

OUR BEST LITTLE OPTIMISTS

People of Australia and New Zealand Persistent in Trying Out Plans for Public Good.

The people of sunny Australia and of misty New Zealand—the working people anyway—are persistent optimists. For 20 years they have been trying out one plan after another for the common good.

WHEN CAMEL IS HELPLESS

"Ship of the Desert" When Capsize Is In as Hopeless Predicament as Any Other Ship.

The "ship of the desert," like any other ship, may be capsized and in that predicament the camel is said to be absolutely helpless under certain conditions.

The queer beast's manner of lying down to rest is to fold his legs beneath his body. If he happens to roll upon his side he cannot recover his feet again.

The leader had bought some new ones and had no idea of taking any other animals into a country largely composed of loose sand. Trouble began at the very outset. One camel, as awkward as any of the species, managed to tumble into a ditch of thick mud between the road and a wheat field.

World-Famed Tree.

In the botanical gardens of Calcutta is the famous banyan tree. It covers 2 1/2 acres of ground and fills the visitor with admiration and awe.

The utmost care is taken of this wonderful tree, for every tender young root, as it begins to fall like a stalactite from the branch overhead, is encased and protected from harm in a bamboo.

Good for Business.

"Such a perfect gentleman!" gushed Miss Softwin. "It was so good of you to introduce him to me last night, dear. We had a most delightful and interesting conversation after the concert was over."

"Yes," calmly queried Miss Knox, who was cynical enough to know that there was something more to come.

"And after hearing me sing," said Miss Softwin, "he told me—quite seriously, you know—that he would give anything if he had my voice. He said it was worth a fortune. I'm sure he was perfectly sincere in saying it, too."

"I'm certain he was," retorted Miss Knox hopefully. "Perfectly sincere! You see, dear, he's an auctioneer."

The First "Working Test."

Nothing convinces like experience. The doctors have been telling us for years that public drinking cups were disseminators of disease. Now comes Walla Walla with the report that contagious diseases have disappeared from the schools since the common cup was eliminated—Portland Oregonian.

Before and After.

"How does this noted healer who cures his patients by touching them, differ from a regular physician?" "Why, he touches them before he cures them."

HE WAS WILLING TO OBLIGE

Young Man Gave Advice on Clothing Though He Came From Gas Company.

"I've come to see about the mantles, miss."

"Oh, yes, I'm so glad you have come so soon; will you step into the drawing room?"

The young man stepped; he was pleased with his pleasant reception. After awhile she came in and said: "How do?" So sorry to trouble him, but would he mind if they tried the mantles on? Her daughter's was a rife too full, and her own was a rife too long, she thought. Perhaps he would be good enough to see.

The young man said he would be only too delighted.

KISSING ALMOST LOST ART

Most Women, Says London Paper, Forget Neatness and Are Vigorous and Wild.

It is surprising that with all the kissing that goes on in our so-called civilized England, so little advance should have been made in the science of bestowing a kiss. Very few persons understand the art. Neatness is forgotten, and the first impulse of the kisser is to wipe away all traces of the offending salute as speedily as may be consistent with politeness.

Perils of Fishermen.

There are countless incidents illustrating dangers and trials in the life of a Newfoundland fisherman. Daily are such experiences recorded in every cove and hamlet around the coast line. Peril amid the billows, peril among the ice floes, peril along the rugged seaboard—that is his heritage and his portion from boyhood to old age.

Age of Organization.

New Boarder—Well! well! This is the first place I've struck where they have preserved strawberries and peach jam instead of stewed prunes.

Old Boarder—All owing to organization, my boy. We boarders have a mutual protective association, with iron-clad rules and heavy penalties.

Made Neat Escape.

Not so long ago a knowledge of Latin was essential to an orator, and long quotations from the Roman poets embellished every debate. James Payn, the novelist, was once at a dinner party where a learned clergyman insisted on quoting Greek.

The Coeds' Best Hold.

Dr. Miner Lee Bates, the president of Hillman college, was talking at a tea in Hiram, O., about coeducation.

NURSES SHOULD NOT SNORE

One of Them Tells How the Habit Keeps Them From Holding Good Places.

"In all those months I was in the hospital somebody ought to have warned me, I think," said the trained nurse. "Of course I had it from the folks at home that I snored a little, but I never took it seriously until I went on my first case. I found then that it is a serious matter for a nurse to snore."

"I took the case from a nurse whose own health had broken down. The patient was nervous and excited over the contemplated change, and that made my ordeal more severe; a brand new case of my own would have been much easier. Still, we got along fairly well together the first half of the night. He was a kindly man, and soon after midnight he insisted that I should try to get some sleep. I didn't think I'd catch a wink, but by and by I dozed off. It was a fatal sleep for me. The next morning the patient's sister told me about the snoring."

