

DYEING REAL FLOWERS.

How the Ingenious May Produce Some Rare Floral Effects. "Every once in a while some florist gets busy and puts some odd-colored blossoms in his window as an extra attraction to the display," said a clubman. "I just noticed one down the street. It consisted of a bunch of impossibly green carnations. At first glance a good many people thought they were made of paper, but they got interested when they found out that they were natural. Now, anybody who wants to have any of these freak flowers can get them by buying some kind of aniline ink, any color desired. Carnations are the easiest to color—white ones of course. Put their stems in a glass filled with ink. Their stems are soft and in a short while the larger veins in their petals are filled with the ink. Don't let them absorb too much color, they're prettier with just so much. Then remove them and put them in a vase of salt water. Lilies of the valley lend themselves to this scheme also. In fact, any white self-stained flower may be used."

Bacteria in School Glass. A cup which had been in use nine days in a school was a clear thin glass. It was broken into a number of pieces and properly stained for examination with a microscope magnifying 1,000 diameters. The human cells scraped from the lips of the drinkers were so numerous on the upper third of the glass that the head of a pin could not be placed anywhere without touching several of these bits of skin. The saliva by running down on the inside of the glass had carried cells and bacteria to the bottom. Here, however, they were less than one-third as abundant as at the brim. By counting the cells present in only fifty different areas on the glass as seen under the microscope, it was estimated that the cup contained over 20,000 human cells or bits of dead skin. As many as 150 germs were seen clinging to a single cell, and very few cells showed less than ten germs. The green cells were thousands of germs left there by the amoeba of saliva deposited by the drinkers. Not less than 100,000 bacteria were present on every square inch of the glass.—Leavenworth (Kan.) Times.

Birds That Deceive. "All birds are not so innocent as they would seem," says a naturalist. "Take, for instance, the goose. Most people have heard a goose hiss when threatened by danger. Well, that is a trick on the bird's part. In past ages, when the mother goose was sitting on her nest among the reeds, she somehow learned that this action made her head and neck stimulate a snake. So it formed a fine defense. The lawping is another deceiver. If you approach her nest, she will set up a dismal outcry and run backward and forward, trailing one wing on the ground, as though it were broken, thinking to pick her up, you follow. Thus she lures you away from her young. "In times of drought the thrush acts a lie. He will beat upon the ground with his claws like a dancer. By this he makes the earthworms think it is raining. Up they come, and then the wily thrush dines luxuriantly."—London Answers.

Meerschaum Running Out. Unless a fresh source of supply is found, meerschaum will soon be worth double as much as it is today. The article was introduced into Europe, so far as its use for pipes is concerned, through Turkey. This was about the year 1750. A large supply was also found in Ruhlra, in Germany, near the Thuringia Forest, which, until recently, gave employment to about five thousand hands. Many of the most notable among the German sculptors had their first training as carvers of meerschaum pipe bowls. The supply, however, has now almost ceased, and the only important beds in the world today are in Asia Minor. The industry there is now controlled by American and British capital, with the result that the stuff is now fifty per cent dearer than it was a few years ago, with the prospect of a further advance in price at an early date.—Dundee Advertiser.

Mathematics Versus Poetry. Some men are so practical that it is utterly impossible for them to take in even the barest idea of poetical expression. They are like people who look at all beautiful things with eyes that seek only for what use may be made of them. It is said that a young professor of mathematics in one of our universities once boasted to a friend that he neither knew nor cared to know anything about poetry, for it was "all a lot of unpractical rot." His friend thought he might feel differently if he read some stirring poem by one of the greater writers, and gave him Tennyson's "Charge of the Light Brigade" as a test. The mathematician took up the volume and read thus: Half a league, half a league, half a league onward. Then he banged the book down on the table, snorting, "Bah; if the man meant a league and a half, why didn't he say so!"

The Three Ages of Man. Report by a young English schoolgirl of a lecture on "Phases of Human Life—Youth, Manhood, and Age": "In youth we look forward to the wicked things we will do when we grow up—this is the state of innocence. In manhood we do the wicked things of which we thought in our youth—this is the prime of life. In old age we are sorry for the wicked things we did in manhood—this is the state of our Solange."—Christian Mag.

Dangerous Job. Next to working in a sawmill, the most dangerous business is acting as a judge at a baby show.—Chicago Record-Herald.

WHY TRAINS START LATE.

