the cultivating herself. She will also market her product unaided, receiving 70 cents a bushel for the pickles. She expects to realize nearly \$100 for her labors.

AIRSHIP INVULNERABLE. At Height of 1,000 Metres Guns Could Not Be Trained On It. Herlin, Germany.—The scare in England about the military qualities of Count Zeppelin's balloon will not be lessened by a statement just published by Captain Hildebrandt, of the German army, and one of the greatest living authorities who states that the balloon one thousand metres above the ground is practically invulnerable, as it is impossible to train a gun to the necessary angle. In addition it is almost impossible to find the range. This can only be done exactly by taking an observation at two separate points; and then calculating the contained angle of the triangle thus obtained. By the time this could be done the balloon would be far out of range.

SEER OWNERS OF BIG FUND. 45,000 Descendants of Indians Make Application. Bristol, Tenn.—Fred N. Baker, assistant to Special Commissioner Miller, who has the task of distributing \$4,000,000 among the descendants of Cherokee and other Indian in the South and Southwest heard recently the cases of seven Bristol applicants for a share in the fund, many of them being in Virginia, Tennessee, Kentucky, North Carolina, Georgia and Alabama. The money represents a judgment against the United States government in favor of the Indians. The original sum was only \$1,000,000 but the interest for seventy-five years has quadrupled it.

Unsolved Problems. The three great problems on the solution of which humanity is bent are the same that perplexed our ancestors—the immortality of the soul, perpetual motion and women's hats.

Sugar as Food. Some interesting experiments with reference to the nutritive value of foods containing sugar were recently made at the instance of the War Office at Berlin.

It is a fact well known to Alpine excursionists an increased desire is felt for sweets and sweetened foods, and many who never touch such things at home devour large quantities of them on their tours. It is also frequently remarked that the guides eagerly appropriate any sugar that may be left over, and consume it on the journey. Whether the sugar afforded real benefit to the mountain climber was the subject of the German investigation, that is, did the consumption of sugar render the tired muscles capable of renewed exertion?

To answer the question conclusively, the subject of the experiment was not allowed to know that a test was being made. One day a sweet liquid, containing thirty grams of sugar, was administered; on the next similar liquid, sweetened by saccharin to render it indistinguishable from the other as far as taste was concerned, took the place of the sugar.

The result was a complete triumph for the sugar. It was found that a greater amount of work could be accomplished on the days when sugar was given than on those when saccharin took its place. This serves, as far as it goes to prove that sugar is food in a true sense, and that it is in particular food for the muscles.

MIXES UP HIS FAMILY TREE. Pearce Is Now the Father-in-Law of His Own Sister. Kalamazoo, Mich.—Benjamin Pearce recently married Mrs. Myrtle Robinson. Force-DeForest. Almsworth and thereby became father-in-law of his sister and uncle and grandfather of his wife's child.

Mrs. Pearce by her first husband became the mother of David Force. The latter led to the altar Gladys Pearce, sister of Benjamin Pearce. They have a baby. As the husband of the sister's mother-in-law, Benjamin Pearce becomes his sister's father-in-law. As the plain brother of his sister, he naturally is her child's uncle, and as the spouse of his sister's child's grandmother he is the infant's grandfather.

Building the Turkish Railroad. The railroad line to Mecca is being built by Turkish soldiers, under the supervision of a German civil engineer, and the cost is being defrayed, in part, by Meccans in all parts of the world. The major part of the expense is covered by special taxes.

FUNGUS IN STOMACH KILLS HER.

Grows from Pinhead to Coconut Size, Causing Agony to Girl.

London.—Sprouting from a grain of oats or barley, a fungus caused the death of a girl fifteen years old in Sheffield, and an autopsy revealed that the fungus had grown in the stomach to the size of a coconut.

The growth had sent out roots which had invaded all the surrounding organs, and the girl died in agony. The case is held to be one of the strangest in medical records in this country. About a month ago the girl complained of pains in her stomach, and a dozen physicians differed in their diagnosis. As it turned out, all were wrong. The girl gradually grew worse, each day adding to her suffering, until she died. The autopsy was performed and four doctors testified to what was found.

The doctors said that when a grain of oats or barley was eaten a tiny vegetable parasite known as ray fungus, was growing on it. This parasite was not killed by being eaten. Instead, it thrived and grew until the size of a coconut it killed the girl.

MARCH THROUGH FIRE. Ceremonial of a Set of Brahmans in Honor of Gods of Fire and Water. Six thousand Hindus and a select few English officials have recently witnessed in the neighborhood of Jadrass a remarkable religious ceremony, the principal actors being Solvrasas, a sect of Brahmans.

The festival was called "the march through fire," and it is appropriately enough named. The proceedings were in honor of Brahma and Vishnu, the gods of water and fire.

Preparations for the ceremony had been going on for a month. A trench twenty-three feet long and nineteen feet deep was dug, and in it a fire was kindled. At sunrise, forty fanatics, who were to demonstrate their asbestos nature, slowly marched around the furnace, bearing the curious idols. The Solvrasas were clothed in yellow tunics, and without hesitation, entered the fire trench singing a hymn, the refrain of which was "Govinda! Govinda!" After walking around this artificial Gehenna three times they emerged apparently none the worse for their experience, and have established an unassailable claim for sanctity among their people.—London Globe.

A Remarkable Test. A Copenhagen newspaper, with a view to testing the comparative rate of speed of various telegraph systems sent off to itself two telegrams, each of five words; one telegram went eastward while the other went to the west. One telegram went via Shanghai, New York, and London; while the other went via London, New York and Shanghai. The telegram sent off by Shanghai, or the eastern route, arrived back in Copenhagen in three hours, 23 minutes. Each telegram had to be taken over and telegraphed afresh eight times during transmission.—London Chronicle.