"James could not rest at all," she said. "I heard you in the next room." "Before night, I was looking for another job. Of course I did not have to give up nursing entirely, but the hard cases, where I am required to keep awake every second, are open to me. All those soft snaps that give you a chance to sleep half the night are beyond the reach of the snoring nurse."

PIGEONS ON A JAMBOREE

Drink Liquor Spilled in the Street and Gave Real Exhibition of Drunkenness.

A heavy truck loaded high with kegs of liquor was jolting across a line of downtown car tracks when one of the kegs toppled and fell from the top of the pile into the street. It was thoroughly smashed, so the truckman whipped up his team and went his way without stopping. The rum flowed out over the street—one little dent in the paving collecting a visible puddle of it.

In a few minutes a pigeon came fluttering down to drink at the pool thus fortunately provided for thirsty birds. The initial taste was a surprise, but a second and a third soon followed, and soon the pigeon tottered fluttering away, too overcome to fly. Other birds, seeing him there and anxious to wet their parching throats on so sultry a day, followed their brother in his path of wicked intemperance.

Five minutes later a passerby was astonished to see a dozen pigeons in the gutter of the otherwise deserted street, some dancing drunkenly, others already sound asleep. A few feet away a hound of disreputable appearance was creeping up, slowly and a trifle unsteadily, on his unsuspecting and bibulous quarry. As he was almost among the birds his feet went suddenly in several directions and he lay in the gutter among the pigeons, growing sleepily to himself, for he, too, was drunk.

Misleading Names.

Practically all the wooden clocks called Dutch are made in the village of Freyburg, in the Black Forest. This misnomer is due to simple mispronunciation—"Deutsch" meaning, of course, German. Nothing is more natural than to assume that India ink comes from India, but it does not, and never did, any more than does India rubber. India ink is a Chinese product, and India rubber comes from South America.

Hoodooed Her Hair.

"Another black mark has been chalked down against number thirteen."

Navajo Blankets.

Much unadulterated nonsense has been written concerning the symbolism of Navajo Indian blankets, and the poetry, legend, tradition and history woven by the squaw into its fabric. It is true that some designs have a symbolic meaning, but Hopi, Zuni and Apache symbols are used quite as freely as those peculiar to the Navajos.

Asbestos Shingles.

Asbestos shingles are now being manufactured in this country with success, and the trade has grown enormously. The new products are of the lightest weight, and fireproof up to a temperature of 2,000 and more degrees. They are proof against acids and weather, and last as long as a concrete building will.

HE NEVER EVEN TOOK AIM

But the Tyro at Hunting Brought Down Two Birds, and Shot No More.

"Only once in my life did I ever do any shooting," said a traveling man, talking to a group in the cafe of one of the big New York hotels, "and that once I made a real hit. It was in a western town to which my trip had carried me, and the natives had arranged a prairie chicken hunt for the following day. Of course I was invited. I protested that I was out of practice, but they insisted that I go along, and some one furnished a gun for my use."

"As the only stranger in the party, they let me go ahead, following the dogs closely. I didn't even know what a prairie chicken looked like; whether they would run along the ground or fly. Suddenly I heard a tremendous whirr, the sound, as I came to know, of the birds taking wing. So excited was I that, without raising the gun to my shoulder, I pulled the trigger. 'Bang!' went the gun, and two of the birds fluttered slowly to the ground."

"He never even took aim," shouted one of the hunters, and my reputation was made. Thereafter I rested on my laurels, not attempting another shot, throughout the day, or ever since."

MADE EQUALS BY LEARNING

With the Same Education, Men Will Lose Their Superiority Over Women.

Rev. Anna Howard Shaw said recently in Philadelphia of an opponent of co-education:

"Perhaps he objects because he is aware that equal education does away with man's superiority. The average man, of course, won't be superior to the average woman when they are both equally well educated. His assertions won't be accepted then unquestioningly."

"Indeed his assertions already are beginning to be questioned here and there. Thus there was a young chap at the seashore last month who, being refused by a beautiful girl said: 'You have broken my heart.'"

"But the girl, a medical student, laid her white hand lightly on his breast a moment, and then shook her head and said:

"No, there isn't the least evidence of organic lesion. I notice a slight palpitation, due, no doubt, to the excessive use of cheap cigarettes, but otherwise the organ is quite perfect."

Horse Pedometers.

The whorls of hair on the coats of horses and other animals are natural pedometers, inasmuch as they register the locomotive activities of the animals on whose bodies they are found.

The best examples and the greatest number of these hairy whorls and crests are found on the domestic horse. A notable instance is the graceful feathering that extends along the hollow of the flank, dividing the trunk of the animal from the hind-quarters. There are also crests and whorls on the horse's chest and other parts of its body.