Object is to Give Passengers Just One Minute's Leeway. "We're one minute late in starting," observed the man to his seatmate on an outward bound train at the Grand Central the other afternoon. "Either the train is late or my watch is slow. I don't think it. My watch, for it's an absolutely accurate chronometer as there is in America. I paid \$500 for it, he added proudly. "Your watch is all right and so is the train," replied his companion. "It's something that is not known to the public, but it is a fact that most of the great railroads nowadays make their published time cards those that it issues to the public at large—actually one minute faster than those they furnish their train employees. For instance, this train according to the time table, is due to leave the station at 4:59. The time card the engineer runs by gives the leaving time as five o'clock, and at five o'clock the second he puts out. The reason for that is this: I get to the gate at exactly 4:59. I am agreeably surprised to see that the train I want to take is still there and slide through the gate just as it is closing. I get aboard and in my seat just as the train starts. I look out of the window and see someone hastening down the platform trying to make a swift swoop and land on the train step at the last moment. If there is anyone left behind he is on the other side of the gate. The railroads have adopted this plan of having their published time cards one minute faster, so that the gate leading to the train may be closed at the moment the train is scheduled to start and no that those who get inside at the last moment can have exactly one minute to get aboard which is ample if one is at all nimble. New York Press.

The Florida Guava. Florida produces a great variety of the choicest fruits, but it never was famous for apples or peaches. However, there is the guava concerning which little is known outside of that State, but which is an excellent substitute for either of the above-mentioned fruits, and actually seems to be seen quantities of each. The cultivated guava shrub or tree grows to a height of about twenty feet and the size of the fruit varies from that of a small hen's egg and a large lemon. The skin is smooth and the inside resembles the pulp of a tomato except for the seeds which are generally very hard. Several guavas may be raised every year, the water fruit being more tart than that which ripens in the summer, especially fine for jelly making. It is most unfortunate that the guava is a fruit of such a perishable nature that it appears an impossibility to ship it any great distance—the delicate red variety—often crushing into mush when carried for two or three miles in a farm wagon. For that reason it is very doubtful whether this tropical product, which should occupy a prominent place on the home market, will ever gain the wide popularity that it justly deserves.

Our Great American Astronomer. Prof. Simon Newcomb, the celebrated astronomer, who has just been decorated by the Kaiser, is the first American official to receive a foreign decoration of any kind in eight years. This order is but one of many that the distinguished American scientist has had conferred upon him by foreign powers. He is an officer of the Legion of Honor and he is the first native American to be made an associate of the Institute of France since Franklin. He has received exalted degrees from the European universities, is a member of about thirty foreign societies, and has received five medals from abroad. Recently the Czar ordered his portrait painted for the Imperial University of Russia and both the Imperial University of Japan and the Imperial Observatory of Russia have presented him with handsome vases in recognition of his position in the world of discovery of his scientific achievements and of his contributions to science as a result of his wonderful experiments in the motions and phenomena of the heavenly bodies.

An Herb that Tames a Tiger. Most people are familiar with the fact that catnip has upon Miss Puss retired after the dinner hour he has covered ten miles and a fraction. He asserts that this long record of the distance covered in a single room is largely the result of the telephone and the social life of the hotel. He not only must see all patrons, but he personally carries to them the names of callers and all summonses to the telephone. The latter, he says, is one of the greatest annoyances the head waiter undergoes. Tit Bits.

Position in Sleeping. The Hindus believe, and have believed for ages, that to sleep with the head to the north will cause one's days to be shortened, the head to the east will bring longevity, head to the south will bring riches, head to the west will bring change of scene. Some superstitious persons object to their beds being placed parallel to the planks on the floor. Others regard it as unlucky to sleep across the boards.

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PAPUAN TREE HOUSES.

Cool and Clean, but not Built for So-nambullists. The famous tree houses of Papua are rapidly disappearing before the march of civilization and settlement in the colony. The tree house a neat and well built habitation, placed at an enormous height among the branches of a forest tree and reached only by a swinging ladder was primarily intended as a refuge from enemies. Now, however, that the Government has brought the wild tribes under control the native prefers to live in a house that demands less skill in construction. There are still many tree houses to be seen, though few or none are being built in the northeastern district of Papua where much valuable sugar, rubber and coconut land lies ready in taking up the Government officials on their regular tours of inspection often sleep at night in the house of some hospitable village constable, who draws his ladder up at sundown to a doorway eight feet high in the air. These tree houses are exceedingly cool and clean and picturesque with the roofs of native made thatch and walls and floors of wattled houghs.

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ANCIENT HINDU TEMPLE.

