

NOVEL CURE FOR TOOTHACHE

Dr. Wilfred T. Grenfell Tells of Experience With Patient Possessing Powerful Imagination.

In medicine things sometimes happen that professional men have difficulty in explaining, according to Dr. Wilfred T. Grenfell, who in his autobiography tells the following story: A big fisherman came aboard my steamer one day and said that he had toothache. His jaw was swollen, his mouth was hard to open, and the offending molar was visible within; but when I produced the forceps he protested loudly that he would not have it touched for worlds.

"Why, then, did you come to me?" I asked. "You are wasting my time."

"I wanted you to charm her, doctor," he answered.

"But, my dear friend, I do not know how to charm, and I don't think it would do the slightest good. Doctors are not allowed to do such things."

He was evidently much put out, and had turned to go when I said, "If you really think it would do any good, come along. You'll have to pay 25 cents exactly as if you had it pulled out."

"Gladly, doctor. Please go ahead."

He sat on the rail while I put one finger into his mouth, touched the molar and repeated the most mystic nonsense I could think of. "Abracadabra Tiddlywinkum Unslapoga," and then jerked the finger out lest the patient close his ponderous jaws. The fisherman took a turn round the deck, pulled out the quarter and solemnly handed it to me, saying, "All the pain is gone. Many thanks, doctor."

I found myself standing alone in amazement, twiddling a miserable shilling, and wondering how I came to make such a fool of myself—Youth's Companion.

CORSET FIRST WORN BY MEN

Garment Now Almost Exclusively Feminine Shown to Have Been Made for Norman King.

The corset as such has not always gone by that name. First mention of the word is found in the household register of Eleanor, countess of Leicester, May 24, 1265, and the person for whom the garment was made was Richard, king of the Normans. Another pair is mentioned at the same time as intended for Richard's son, Edward. Which would seem to prove that corsets were originally used for men as well as for women.

Some authorities claim that the word corset is from the French word corps, the body, and serrer (to tighten, enclose or incase). This may have been a corruption or diminutive form of the single word "corps," which was formerly written "cors," or the name may have been taken from a rich material known as corse, which was at one time extensively used for its making. About the year 1600 the corset is referred to as "stays" in England. The word bodice was not infrequently spelled bodies by old authors and was used to designate the garment now known as the corset.

Beavers' Remarkable Work

A single colony of beaver is capable of constructing a dam 12 feet high and a quarter of a mile long. Such a dam was recently discovered by a state game warden, in a secluded spot along Taylor's creek, Bayfield county, Wis. The beaver house at the center of the dam, 15 feet high and 40 feet broad at the base, the sleeping apartment inside the house, was exceptionally spacious for a beaver home, being large enough for a tall man to lie down at full length. The floor was found to be covered with a dry substance and was as clean as a whistle. Large quantities of food were found stored for cold weather use. Nine beavers, the parents and their children, were found living comfortably in the house, the result of their engineering feat.

Explaining the "Ring Finger."

Of all the men, both young and old, who place engagement rings on the fingers of their brides-to-be, it is almost an absolute certainty that not one-tenth of them knows why he places the ring on the ring finger of the left hand. Of course, the answer could be: "Everybody's doin' it." The custom of placing the ring upon the fourth finger seems undoubtedly to owe its origin to the fancy that a special nerve, or vein, ran directly from this finger to the heart. Macrobius, in his Saturnalia, alludes to the belief in the following words: "Because of this nerve, the newly betrothed places the ring on this finger of his spouse, as though it were a representation of the heart." This information, he asserts, was derived from an Egyptian priest.

Electric Circular Saw.

Among recent electric tool novelties is a portable circular saw, provided with the handle of an ordinary hand saw. The tool weighs only 12 pounds with its one-quarter horsepower motor, uses a 3-inch crosscut or rip saw, has a suitable depth gage and is provided with an aluminum base grooved to slide on a guide track when necessary. The blade is covered with a safety guard.

—Subscribe for the "Watchman."

ALGAROBIA WILD FOREST TREE

Has Been Spread Over Barren Lands in Hawaii Without Any Effort of Artificial Planting.

The mesquite tree, or algaroba, was originally introduced into Hawaii by Father Bachelot, and planted in the Catholic mission grounds, Honolulu, in 1828. The original tree attained a diameter of three feet three inches, and a height of 60 feet before it was topped in 1906 to make room for a new city block.

