

WHY

Hand-Clapping Has Become Sign of Approval

Every emotion that rouses us has to be worked off by some corresponding bodily effect, as a sort of safety valve to the brain.

Just as a cat purrs and a dog wags its tail, so we humans have to cry or laugh or clench our fists, according to the different emotions to be expressed.

When the emotion of pleasure is experienced by a whole crowd at once, we have a further desire—to communicate our own sensations to our neighbors, as well as to the speaker, actor or other person who has pleased us. And the only way we can communicate our feeling is by making a noise.

There are only three ways in which we can easily do this: By shouting, by stamping our feet, or by clapping our hands.

The first method is very often used, but generally out-of-doors. The stamping of feet needs not only boots but a hard surface to stamp on, and since the ancients, from whom we inherit our method of applause—which word means a "clapping at"—did not wear boots and, therefore, could not stamp audibly, hand-clapping became adopted as the recognized fashion of expressing pleasure.

Why Flowers Can Be

Used as Barometers

Most people know that seaweed, which becomes moist and clammy when rain is coming, makes an excellent barometer. Flowers are sensitive to weather conditions and those in a position to observe them can generally tell something of the coming day. So true a prophet is the scarlet pimpernel that it has been called "the poor man's weather glass."

Crocuses, dandelions, anemones and wood sorrel close their flowers on the approach of rain. Fir cones open and close as the weather is fine or wet. In some parts of the continent, especially in Germany and Switzerland, where many quaint customs survive, they have a frog weather glass, which consists of a green frog in a bottle half filled with water. From the neck of the bottle, and just touching the water, runs a flight of steps. If the frog remains under water, near the bottom or actually at the bottom of the bottle, the weather will be fine, but when he comes up and sits on the steps it is certain to be dull, cold and wet.—Brief Stories.

Why Married Men Live

Longer Than Bachelors

Do married men live longer than bachelors, or does it only seem longer? The great philosopher, Herbert Spencer, declared that the apparent longevity of married men was not due to their marriage. The physically and mentally strong, he said, would be more likely to marry; therefore they lived longer not because of marriage, but in spite of it, so to speak. Theologians, philosophers and doctors—even statisticians—have always maintained that married men live longer than bachelors. Insurance companies, which base their expectations on cold facts, have so far been unable to come to any conclusion on the question. They are inclined, however, to prefer married men for insurance.

Why Phrases Are Barred

In April, 1913, the editor of a Swiss newspaper placed a ban on the use of the following metaphorical figures of speech by the members of his editorial staff: "The voice of honor, the cry of conscience, the restraining hand of conscience, the needle of remorse, the whip of satire, the shield of indifference, the trumpet of fame, the bases of society, the annals of crime, the chariot of progress, the torrent of passions, the artifices of language and the broadside of pleasantries. It is of interest to observe that most of these expressions are as threadbare in the English tongue as in the French.—From La Rulgarie, Sofia. (Translated for the Kansas City Star).

Why Sap Travels

The old conception was that as soon as the leaves drop from trees the sap or moisture in a tree went down. This idea is false, as all through the winter the roots of the tree are absorbing moisture. The highest sap content is just before the leaves start in the spring. It would be more correct to say that the sap is continually going up in a tree instead of down. The water content of a maple tree in the fall of the year is 27 per cent, in the winter 32 per cent, and just before the leaves appear in the spring 39 per cent.

Why Rain Water Is Best

Ordinary rain water contains appreciable amounts of dissolved oxygen, nitrogen, ammonia and carbonic acid gas, and in special cases it is found to contain nitric acid, sulphuric acid and other components of the impure air of cities. The acid and alkaline impurities increase the power of the rain water to dissolve the mineral constituents of the earth's crust, the gases make it possible for plants and animals to live in rivers and ponds which would not support life if the water were chemically pure.

Why Copper in Soldering

Copper is used for soldering tools because it is a good heat conductor, has fairly high specific heat, tins readily with solder, and has no alloying metals to be sweated out as in the case of brass.

HOW

EFFECT OF SUNLIGHT ON GERMS IS MADE USEFUL

For a long time scientists have known that sunlight kills germ life. This knowledge has been put to practical use in many different ways. But science does not know yet just why sunlight kills germs. The public health service, assisted by the bureau of standards, has been doing some valuable work along this line. It had been previously established that the germ-killing power of sunlight came largely from the actinic or invisible rays of the sun. For the experiments these rays were produced in regulated quantities. The health service supplied many different species of germs for the experiments. One type, bacterium colicommunis, is the kind most frequently found in sewage-tainted water. In some cases the germs died in less than one second after being exposed to the rays. After a long series of tests the scientists in charge of the work, W. W. Coblentz and H. R. Fulton, worked out the mortality produced by each different wave length of the invisible light waves.

How Natives of Somali

Deal With Man-Killers

Libbah, the lion, helps to make many reputations in Somali. So long as he will leave the karlas (native encampments) alone, the men are quite ready to leave him alone. But lions, especially when aging and unable to catch game with ease, are apt to begin preying on straying or sick camels. This leads to frequent raids on the stock. Then a herder disappears, and it becomes only a question of time when shrieks on a dark night proclaim that the lion has forced a zebra (stockade) to satisfy his taste for human blood.