Remains in Java of Great Works of Eighth Century. The Borobodor, unearthed by Sir Stamford Raffles when the English ruled in Java, was built by the Hindu in the eighth century and is by far the finest example of their work on the island. Standing on a hill in the middle of the valley, this imposing edifice, covering nearly ten acres, rises to a height of upward of a hundred feet above the summit of the hill. It consists of a Java counterpart of the Shanghai Merit, or a series of stone terraces built on top of each other in diminishing magnitude, so as to leave a circumference of each and crowned by a vast porch entrance to the galleries is gained by four stairways, north, south, east and west, which run from the ground straight up to the big top terrace in the middle of which stands the royal cupola surrounded by numerous smaller cupolas, and from some of these one may step inside into any of the intermediate galleries. The whole is built of stone showing an immense amount of carving and though there is no genuine Hindu temple the many of the galleries are covered in innumerable images of Buddha occupy niches or prominent positions on the walls, and the sides of the galleries were paved with bas-reliefs indicating the glorification of this god and other incidents in his history. When one considers that there are several miles of bas-reliefs, the work expended on the purchase of the Egyptian paleo into insignificance before this stupendous undertaking.

One Author Who Paid His Trade-dress. The personal characteristics of great men so often display meanness, and this meanness is so common that it is almost a truism to say that a small hen's egg and a large lemon. The skin is smooth and the inside resembles the pulp of a tomato except for the seeds which are generally very hard. Several guavas may be raised every year, the water fruit being more tart than that which ripens in the summer, especially fine for jelly making. It is most unfortunate that the guava is a fruit of such a perishable nature that it appears an impossibility to ship it any great distance—the delicate red variety—often crushing into mush when carried for two or three miles in a farm wagon. For that reason it is very doubtful whether this tropical product, which should occupy a prominent place on the home market, will ever gain the wide popularity that it justly deserves.

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DEBIT AND CREDIT.

A Bit of Wit and a Bit of Wisdom. Apropos of Unpaid Bills. One of the most amiable men who ever dunned a delinquent debtor has condensed the argument of his calling into an epigram and pasted it on the back of his collection book. It reads: MAN CAME FROM DUST—DUST SETTLES. ARE YOU A MAN? In one of the offices of the Department of Education, New York City hangs a card which gives the other side of the philosophy of owing money. "There is something ennobling, it says, 'about the patience of our creditors.'"

Women Like Pockets. Talk about the small boy and his desire for plenty of pockets," remarks Harry New manager of one of the biggest concerns in the city or in the west, manufacturing women's garments. "No youngster with his first pair of trousers is half as excited about his pockets as is the average woman buying a cloak or suit. With in the last few years the question of pockets has come to be an important matter in women's garments. Women not only like pockets for carrying various small articles but they even like them so placed in the coats that they can walk with their hands in them, the same as a man. It's getting so that we manufacturers hardly dare put out a garment without paying attention first of all to its pocket feature."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

It is All a Matter of Taste. A strange fact is told by travelers who declare that the Arabs in the deserts of Africa have contracted a habit distasteful to running water and only drink from stagnant pools on their journeys. This has become a matter of habit that will not be changed. The most poisonous-looking water agrees with them perfectly pure water will in a few hours make them violently sick. This prejudice against fresh water is common among the animals of the desert and is frequently acquired by European travelers. At first how ever, when the latter drink of stagnant water it produces nausea and fever but when once the system becomes inured to it, running water affects them in precisely the same way as it affects the Arabs.

Her Answer. An Atchison girl had a proposal of marriage Sunday night and asked a week to think it over. She went to all of her married sisters. One, who is used to be a belle had three children, did all her own work and hadn't been married. Another whose husband was a promising young man at the time she was married, was supporting him. A third didn't dare say her life was her own when her husband was around, and a fourth was hearing their wren get poor ink and paper and wrote an answer to the young man. You may think it was refusing him but it wasn't. She said she could be ready in a month.

Houses Built of Meerschaum. The town of Valles in Spain is almost entirely built of meerschaum. Valles has on its outskirts great quarries of a meerschaum too coarse for pipe making and a meerschaum built town that shines in the Spanish sun in Morocco meerschaum is so plentiful that they use it when soap and fresh for soap. It gives a pleasant and cleansing lather. Eldisheer in Asia Minor, supplies the world with meerschaum. There are 2,000 mines, large and small, and 8,000 Kurds and Persian meerschaum miners work day and night in them. The meerschaum comes from the earth yellow and turns white after ten days bleaching in the sun.