Mixed Patriotism.

Up in the Nineteenth assembly district they are telling this story of a fallen political idol. In the rounds of his social activities he attended an afternoon entertainment given by the Outdoor Playground association. Among the vocal selections rendered by the children was "My Country, 'Tis of Thee." At the conclusion of that hymn the political idol was called upon for a few remarks. He addressed the audience with emotion:

Fine Horses of Mixed Blood.

Since the beginning of the seventeenth century Jerez de la Forontera has been the most noted horse-breeding center of Andalusia, for many hundreds of years famous for its fine horses. Jerez de la Forontera was one of the first and last Moorish strongholds in Spain, and the best horses there were all bred from famous Arab stallions, so that what is known as an Andalusian, or Spanish, horse has always a good deal of Arab blood: it has, however, been crossed with so many other breeds, especially Flemish, that today the Spanish horse is not registered in the books of record of pure-blood animals.

Expensive Bravery.

The manager of a shooting gallery patronized by women was glad to get another pupil, but he could not exactly sympathize with her husband's motive for urging her to acquire crack marksmanship.

"One night when she was staying alone up in the country a burglar got into the house," the husband said, "and she had to fire six shots at him before she touched him, and then she only grazed the tail of his coat. It's wicked extravagance to waste cartridges like that, and she's got to shoot."

WEDDING GLOVE FOR BRIDE

Third Finger Is Left Unstitched So That the Ring Can Be Slipped On.

A happy era has dawned for the bride at the fateful moment when the ring is about to be placed on her finger.

Instead of the usual struggle to remove her left hand glove she will now be able to uncover the third finger without effort and without losing her composure.

This delightful result is to be obtained by an ingenious "wedding glove" device. The inside seam on the third finger of the left glove is unstitched, so that all that the bride need do is to slip her finger through the slit to receive the ring. The finger can just as easily be slipped back into the glove after the ceremony.

The device will be greatly appreciated not only by the bride, but also by the nervous bridegroom.

The story of the origin of the wedding glove has come to light. Some time ago a girl who had lost her right arm in the hunting field asked for a single wedding glove.

She remarked on the awkwardness of having to remove her glove with the help of her teeth, and it was then seen that matters would be greatly facilitated for the bride if she only had to uncover the ring finger.

The experiment was so successful that it aroused the interest of other prospective brides, who saw in it a boon which would save them from the usual difficulties of removing a whole glove in the moment when the ring is about to be put on.—Exchange.

HIS SPEECH WAS GREAT HIT

Pumperton Thought It Was His Wit, But His Wife Discovered the Reason.

It was late before Pumperton got home, but his wife was still sitting up for him. "Well, John," she greeted him, "how was the dinner? And how was your speech received?"

Pumperton took off his coat, smiling gaily. "Oh, splendidly, my dear, splendidly! I got there a bit late, when the others were already at the table, but I just slipped in quietly and didn't make any stir."

"Well, how about the speech?" she reminded him. "Did it make as much of a hit as you expected?"

"Oh, yes—more. None of the preceding speeches had been particularly clever, and they had hardly raised a smile. But I had no more than stood up and begun when they began to laugh. I went on, my dear, and I assure you, they simply shook. I never have seen any company so thoroughly entertained. I even expanded a little—gave them a couple of new stories that came into my mind. And when I sat down they cheered and clapped an laughed for minutes. I shall never forget how they laughed."

"Yes, I can well imagine so," his wife said sarcastically. "But the next time you are to make an after-dinner speech wouldn't it be well to put your vest on before leaving home?"

Her Idea of It.

Algie Graham Livingston is going to write a spelling book, some day, if they let her, according to a writer in the Cleveland Leader.

"How do you spell 'Yaining?'" she asked the other afternoon, as the big drops came down and spilt her outdoor play. In parenthesis it is said that she isn't big enough to pronounce the letter "Y." Hence "Yaining."

Her mother gave the desired information, but Algie, whose proper name is Elsie, shook her head. Her big brother endeavored to assist her, but Algie roughly declined advice.

"Well," said her brother Bob, "how do you spell it?"

"H. e. double I," came the answer, like a flash.

And they wonder where she got it.

Fathers of Great Men.

The father of Samuel Pepys was a tailor. The father of James Mill was a cobbler. The father of Jules Verne was a day laborer. Oliver Cromwell's father was a brewer. Epictetus was the son of a day laborer. Socrates was the son of a peasant's son. The father of Plus V. was a shepherd. The father of Schumann was a bookseller. The father of Plus IV. was a peasant. The father of Cowley was a grocer. The father of Charles Lamb was a servant. Milton was the son of a copyist. Pope's father was a merchant. Neander's father was a carter. Homer was a farmer's son.

