

Hardening Soft Iron.

To harden soft iron wet it with water and scatter over its surface powdered yellow prussiate of potash; then heat to a cherry red heat...

Granted the Request.

The Irishman in France had been challenged to a duel. "Shure," he cried, "we'll fight wid shillalabs!"

First Hunger Strike.

Cleopatra seems to have been the first hunger striker. Shakespeare represents her as saying when she was captured: "Sir, I will eat no meat; I'll not drink, sir; I'll not sleep neither; this mortal house I'll ruin."

Ominously Strange.

The dear girl said to her father: "Papa, George Beecham has proposed." "Humph!" her father returned. "What's his income?"

A Business Asset.

"Now," said the professor, "when you have taken a few lessons in acting I think I can commend you as a highly competent dentist."

Rain From a Tree.

On one of the Canary islands there is said to be a tree which dispels from its branches actual rain to such an extent that a cistern placed at its base is never unfilled.

Pretty Warm.

Once a visitor was narrating a case he had just heard in court. This was his way of expressing his meaning: "At this point," said the narrator, "she broke down and wept scalding tears."

Well Trained.

Miss Wilkins, the primary teacher, was instructing her small charges. "Name one thing of importance that did not exist 100 years ago," said the teacher.

He Had Been There.

Rodrick—Howdy, old man? We are going on a camping trip soon. Did you ever enjoy a camping trip where you had to do your own cooking and sleep beneath the stars?

Crazy.

"We find the prisoner not guilty by reason of insanity." "But the plea was not that of insanity," remarked the court.

Their First Meeting.

"I am very glad to meet you again, Miss Dowsley," he said when they had been introduced to each other. "Again?" she replied. "Why, have we met before?"

CHEERFULNESS.

It is generally supposed that a light and buoyant temperament tends to frivolity and to fickleness, but no man is so well qualified to discharge the duties of life as one who acts through a temperament that is glowing and genial.

Islands in a Volcano.

The crater of Halemauau, Hawaii, presents a particularly impressive sight for the surface of the boiling lava supports several boating islands. According to Frank A. Perret, most of the larger islands seem to be caused by the fall of masses from the crater wall, and some of them last for a year or more before they are finally melted.

A Legacy of the Distant Past.

"Did you ever notice," asked the experienced restaurateur, "that when one man is giving a dinner to another the waiter upon opening a bottle of wine generally pours a little into the glass of the host and then proceeds to fill the other man's glass to the top?"

In Extremis.

Late one night a clergyman was called out to minister to an old man—a worker upon the adjacent railway—who was supposed to be dying. The summons was brought by another old man, the elder brother of the stricken one.

Fire Terms in Japan.

Fires in Japan are so common that this destructive agency has established itself as a national institution. and a whole vocabulary has grown up to express every shade of meaning in matters fiery.

Sterne's Destitution.

Laurence Sterne, the writer, was the victim of the interest poverty. A little time before his death, being in a state of destitution, he went one evening to borrow £5 from his friend Garrick.

Some Satisfaction.

During the staging of a series of Shakespeare's plays in one week at Stratford-on-Avon not only were the performers tired out, but the heavy shifting and many changes had also wearied the scene shifters and property men.

Women in England.

In the seventeenth century English women were recognized as possessing an economic and political status side by side with Englishmen. There was written an interesting entry in the church warden's accounts of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, proving that one Elizabeth Bartlett was entrusted with the casting of the second bell and that all the women employed thus were paid at the same rate as men for the same work.

The Right Bone.

"Fred, dear, I feel it in my bones that you are going to take me to the theater tonight." "Which bone, darling?" "I'm not sure, but I think it's my wishbone."

Very True.

"Dere an nuffin' in dis worl' mo' easier t' git dan de ting we doan' happen t' want."—Puck.

Work.

Let a broken man cling to his work. If it saves nothing else it will save him.—Henry Ward Beecher.

Yellowstone Park.

There are between 5,000 and 10,000 hot springs of every variety in the Yellowstone National park.

A Source of Glory.

All Scotsmen take a pride in their native land, but none more than the old gardener of Duddingston, of whom the New York Tribune tells the following story: The gardener was showing to a tourist the beauties of the loch and of the little village. It was evening, and as he expatiated on the lovely scene and on the glories of his country, the moon rose over a hill.

Altered the Case.

"Henry, what is this underworld there is so much talk about?" "The underworld is a general term that is applied to the class which is made up of people who trade on vice and live by criminal practices."

Sharks and Divers.

The fully equipped modern diver does not dread sharks in the depths, though there are cases on record where these monsters have bitten savagely at the air pipe, causing a serious leak and almost drowning the man before he could be hauled up.

Carrot Pudding.

