

Clever Police Work

Credited to Italian

For a moth to be convicted of murder seems incredible, but this actually happened. After giving a dinner party the Princess Caravella of Naples went to lie down in order to refresh herself for a dance, and later was found shot through the heart. Suspicion pointed to her husband, who was known to be of a jealous disposition, and he was arrested. The fact that the pistol was found lying near the dead woman seemed incongruous, but the husband would probably have been convicted but for the shrewdness of a Naples police officer.

He found a huge moth lying on the floor by the bedside. A lighted candle had stood on the bedside table where the pistol lay, and the moth had been singed in the flame. He also found dust from the moth's wings on the trigger of the pistol, which was also proved to work with exceptional ease, whilst the pistol lay in such a position that it covered the woman's heart.

It was argued in court that the moth had burned its wings and had fallen on the table, where, writhing and fluttering, its wings had struck the trigger and the pistol had been fired. On this evidence the prince was acquitted.

Music Shown to Have Odd Effect on Hair

All the violinists in the world assembled together in one vast building, and they numbered, say, 100,000, it is probable that there would be but 100 among them with bald heads. But if the same number of brass instrument players were inspected, bald heads would be as common as flies in summer time!

If you doubt this, make a point of observing the heads of the orchestras in the cinemas or theaters you patronize.

Scientists declare that the playing of stringed instruments induces hair growth. A series of experiments on the partly bald has proved that stringed music has power to raise a hairy crop!

Coronet and horn players lose their hair early; theirs is the wrong sort of music from the hirsute point of view. The explanation advanced is that the physical strain of blowing affects the circulation and deprives the roots of the hair of their due supply of blood.

Playing Cards Known Since Earliest Ages

Doctor Le Cour, delving in Carthaginian ruins, says the ancients had a play similar to our card game. They used small tablets on which were painted figures. There is also mention in one of St. Augustine's works of cards that are used for gambling. Still the playing cards we now use were invented in the fourteenth century by a French painter named Jacques Gringonneur. It is said that he invented them to amuse the mad King Charles VI of France. The kings were David, Alexander, Caesar and Charles; the queens were Argine, Esther, Judith and Pallas; the four knights, now called knaves and vulgarly "jacks," were Ogier the Dane, Lancelot, La Hire and Hector de Garland, knights of old romance. The Cardmakers' company was incorporated in 1629, and as early as the reign of James I cards were taxed. Probably the first game played in England was called "trump." All the most important historical events have been at one time or another depicted on playing cards, and some of the packs are very rare and valuable.—Pierre Van Paassen, in the Atlanta Constitution.

Blood Analysis Helps

Doctor in Diagnosis

The doctor who used to feel his patient's pulse or gaze into a gaping mouth to determine the cause of illness nowadays takes a drop of blood to analyze. The guilt for much of human suffering has been traced to the germs, tiny but deadly, which force their entrance into the human body, and which can only be detected by such analysis.

"Blood tests provide us with clues to an ever-growing number of ailments," said a doctor to the writer.

"It is being found, for instance, that eye complaints are often due to the absorption of germs which have affected other parts of the body, such as the tonsils. We can often detect them by testing the blood.

"Many cases of illness are due to something taken in from without—usually microscopic germs. More and more of these germs are becoming known to us every day. There is reason to believe that the origins of other diseases which are still unknown may be found in the same cause."

Grenade Duel Fails

In Germany two university students, each seeking the hand of a comely girl in marriage, decided they would have to fight it out in a duel. They chose hand grenades as weapons, paced off the required distance and when the referee dropped the handkerchief they each threw. The grenades went sailing through the air but nothing happened. Two other grenades were offered them and these exploded, but only splattered mud on the duelists. They then decided to allow the girl to choose.

Modern Dishes That Got Name From Latin

Fricasse has usually been derived from the Latin word frigare (to fry) through the French frier, but it is thought more probable now that it is derived from the French fracasser, meaning to break into pieces or the Latin fricare, to rub.