Setting Fire to a Whale. A dead whale, seventy-five feet long, came ashore at Phillips Cove on the Maine coast, and large numbers of tourists went off in motor boats to have a good look at the monster. Then the town authorities towed the carcass two miles out, and inserting into its side a pipe of dynamite, set the explosive going. What was their astonishment when the whole animal burst into flames, fed by the whale oil for which whales were once so much hunted before the discovery of petroleum. The flames shot ten feet high and the carcass was several hours in burning, the beach being lined with astonished spectators.

Real Diamonds. Mrs. McBride—It was awfully thoughtful of Uncle George to give me what he did for a wedding present. Girl Friend—Why, what did he give you? "Haven't you heard? Why, you see, the other guests sent plated ware and paste jewelry mostly, but Uncle George gave me real diamonds—just think of it! a whole ton of Lehigh coal to begin housekeeping with!"

Lincoln's Freedom from Cant. One of the delightful things about Lincoln was his freedom from cant. He never set out to "set an example." He lived his life simply and naturally, thought out and spoke the thought that was in him, did the work he found to do and let his example shift for itself. By consequence it is one of the great examples, one of the great inspirations, of human history.

Divided Body. "Johnny," said his mother severely, "someone has taken a big piece of gingerbread out of the pantry." Johnny blushed guiltily. "Oh, Johnny!" she exclaimed, "I didn't think it was in you!" "It ain't all," replied Johnny, quickly. "Part of it's in Maie."

MARK OF A THOROUGHBREED.

He Will Keep Going When a Common Horse Will Quit. As an old horseman who has bred and handled horses of many types, says a writer in Outing, I have frequently been surprised at the answers given by the majority of people who asked the question "What constitutes the most striking difference between the thoroughbred and the common horse?" Nineteen out of twenty will name the beauty or the speed of the thoroughbred, but important as are both of these qualities, neither answer is correct. It is simply that the thoroughbred when he is tired will keep on with an undiminished courage and ambition, while a common horse under the same circumstances will quit.

Life's Adjusting Power. Life seems to have a sort of adjusting power. We always suffer one way or another for the wrong we do and unquestionably we are always rewarded for the good actions. There is no happiness in revenge no joy in hatred no inspiration in jealousy and meanness. It is when we have come to a quiet understanding of the ill-effects of our baser sentiments that we become refined and grow into better more wholesome conditions. It is usually the one who runs away from the fight who is the stronger. Punishment will be meted out to your enemy if it isn't for you to judge and control. All those matters are taken care of just how we do not know and after all it does not matter.

Anger Shrinks Vitality. Dr. Maurice de Fleury, a distinguished Frenchman, advances the theory that every time one becomes angry his vitality shrinks. After even the most artfully suppressed signs of a bad temper the vitality becomes small, and smaller until finally nothing is left. Anger is a certain kind of cerebral excitement explains Dr. de Fleury. The hyperaesthetic subject is always on its verge while the neurasthenic becomes infuriated only by a sudden bound of reaction excited from without. But at that moment when they are let loose the two are alike save that the strong man is a blunder brute while the weak man is somewhat of an actor and seems to aim at effect.

True Missionary Spirit. Speaking at a recent meeting of the Colonial and Continental Church society in London the bishop of North Queensland said I spoke at Oxford the other day and asked for men to help me in our great work. Eight of the finest young graduates volunteered to go back to the bush with me. Then I searched for a leader and turned to Ireland the home of missionaries. I sent a telegram to Rev. E. H. Crozier vicar of St. George's Dublin asking him if he would give up his rich living worth £500 a year and come and be the leader of my band of recruits in the bush at £300 a year. The answer I received was: Yes, the Lord being my help.

How They Shoe Geese in Poland. Three million geese are brought regularly to the October market in Warsaw Poland. Often coming from remote provinces, many of these geese have to travel over long distances upon roads which would wear out their feet if they were not "shod." For this purpose they are driven through tar poured over the ground, and then through sand. After the operation has been repeated several times the feet of the geese become covered with a hard crust.

Same Old Style of Cooking. Prof. Snaggs—Strange that there's been no improvement made in cooking in the last 2000 years. Now, down at my boarding house this morning I had a steak broiled in the regular Pompeian style. Boggs—Pompeian style? How do you mean? Prof. Snaggs—Why, scorched to a cinder on one side and covered with ashes on the other.

A Signal. In Sumatra, if a woman is left a widow, immediately after her husband's death she plants a flagstaff at her door, upon which a flag is raised. So long as the flag remains unburned by the wind the etiquette of Sumatra forbids her to marry, but at the first rent, however tiny, she can lay aside her weeds and accept the first offer she has.

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