Victims will now be taken regularly, and as long as the man-killer lives no one knows when his turn will come. The men at this stage band together to track the lion to his lair in daytime. Once found, they mob him, galloping round in circles, shouting, hurling spears, till they get him dazed and confused, when a picked man, choosing his moment, rushes in like a torador to administer the coup de grace.—Cornhill Magazine.

How Nurses Raise Funds

Falmouth, Mass., has a nursing association affiliated with the Red Cross public health nursing service, which has won recognition from far places by its method of raising funds for its work, says the Red Cross Courier. These funds are raised by an annual fête, preceded by a theatrical benefit performance.

At the performance preceding the last fête the sketches and features were presented by talented amateurs, and a club gave a performance of Booth Tarkington's one-act play, "Bimbo, the Pirate."

The fête was held on the village green, a picturesque and beautiful bit of old New England. With decorated booths and grounds adorned with flags and Japanese lanterns the atmosphere was gay, and residents and visitors entered into the carnival spirit. The ice-cream booth disposed of 53 gallons of ice. There were fortunetelling, candy, fancy work, fruit and vegetables, flower and sandwich and "hot dog" booths. Follies and crepe paper gave them rainbow hues. The net result was a fund of \$2,600.

How Trains Are "Run"

As the average train passenger flashes by station after station, passes and meets other trains, and arrives safely at his destination and on time, he is, no doubt, unconsciously grateful to the conductor and engineer who piloted the train. But very few people who travel on trains know or give thought to the fact that there is a "power behind the throne" which made the tracks clear and gave them uninterrupted passage. Back of every train movement is the train dispatcher. From his crews receive their orders, and upon his instructions trains are run. There are over 6,000 train dispatchers in the United States who started in when they were young men and have become dispatchers only through long years of hard work and study.—Pathfinder Magazine.

How Indian Cures "Cold"

When a Glacier park Indian catches cold he drinks hot herb tea and packs himself in his outdoor sweat bath, which is about as near to nature a contrivance as is possible, the Indian department informs us. Willow boughs are bent so that each end is in the ground four feet apart, forming a framework. A fire is built in the center of a pile of stones on the ground. Hides and blankets are put over this framework of boughs and when hot the fire is withdrawn and the patient steps in, with a pail of water. He keeps sprinkling the water on the hot stones, getting an ideal vapor sweat bath. "Heap heat" and his cold is gone.

How Do Ants Know?

Ants' nests, says a recent authority, contain between 200,000,000 and 400,000,000 inhabitants, all living peacefully; all hostile to any intruder even of the same species from another nest. How do they know?

Gowns and Wraps in Rich Fabrics

Many Sheer Frocks of Crepe Georgette With Sleeves of Velvet

Black is worn extensively for afternoon at the smartest rendezvous, advises a Paris fashion correspondent in the New York Herald-Tribune. It seems that the elegant Parisienne will never quite abandon it, despite all the tenuous attempts to put it out of fashion. The sheer black frocks of crepe georgette with velvet sleeves are legion. The small felt or velvet hats are de rigueur with such afternoon frocks and complete the general harmony of the ensemble. For instance, a coat of black velvet with a fox collar opens over a long tunic frock of biscuit-colored crepe.

For evening wraps it is wise to choose a simple but rather full outline. Metal cloth is very attractive for such wraps, but the modish velours are generally preferred right now. They are exquisitely supple and colorful, these Paradise or Frisson velvets, which are used in all shades, black included. But the ruby, jade, bordeaux and emerald shades are favorites. Trimmed with fur—chinchilla, seal or white fox—these capes are made to look still richer by some embroidery in bright colors and metal threads.

The frock with movement is, of course, the great favorite of the hour. It is the frock which, when the wearer is at rest, gives her that famous slender silhouette which she wants to preserve at any price, while it has all the width to animate the silhouette at the slightest pirouette of the owner. The movement can be obtained by inverted folds, by fringes and by transparent tunic, especially lace.

Says Anna Le Vignac, in Le Quotidien of Paris: "When you look today at the fashion magazines of a year ago, you are surprised how much the modish silhouette has changed since then. Rigorously straight, tight, narrow coats which permit only tiny steps were still the vogue last year; today we wear coats with wide lower edges, with godets and sinuous plaits which undulate at every step."

"It is true that the straight line is not entirely abandoned; sports frocks and tailor makes remain straight, owing to the box-plaids which give them the necessary width; but it is no less true that the winter coats all have a flare and that most of the coats are raglans."

"The out-of-the-clothes, which was very simple and quite monotonous during the last few years, now has become extremely varied and complicated. The days are gone when you could cut your coat or frock from scant amounts of fabric and often almost without a pattern. If you want to make a coat or frock nowadays you must decide first of all which cut you prefer, then get a good pattern, thereupon find out how wide the fabric has to be and finally buy the material."

Slenderness, Feature of Smartest Fashions

After a season of what seemed to be hopeless effort on the part of designers to oust the straight silhouette from its strong position in fashion, they have succeeded in relegating it to a place of secondary importance, according to a fashion authority.