In French the word is used to indicate any meat fried in a pan, but the English meaning is a dish made from cutting chickens, rabbits, and other small animals into pieces and cooking them in a frying or other pan with a gravy.

Molasses came through many mediums from the Latin mellaceus, meaning honey-like, which is derived from mel, honey.

Mushrooms get their name from the same source as moss.

Custard was a corruption of a middle-English word meaning a pie or tart, and was allied to the modern French word croustade of the same meaning. All these words came from the Latin crusta, meaning a crust.

Salad literally means salted, and is a direct descendant of the Latin word sal, or salt. The use of salad to mean the greens from which or on which a salad mixture is placed is one of only recent origin. The Italian insalata and the Spanish salada, meaning salad in those languages, actually mean salted.

Tomato is a word of Mexican derivation from tomatl, the native name in that country for the vegetable. The original tomato was the "love apple"

Bright Children Fail to Develop in Ability

Children who are mental giants at ten years old, are, as a rule, no better at tests of musical sensitiveness than quite ordinary children of their age. This is shown by experiments with a group of superior children, conducted by Dr. Leta S. Hollingworth of Columbia university.

Results of the experiments reported in the Journal of Educational Psychology, indicate that superior children as a group make somewhat better ratings in their judgments of time than other children of their age, but not in other musical tests.

The children were tested on pitch, time, consonance and tonal memory. Since the brilliant children as a group were larger than unselected children of the same age, it had been expected that they might excel in such tests because of the advanced development of the anatomical structures involved in making musical judgments. This was not, however, found to be the case.—Science Service Bulletin.

Fiction and Frying Pans

If the stories of Brillat-Savarin, which it is proposed to publish in commemoration of his centenary, reveal their author to the world as a successful writer of fiction as well as a gastronomer, he may perhaps be regarded as repaying the interest which some famous novelists have taken in matters of the table. Balzac took a keen interest in cookery, as befitted a man of gigantic appetite. So also did George Sand, whose cookery must have been pretty good, since it was reputed to be as exciting as her romances. Joseph Conrad, as he admitted in connection with a cookbook written by Mrs. Conrad, gave a high place in his esteem to the culinary arts, while George Meredith left a book of cookery recipes in his own handwriting which figured in a bookseller's catalogue some years ago and may possibly yet appear in print.—Manchester Guardian.

Socrates in Art

The British museum has recently come into possession of a statuette, eleven inches high and in very good condition, that is considered by archeologists to be almost certainly a portrait of Socrates as he walked and talked in the streets of Athens. It portrays the familiar coarse face, the rough beard and the snub nose, but the result is not grotesque and there can be no doubt as to the intelligence of the sculptured figure. The statuette is supposed to date from a period about a century later than Socrates. If so, it is the earliest portrait of him, for all the other busts in existence belong to the Roman period.—London Post.

What She Wanted to Know

Mandy, black and ponderous, had trouble with her teeth and was looking over some dental plates.

"Could Ah eat wid 'em as good as Ah used to eat wid mah own?" she asked.

"Oh, to be sure," replied the dentist. "These plates are so scientifically fabricated that mastication is facilitated to a degree equal to, if not exceeding, Nature's own product."

"Yassuh, yassuh," from Mandy, still unconvinced, "but what Ah wants to know is kin you chew wid 'em as well as wid you' own?"—Pittsburgh Chronicle-Telegraph.

Wheelbarrow Long in Use

The wheelbarrow is a good illustration of the old adage of familiarity breeding contempt, at least indifference. We are so used to having one around the place that a few of us stop to wonder when and where this useful article was invented. Its beginning is lost in antiquity, for thousands of years ago it was known to the Chinese, who put it to good use. The modern, steel, perfectly balanced vehicle is but an improved edition of a crude idea of ages ago.

Great Writer's Ideas on Child Training

Gay, light-hearted and debonair though Robert Louis Stevenson was during most of his life, he held views on the training of children that, coming from him, seem astonishingly severe. Mr. Lloyd Osbourne, his stepson, writing in Scribner's Magazine, described a conversation that occurred when he and Stevenson, then thirty-two years old and in poor health, were sojourning at Davos in the Swiss Alps.

