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ours. Only a few yards in width, they are often of tremendous length. I hesitate to commit myself to figures, but it is certain that the thin, green fields would stretch away in the distance until lost over some little elevation. At one place the road was cut through a hill honeycombed with rock tombs which the haj said were Jewish.

Every now and then we passed a tell, or great hemispherical mound, built up of the rubbish of a dozen ruined towns, for even as late as Roman times this was a well cultivated and populous country. There is now no lumber available for building purposes, and in a number of villages the houses are all built with conical roofs of stone. Where the rock happens to be of a reddish tinge the houses remind one of nothing so much as a collection of Indian wigwams. Where the stone is white, as at Tell et Biseh, it glitters and sparkles like a fairy city cut out of loaf sugar.—Scribner's Magazine.

POINTED PARAGRAPHS.

Do you always keep an appointment or just claim to?

A woman always thinks her dress-maker keeps half the goods. Nine-tenths of the things people quarrel over do not make any difference one way or the other.

When the doctor says to you, "Old man, I'm sorry, but you can't live an hour," how will you take it?

A boy is old enough to be welcome in the neighbor girl's parlor long before his sister thinks he is old enough to sit in the parlor at home.

Had the old fashioned children acted like the present generation there would have been no children. Their parents would have beaten them to death.

Every one has his vanity card to play. The preacher gets a man into the fold by telling him of the "great influence" he has upon others.—Aitchison Globe.

A Fish's Appetite.

A singular instance of tenacity in the digestion of fish is reported from Sheffield, England. The fish, which was a ling four feet long, had what appeared to be an abnormally hard liver. But the cutting up process revealed something far stranger. The supposed hard liver turned out to be nothing else but a piece of stout netting, over two yards long and fourteen inches wide, which had been pressed into the form of a football. How this great mass of indigestible material came to be swallowed by the creature is a mystery, and the suggestion that the fish caught in the toils of a fisherman's net solved the problem of how to escape by devouring his prison walls is not considered scientifically practicable.

Marks of Illness on Nails.

"One who makes a close study of finger nails will find many curious things about them to excite his wonder and interest," says an expert on such matters, "but none more so than the stories of physical condition told in their growth."

"You know that the nail of a person in good health grows at the rate of about one-sixteenth of an inch each week—slightly more than many authorities believe—but during illness or after an accident or during times of mental depression this growth is not only affected and retarded so far as its length is concerned, but also as regards its thickness. The very slightest illness will thus leave an indelible mark on the nails which may be readily detected as the nail grows out. If one has a sudden attack, such as acute rheumatism, which sends the temperature bounding upward to 104 or 105 within the space of two or three hours, it will be found on the nails, indicating the difference in thickness of growth between the time when health was enjoyed and the thin growth of the ill period."

"If the illness is one that comes gradually, like typhoid fever, for example, instead of a ridge a gentle incline will appear on the nails. Should one have an arm broken the thick ridge can be seen only on the fingers of the one hand, but in all cases of general sickness the ridge or slope appears on the fingers of both hands. When one has passed through a period of extreme excitement or mental depression, the fact will be imprinted on the nails either with an abrupt edge or a gentle slope, according to the acuteness of the mental influence."

"In no instance can the marks of illness, accident or mental condition be clearly seen on the nail until after the growth has carried the line beyond the white or half moon portion of it, but a week or two subsequent to any of these things the ridge or slope may be found on the nails, usually readily visible to the eyes, but if not the mark may be found by running the tip of the finger down any of the nails."—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

STRANGE CHECKS.

The Odd Assortment Collected by One Bank Clerk.

A torn linen collar, a piece of lath, a cuff and a half dozen other odd objects hung above the bank clerk's desk. "My collection of queer checks," the young man said. "Each of those things is a check. Each was duly honored. Each has a story. 'I have been collecting queer checks for three years. That piece of lath started me. A western bank honored the lath for \$250. It was made out as a check by the owner of a sawmill, who

was out at the plant with his son, thirty miles from any house, and totally without paper, let alone a check book. The money was needed to pay off the hands. The sawmillier wrote on the lath just what a check correctly drawn has on it, and he sent his son in to the bank to get the money and to explain. The lath check was honored after some discussion among the bank's officers.

"The cuff check was drawn by an actor who had become slightly intoxicated, got into a fight and been arrested. He was treated cavalierly in his cell. They wouldn't give him any paper, and he bribed a boy to take the check to a bank. The boy got the money, and with it the actor paid his fine. Otherwise he'd have been jailed for ten days. Thus the cuff check may be said to have saved a man from prison."

"The check written on that linen collar won a bet of \$5. A man bet a woman that a check made on a collar would be cashed, and of course he won his bet. "Your bank, if you carry a good account, will honor the most freaky checks you can draw up. In such money business, though, it won't encourage you."—Chicago Chronicle.

Eve's Apple.

A botanical friend showed me not long since what he said was the apple that must have tempted Eve in what was surely a tropical fruit garden. It was a little bit of an oriental crab, about a third of an inch in diameter, and, of course, it was bitterly sour! My philosophizing friend pointed out that, of course, the fruits in Eden were the natural "wild" fruits, and he was wondering whether the fall of mankind would not have been accelerated if the attracting tree had been hung with a fair crop of the tempting golden or crimson varieties of today.—Country Life in America.

Medical.

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