The algaroba is the most valuable tree in Hawaii. The algaroba forests yield 30,000 cords of excellent wood annually, in addition to \$100,000 worth of honey and enormous quantities of beans which furnish a valuable fattening food for stock at a time when the dry summer has exhausted the grass supply.

The algaroba tree begins to bear pods when 6 years old, and when these pods are eaten by stock the small horny seeds are not crushed but rather prepared for quick germination by the action of the digestive fluids. The spread of the tree without the expensive effort of planting by artificial methods over vast areas of barren lands of Hawaii has, therefore, been due almost solely to stock, and has in this manner become a wild forest tree. The algaroba in Hawaii has a very shallow root system and is subject to windthrow in very heavy storms.

HOLD CONVERSE IN JUNGLE

Expert Asserts That All Wild Animals Have Method of Communication With Each Other.

If the chimpanzees possess the most extensive ape vocabulary—and Garner, who knew the sound and meaning of about a hundred monkey words, said they do—baboons have the crudest. Dr. Ditmars says that those in the Bronx park collection express their emotions with a roaring bark, a faint chattering, and, when frightened, a wild scream.

"But all animal life has some method of communication," says Dr. Ditmars. "In some cases it isn't vocal, but it satisfies the same need. When a lion is lonesome he puts his head close to the ground and roars. Possibly he knows the ground acts as a sounding board. With a different cadence this roar becomes a challenge, and other males take it up until the jungle reverberates with their din."

"Another roar with a different intensity is answered only by females. The lioness will listen to fix the direction from which his roar comes and will move toward him. Then she will roar, and he will move, and finally they meet."—Exchange.

Tooth Puller's Bad Reputation.

"To lie like a tooth puller" is in Le Roux de Lincy's "Book of French Proverbs" (Paris 1850), quoted from the "Dictionary of the French Academy" (1835). The tooth puller in those days was often a wandering mountebank who drew a crowd by telling Rabelaisian stories and indulging in horseplay. He sold quack medicines, and, of course, lied prodigiously. Lannelongue's explanation of the origin is more amusing, though it is so circumstantial that it breeds suspicion. Furthermore—and this is conclusive—"to lie like a tooth drawer" is in Philibert Joseph Le Roux's "Dictionnaire Comique" (Amsterdam 1718) with this comment, "No one lies more outrageously than a tooth drawer, who promises not to hurt, which is not possible." And Le Roux quotes Poissons' one act play, "The Basque Poet" (1668). "But all of you lie like tooth pullers."

Flow of Language.

A colored preacher, one of the men who are never at a loss for words, was commending to his congregation one of the organs of the church, and this is how he did it: "The missionary bulletin of this church needs subscribers. It is young and unfinancial, but through the instrumentality of backbone and grit it will become an ideal. It was ushered into existence out of purely innocent contemplation of moral and religious good, which would, in all probability, result from carefully agitated principles of righteousness. The bulletin will be observed mingling in social convolutions to furnish with sheaves of harvests of those reasonable products common to social contingencies. The tone of the whole will be missionary work."

Moral Elevation.

The true greatness of a nation cannot be in triumphs of the intellect alone. Literature and art may enlarge the sphere of its influence; they may adorn it; but they are in their nature but accessories. The true grandeur of humanity is in moral elevation. . . . The surest tokens of this grandeur, in a state, are that Christian beneficence, which diffuses the greatest happiness among the greatest number, and that passionless, God-like justice, which controls the relations of the state to other states, and to all the people committed to its charge.—Charles Sumner.

For the Poor.

The Revenue Collector—You can't run that tent show and pocket the proceeds without paying the war tax. That's not a benevolence, as you claim. The Owner Manager—My friend, if you were familiar with my circumstances and my show you'd consider the purchase of every ticket a real charity.

REAL TURK NOT MONEY MAD

Recognizes There Are Higher Things in Life Than Practicing Buying and Selling.

The real Turk, unlike the so-called mongrel Turk, does not have to impress his sense of superiority on others. And, although the latter is always eager to do business with you, according to Mr. Herbert Gibbons in Asia, the real Turk is often quite indifferent.

Some real Anatolian Turks are merchants and sit in the bazaars. But they will not go out of their way to make a sale, and they really do not care whether you buy or not. Often they ignore strangers; sometimes they rebuff them. When you meet with this type in the bazaars where all the Jews and Gentiles are hard after your money, it is like a dash of cold water in your face.