Slenderness, however, is the basic foundation of the smartest modes, but there are subtle flares, swirling draperies, cleverly disposed fullness and an indefinable tendency toward elaboration that produce an effect vastly different from the fashions of last season.

Fullness is always present whether it appears at the back of the frock, at the sides or in front, and whether it takes the form of plaits, godets, circular flounces or panels cut to suggest the uneven hemline that is an outstanding feature of many of the most interesting new models.

A new development in Paris is the use of two tones of a single shade combined to fashion a frock of compelling interest and charm.

High necklines are another new note which adds to the distinction of present fashions and the very short skirts are given individuality by cleverly arranged flounces or draperies.

Gigolo Crown Promises to Be Spring Favorite



The gigolo crown is predicted for early spring wear. This charming little chapeau is of soft orchid hue, self-trimmed with bands of felt.

Chequered Print Is Used for an Afternoon Frock



Chequers is the handsome American print used for this attractive frock which is combined with a plain-tone silk.

Hints on Fashions Now

Calling for Attention

Filmy affairs of georgette or chiffon are being worn at dancing parties by the younger girls. These are rather high waisted with full skirts billowing to the knees and completed with sleeves tight to the elbow and flaring at the wrist. One novel adornment of such frocks is a drooping bow of chiffon, embroidered in rhinestones, which springs from one shoulder strap.

Brims which have been turned up sharply some time are now turned down, according to London milliners. The brims are not allowed to flop down, however. The fur-felt sports hats are fairly high of crown and the brims are made with a steel wire edge to hold them in shape. A big bow at the back is the sole decoration of some of these hats. Others are turned up in the back and down in front.

The new woolen sports fabrics designed for wear in, to add, from the South this season are not only soft in texture but in color. The new shades follow the tints grouped under the name bolts de rose, rose tans, rose grays and dusty tans and grays. Green is also an important shade with emphasis on the light tints. The blues usually have a distinct touch of green. The designs include two-toned diamond effects and checks.

Dress designers are insisting now that evening wraps should always recall the dress with which they are worn in color. Thus an evening wrap of a contrasting color should be lined in the same colored satin or lame as the dress. The chinchilla coats and capes are similarly treated.

Pajamas essentially for wear to sleep in are of soft texture and simple of line. Those worn in boudoir, privacy to lounge in are strikingly elaborate as to material. The trousers usually are of black satin gradually tightening from knee to ankle and the tops of metal brocade, heavily embroidered. The coats may even be fur trimmed at collar and hem.

Velvet Is Popular for Day and Evening Wear

Velvet is indubitably the fabric of the moment. One has only to view the collections of models shown by important couturiers and modistes, to study the costumes of women lunching at the Ritz in Paris or attending the premiere of a much-heralded new play to realize that not only has fashion given her cachet to this material but that the smartest women have taken it up with enthusiasm. To be sure, it shares honors with laces and brocades, but the frequent alliance of these materials makes for the quintessence of chic.

Two-piece jumper frocks of dull silver cloth are worn under velvet coats in other instances both jumper and coat are of velvet, while the skirt is a circular or plaited affair of silver or gold lame.

The dominance of the evening ensemble remains unchallenged and in its smartest interpretation it takes the form of a frock of lame topped by a flaring coat of the same material lined throughout with velvet in a brilliant shade, and luxuriously collared with fur.

Dyed Furs Play Part in Milady's Apparel

This fashion of dyed fur is already in currency among styles worn on Fifth avenue, says a New York fashion writer. A fanciful suit of novelty tweed, with circular skirt topped by a circular jacket, was banded in bright green mole, which also formed the tiny Queen Anne collar. The same fur mole in a clear shade of blue formed an entire coat, made full length and straight lined, and matched by a little velvet hat.

Naturally enough, colored furs are not restricted to wraps. An evening frock of gold-spangled net over yellow matches its foundation with a double skirt border of yellow fur, which lends the sheer, circular skirt. Dyed pelts in soft narrow bands may also be employed as little brims on hats of felt or velours.

Daddy's Evening Fairy Tale

BY MARY GRAHAM BONNER

THE BOA CONSTRICTOR

"I'm a nice little Boa Constrictor, I am, and I'm chugging my skin."

"It has been growing—that is, my new skin has been growing under my old one for the past three weeks."

"Now I take a little bath in the water the keeper gives me and I get some of the old skin pulled off, and I'm some brown speckled self once more."

"I used to help myself off by rubbing through the bushes but now I can't do that very well in the zoo."

"My keeper helps me though, and so I am very well satisfied."

"You're a very gentle Boa Constrictor, you are," said the big python from India, in the adjoining cage.

"Now, I am not."

"To hug any creature I saw, or rather, any creature of whom I could get hold, and I'd hug and hug until—oh, joy!"

"You're cruel," said the Boa Constrictor.

"You're very cruel," he added.

"You've talked about nothing else as long as I've known you."

"You've said so proudly and boastfully."

"Oh, I'm such an affectionate snake."

"I'd give such a hug to another."

"You're cruel," said the Boa Constrictor.

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