One cupful of grated carrots, one cupful of sugar, one cupful of flour, one-half cupful of raisins and currants mixed, two teaspoonfuls of all kinds of spice mixed, one teaspoonful of soda, one teaspoonful of salt. Mix all together and steam for three hours.

How Frozen Insects Revive.

Experiments in reviving frozen insects by a naturalist show some surprising results. A large cecropia moth, frozen in the center of a snowball until it was perfectly brittle, revived in twenty seconds when held near a stove.

Pulled Out His Own Teeth.

An inmate of the lunatic asylum at Chalons, France, had the obsession that his breath smelled so bad that no girl would accept him as a husband. Brooding over this totally imaginary defect, he decided that his teeth must be the cause of it.

Some Sentence!

The champion speller of congress has on tap a great assortment of stories dealing with words and spelling. One of his linguistic feats is to reel off a sentence of twenty-six words, each word beginning with the successive letters of the alphabet, like this: "A boy cannot dig easily for gold; hence, if just keeping lead melted needs oxygen put quicksilver, rapidly saturated, timidly under vitriol, when zebebs yeon zeolites."

The Walking Stick.

One does not look to one's walking stick to tell the date, but earlier sticks often combined the functions of almanacs and staffs, for our first almanacs were simply "the courses of the moons of the whole year engraved upon sticks," and those who went on distant pilgrimages soon saw the advantage of turning the heads of their staffs into almanacs. Their sticks were at once props and guides to assist them in arriving at the recognized assembling places of pilgrims at the correct time.—London Globe.

Poor Angel.

"I wonder," said the sweet young thing, "why a man is always so frightened when he proposes?" "That," said the chronic bachelor, "is his guardian angel trying to hold him back."

The Pigeon.

Many birds form their sounds without opening their bills. The pigeon is a well known example.

Switzerland and Scotland.

Switzerland shares with Scotland the distinction of being the best educated country in the world.

The Poor Poet.

"The poet is born, not made," sayeth the proverb. In other words, it isn't his own fault.

THE CHILD, THE STAR AND THE BIRD.

This might be called the Child Age, a much more vital one than the Stone, Bronze or Iron Ages.

An old gentleman avers that when he was a boy some eighty years ago, all reverence was given to old age, while now all reverence is given to children, so he has missed it altogether.

The hosts of Boy Scouts that marched to Washington were treated with almost the same consideration as the Army or Navy. A command has gone forth that every child shall be educated.

Some people complain that he is being turned out a too finished product, that he is really to step onto the top rung of the ladder at the start, so that soon the lower rungs will be empty.

This however is not a paper to criticize the methods of training the child, it is on the other hand to ask for more for him.

While the children are being taught almost everything else, there are worlds in the heavens of which they know nothing.

As a rule the average child's knowledge of the starry heavens begins and ends with—

"Twinkle twinkle little star How I wonder what you are Up above the world so high Like a diamond in the sky."

One beautiful winter night when the stars were shining I pointed out, to a boy walking with me, the Big Bear and the Little Bear and the evening Star. The boy exclaimed "Is that what they are? I thought they were just stars."

Some parents ridicule their children as they look at the planets and call them "star gazers," and the boys most likely turn to the pool table and strike a ball to cool their injured feelings.

Any recreation that takes the children into the open air has a double advantage. Please do not discourage them from hitching their wagons to the stars, "they will come to earth soon enough." Again our trees are peopled by millions of feathery inhabitants, that the average boy knows as birds; good targets for his sling shot.

Who killed Cock Robin? I said the Sparrow With my bow and arrow I killed Cock Robin.

A very scientific tale it is, for who has not seen the outrageous enmity towards the robins exhibited by the sparrows? The latter will tear down one nest after another built by the robins and finally appropriate the materials for one of their own.

I once asked a little boy whether he knew the different kinds of birds. He replied, "I know a robin-a, and I know a sparrow-aj and I know a hawk-a," and that ended his knowledge.

Since I put the question to him I notice he is much more observing of birds and has added quite a few to his first list.

No doubt many children become discouraged by their failure to catch the robin when trying to put salt on his tail. How many of us have not spent many a futile hour with the salt in our hands hoping for success.

There is nothing so discouraging as failure, in the end we tried to convince ourselves that we did not want the robin after all, and gave up all interest in birds, a pity! for the birds must certainly have been sent to us to know.

Most children with a little encouragement would be glad to know them and would train themselves to learn much by observation, and at the same time would be breathing good, pure, fresh air.

Any boys or girls interested in crows will have a fine opportunity of seeing them by walking to the "Pretty Turn" between Nitany Furnace and Axe Mann about five o'clock in the evening, when thousands upon thousands of crows fly like black clouds

Medical.

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through the sky and settle for the night on the trees at the "Turn." Each one apparently has a twig of its own for a roost.

ANNE HARRIS HOY, For The Woman's Club.

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