Once in a little open shop I saw a rug that attracted me. I started to enter, but the crouched figure on the mat put out a long-fingered left hand, grasped firmly my ankle, and removed my foot outside the threshold. I thought there must be some superstition about which foot went first; so I tried the other. The same left hand prodded again its strength. All the while the merchant did not speak or look up. His right hand was stringing beads, and he was smoking a nargile.

He simply did not want to bother with me, and my shoe told him that I was a franga (European). Later I got to know that old bird, and we laughed over stories together. But he never asked me to buy anything, and I did not want to risk his friendship by making a second try for the rug. There are more important things in life than buying and selling.

"SQUEEZE" POPULAR IN CHINA

What the Western World Calls "Graft" Is Practiced by All Classes in That Country.

One trait firmly imbedded in the Chinese character which the foreign business man and the housewife both have to contend with is the weakness for "squeeze." It is said by foreigners that the Chinese merchant, colic, politician, fisherman, chauffeur and beggar would rather make \$1 by "squeeze" than \$10 by the same amount of brain work or manual labor.

Squeeze is Chinese for graft. It is a word in that international Far Eastern tongue known as pidgin-English. But squeeze is something more than graft. Its political phase might be termed graft, and that form of squeeze is what makes the military governors of the provinces and the politicians of Peking and Canton so fat. Most Chinese politicians would have been acceptable in the eyes of Julius Caesar, and squeeze is the reason for some of the corruption in China.

Squeeze is the Chinese translation of "as much as the traffic will bear." It is a factor in Chinese business, as much as supply and demand, or profit and loss.

Tapestry in History.

During the Italian Renaissance the art developed in subtle treatment of color and shading, and Flemish tapestry reached its height of artistic perfection in the magnificent pieces from cartoons by Raphael and other Italian masters. Royalty supported the industry at this period. Incidents of history were woven into design with threads of

gold and silver, and even jewels. Others were mellowed by soft colorings of wool, with their high lights supplied by silken threads. The dyes, often as costly as the gold and silver, have held their colors for centuries, and it has been beyond the modern chemist to solve their alchemy. No such colors can be produced today, nor none that are so unfading. When tapestry making waned in Brussels, France developed the art, and under Henry IV and Louis XIV the Gobelins were famed for their perfection of workmanship and color.

An Apple a Day.

"They tell us," said Mr. Billtops, "that an apple a day keeps the doctor away, and I guess that is so; I am sure that an apple a night promotes sound and restful slumber."

"We keep our apples in the icebox. The last thing that Mrs. Billtops, ever-thoughtful Mrs. Billtops, does in making her rounds before retiring for the night is to get an apple out of the icebox and place it, with a fruit knife, on the dining-room table for me."

"Nightly the last thing I do before going to bed is to go out into the dining room, seat myself comfortably, and eat that apple; leisurely, I find it cool and refreshing; in every way agreeable; and having eaten it I turn in and sleep delightfully."

"An apple a day keeps the doctor away. An apple at night makes you sleep right."

Exclusive Organization.

Though legendarily reputed to be more than 1,000 years old, the Order of the Thistle was founded by James II in 1087. After the revolution, says the London Star, it fell into desuetude, but was revived by Queen Anne in 1703. The chapel of the order, in St. Giles' cathedral, where the king attended service on Sunday, was not commenced until 1600.

The Thistle is one of the most exclusive orders, its only members being the king and 16 knights. The motto of the order is: "Wha daur meddle with me."

Still Make Use of Blowgun.

The blowgun is still popular for hunting birds among the Kosati Indians in Louisiana. This weapon consists of a tube, usually of cane, about six feet long, rubbed smooth on the inside with an implement made for the purpose and carefully straightened with the aid of fire. Slender, pointed darts about eight inches long are used as ammunition, each one wrapped neatly along a third of its length with thistle-down or cotton to make it fit the inside of the tube. The hunter places a dart in the tube, which he raises to his lips and with which he takes careful aim at his game; then with a quick puff of breath he drives the little dart flying with a sufficient force to impale and kill a small bird or squirrel.

America Land of Tobacco.

America is still the greatest producer of tobacco and also the greatest consumer of it, the greatest exporter and the greatest importer, too. She keeps her association with it which began with the discovery of the new world. It was the riches of tobacco as well as gold and fountains of youth that drew hither the adventurers who penetrated the new continents. Later tobacco was so precious a thing among the first English colonists that they plowed up the streets of Jamestown to plant it.

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