An Underground Wonder. One of the most wonderful underground waterways in the world, which was constructed at the latter end of the eighteenth century by the Duke of Bridgewater, is now being used for the conveyance of waste water from the Earl of Ellesmere's offices at Walkden, near Manchester. This canal, which is entirely underground with its arms and junctions covers over 40 miles.

New Way to Make Alcohol. A Norwegian chemist has discovered a new and cheap way of making alcohol from sawdust. Sawdust is treated under pressure with diluted sulphuric acid, by which the cellulose is transformed into sugar, which, by adding fermentation producers, is converted into alcohol in the old manner and then distilled. Two hundred and twenty pounds of sawdust yield fifteen pounds of alcohol.

Jim Lane's Advice to Recruits. During the Civil War a lot of young fellows at Oskaloosa wanted to enlist in the cavalry. Jim Lane told them they would make a mistake if they joined a "boss" regiment. "I tell you, boys," he said, "it will cost you a horse apiece to join the cavalry. As infantrymen you will be ordered to Mississippi, and you can ride one horse and lead another when you come back."—Atlantic Globe.

Flower Cure for Flies. The confectioner's shop was quite free of flies, though all the cakes and sweetmeats were uncovered. "That mignonette," said he, "is what keeps the flies away. We have it in pots all over the place. The odor is unpleasant to flies and they won't come near us. I got the idea from the South. There the butchers and confectioners always have mignonette growing in their shops, and they can expose their wares without any fear of flies' attacks.

It's a good idea. One sprig of mignonette in my window keeps it quite fly free."—New York World.

Stock Exchange Values. Of stock market value, over \$25,000,000,000 on their face value are quoted on the London Stock Exchange, as against a little over \$15,000,000,000 listed on the New York Stock Exchange.

Style With Pen or Shears. That "the style is the man" applies as truly to sartorial productions as to expressions of thought. It is the mannerism of the workman in either. Fashion is the rough sketch in the eye, style the filling in and finish. Thought is the groundwork in the other, the manner of its presentation is the style. Just as the writer or speaker expresses himself in his manner of expressing his thoughts, so the cutter stamps his individuality on all he cuts, making an imprint which proves whether he is an artist or not.

Sartorial productions are characterized by the same styles as those which are found in expressions of thought. The original and appropriate are admired in both; the artistic and correct charm us in one as in the other, and the beautiful delights us whether expressed in words or garments. On the other hand, we are bored by the dull and heavy in either, amused by the freakish, amazed by the extravagant, shocked by the inappropriate, and disgusted by the vulgar.

The style which charms us, which we admire, or which affords us delight in either the thought expression or the sartorial production, represents a high order of intellect, much acquired knowledge, painstaking care, true artistic instinct, and a just estimation of the eternal fitness of things; but the style which is heavy or dull is stamped with the imprint of a heavy or of a dull intellect; that which is extravagant, fantastic or freakish betrays a mind that is not well balanced; that which is inappropriate proves ignorance or indifference to the rights of others, and that which is vulgar brands the author's mind as coarse.—From the American Tailor and Outfitter.

The entire population of the world could be placed on the Isle of Wight.

Some of the great Atlantic liners employ 150 firemen.

The Canadian farmer works from 12 to 16 hours in the busy season.

Hardest to Fight. Goats are almost invariably great fighters, but says the Howard Courant with unexpected candor, "Did you ever hear a story about a goat that wasn't really true?"

Women of Wealth.

Mrs. Hetty Green occupies a unique position among her sisters in wealth. She made nearly all her money herself, and she gives none of it away. She desires, it is said, to make her son, E. H. R. Green, the richest man in America, and she labors constantly and denies herself all the comforts and some of the necessities of life for no other apparent or conceivable object.

Mrs. Green protests occasionally against being considered merely a woman of finance and figures, a human cash register, without heart or soul. She declares that she has been misunderstood all her life. She has tried in her own way, she says, to do some good to others, but no man ever worried her in a business deal. Some have tried and regretted it.

Mrs. Green is seventy-one years of age. She is interested in nearly every large corporation and enterprise of magnitude in the country. No one knows how much she is worth, but her fortune has been estimated at from \$50,000,000 to \$100,000,000. With all this wealth her shabby clothes have become the talk of two continents. It is impossible to tell where she lives, for she is always flitting from one place to another.

Mrs. Anne Weightman Walker is said to have inherited from her father, the millionaire chemist of Philadelphia, who died in August, 1904 from \$75,000,000 to \$100,000,000, but every precaution was taken at the time the estate was settled to prevent its value becoming known. The burden fell upon shoulders that were already inured to financial responsibility. For years Mrs. Weightman and her two brothers received and managed a third each of the profits of their father's business, and, as first her brothers and then her husband died, Mrs. Weightman's responsibility increased until about eight months before her father's death she undertook to relieve him of business cares entirely. She had a head for finance, and her friends said of her: "She is her father over again." Upon his death she took hold of his business with great energy for a while, going to her office every day and having offices fitted up in her home in Walnut street. But she soon wearied of this life, transferred her responsibilities to other shoulders, and sold all her property for the purpose of business or residential purposes. A widow and childless, with simple tastes and little inclination for social pleasures, her main interest is church work.

The name of Miss Helen Gould is seldom seen in print except in connection with charity, and all through New York there is scarcely a mansion or a home or settlement of religious affiliations where inquiry does not reveal that she and her money have passed that way.

Her fortune is insignificant compared with those of the women just mentioned, but a mere enumeration of her benefactions would be tedious. So far has the fame of her charities spread that in one week she has received 1,408 letters, containing requests for everything from bicycles to Bibles, and calling for an expenditure if all the prayers had been heeded of \$1,648,501.

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