First to Practice Palmistry.

Gypsies introduced the practice of palmistry into England. This appears from a statute of 1531 called an "Acte concerning Egypcyans," which recites that "before this time diverse and many outlandyshe People, callynge them selves Egypcyans, using no craft nor faicte of marchandise, have comen into this Realme and gone from Shire to Shire and Place to Place, and used greates subtilty and crafty meanes to deceive the people that they by palmestre could tell menne and womens fortunes, and have by craft and ruyblythe deceived the people of their money."

Decided Change.

Mrs. Brown—Do you think marriage changes a man?

Mrs. Jones—Vastly. Look at my husband. He used to offer me a penny for my thoughts; now he often offers me \$50 to shut up.

TERRIER AND THE LONNESS

Little Dog Always Wounded Wild Beast and Saved Life of His Master.

That victory was always a matter of size or strength was poignantly illustrated in the case of the dog that did his duty as faithfully in the incident here related.

A man named De Beer has started early one morning for a journey on foot in Matabeland, leaving his boy to pack up and follow him. He had not gone half a mile when he heard a growl and, turning, saw an immense lioness about fifty yards away and rapidly approaching. She was within twenty paces when he fired. The shot broke the beast's jaw.

The second shot broke one of her legs. The third, fired just as she sprang on De Beer, missed altogether and the man was borne down.

In a few seconds he was mauled and bitten and his left hand severely injured. There seemed little hope that he could escape alive, for his gun was out of reach and the lion, lying on him, prevented him from moving.

But with De Beer was one companion, a little terrier. The tiny animal flew bravely at the lioness's ear, got a good hold and hung grimly on. This made the brute shift a little, and De Beer was able to reach his rifle again with his right hand and shoot the lioness through the chest. She fell dead on top of him, his left hand still in her mouth.

SULPHUR TAKEN FROM WELLS

How It Is Forced From Great Depths in Louisiana by Means of Hot Water.

Within recent years Sicily, so long famous for its exportation of sulphur, has suffered from the competition of the United States. In Sicily sulphur is mined in the solid form. At Lake Charles, La., near the Gulf of Mexico, a little over 200 miles from New Orleans, sulphur is obtained from deep deposits in the form of a liquid.

Wells driven to a depth of 600 feet in search of petroleum revealed instead a rich deposit of sulphur. To obtain the mineral hollow tubes were driven into the earth. Each sulphur well consists of three tubes, one within another. Through the outer tube hot water is forced down, and it issues through perforations near the bottom. Through the central tube hot air is driven a little lower than the points where the hot water escapes. Through this third tube, inclosed between the other two, the liquid sulphur, dissolved by the water, rises to the surface under the combined influence of the pressure of the column of water and impulsion of the rising air. The liquid sulphur is led into wooden reservoirs, where it cools and hardens.

Ruthless Destruction of Books.

Napoleon was indirectly responsible for the destruction of a vast quantity of books. In 1812 he framed a law allowing goods to be imported from the United Kingdom, provided that the importer shipped an equivalent quantity of French goods to this country. French merchants generally met the requirements of this law by shipping books to the value of the wares they wished to import. Having served to gain the necessary permit, the books were thrown overboard on the way to England, as there was no demand for them here. Shippers could well afford to do this, for coffee and sugar were then about ten times dearer in France than in England. It has been estimated that books to the nominal value of four million dollars were destroyed in this way.

Cosmopolitan Community.

Confusion of tongues in St. Gilles, the industrial suburb of Brussels, Belgium. Here the Flemish, Walloon and German elements meet. Statistics prepared for the government on the language question show that of 63,239 adults who form the population of St. Gilles, 10,163 men and 14,213 women speak French only; 2,483 men and 3,445 women Flemish only; 90 men and 173 women German only; 12,595 men and 14,902 women both French and Flemish; 711 men and 795 women both French and German, 30 men and 38 women both Flemish and German, and 959 men and 643 women French, Flemish and German.

To End Log Rafts.

Columbia rivermen believe that the recent disasters overtaking a number of the ocean-going log rafts which were being sent from the river to California have been the means of sounding the doom of this method of shipping lumber down the coast. In support of this conclusion it is pointed out that the steamer Carlos, on her last trip, took out a deckload of piling from Stella. Heretofore the great bulk of the piling from that point has been shipped to California in the form of rafts.—Shipping Illustrated.

Proving an Old Saying.

"I sure believes dat dere's truth in dat old proverb what says, 'Heaven helps dose what help demselves,'" announced Wandering Walter, the Weary Wop.

"Wot mikes yer 'tink dat kinder dope?" inquired Ragweed Reggie, the Roving Reprobat.