One conversation I heard him have with a visitor at the chalet, says Mr. Osbourne, impressed me deeply. The visitor was a fussy, officious person, who after many preambles ventured to criticize Stevenson for the way he was bringing me up. R. L. S., who was the most reasonable of men in an argument, and almost over-ready to admit any points against himself, surprised me by his unshaken stand.

"Of course I let him read anything he wants," he said. "And if he hears things you say he shouldn't, I am glad of it. A child should early gain some perception of what the world is really like—its baseness, its treacheries, its thinly veneered brutalities; he should learn to judge people and discount human frailty and weakness and be in some degree prepared and armed for taking his part later in the battle of life. I have no patience with this fairy-tale training that makes ignorance a virtue. That was how I was brought up, and no one will ever know except myself the bitter misery it cost me."—Youth's Companion.

Visiting Pest Bane of Busy Office Man

The "just-a-minute" man is a product of modern times, and is in no way related to the Minute Man of Revolutionary days. He is the worst pest with whom Detroiters high in public office and business life have to deal.

He always appears to be in a hurry. He dashes into the outer office of his victim, pulls out his watch, and breathlessly asks the secretary if he can see Mr. So-and-so for "just a minute." He is often successful in gaining admittance, and he usually stays about 30 minutes, or until long after he has worn out his welcome.

The "just-a-minute" man is legion. His visits sometimes take up several hours a day of one busy man's time. One business man admitted he could dispense with his secretary if it were not for the "just-a-minute" man. The secretary's chief duty is to intercept the pest and learn his business.—Detroit News.

Monk That Made History

Peter the Hermit was a monk of Amiens, the famous preacher of the Crusades and primarily responsible for one of the most gigantic religious movements the world ever saw. Little is known of his life until 1095 (he was born in 1050), when he preached the necessity of a crusade to wrest the Holy land from the infidel. He rode about France on a mule, exhorting the populace to follow him. In 1098 he set out toward Palestine with some thirty thousand followers, mostly of the poorer classes. The undisciplined army straggled on through Europe, but after crossing the Bosphorus into Asia Minor it proved so unruly that Peter left it and joined the army of Godfrey de Bouillon. He had a part in the capture of Jerusalem, and in July, 1099, preached on the Mount of Olives.—Kansas City Star.

Rabbits as Swimmers

An investigating naturalist reports that rabbits are good swimmers and have a very real fondness for the water and the sport they find in a good swim. He says he has been hidden in the woods and watched rabbits run on a high bank and dive far out in the water, swimming about and shaking the water from their eyes, in a human fashion, then shaking the water out of their furry coats after the swim, exactly as a dog does. Prior to that discovery he had known rabbits to take to the water when pursued by a dog, but had not known they chose the water for sport when they had a day off from play and relaxation.—Ohio State Journal.

Equal to the Occasion

Frequently, during the dinner, the old sea captain had strained the credulity of the guests, but by the exercise of his ready wit, had evaded a number of cul de sac. The supreme test came while he was describing a voyage in the South seas. "Crossing along one morning," he began, "we passed an island that was positively red with lobsters." "But," said one of the guests, with unconcealed amusement, "lobsters are not red until boiled." "Of course not," replied the old salt, undaunted, "but this was a volcanic island dotted with hot springs and geysers."

The Bright Iliad

There are few books which are fit to be remembered in our wisest hours, but the Iliad is brightest in the serene days, and embodies still all the sunlight that fell on Asia Minor. No modern joy or ecstasy of ours can lower its height, or dim its lustre, but there it lies in the east of literature, as it were the earliest and latest production. . . . The rays of Greek poetry struggle to us, and mingle with the sunbeams of the recent day. The statue of Memnon is cast down, but the shaft of the Iliad still meets the sun in his rising.—Thoreau.

The Parents.

Doctor's daughter: "A little bird told me what kind of a store your father runs."

Grocer's Son: "What is that?"

"Cheep, cheep." "Well, a duck told me what kind of a doctor your father is. Quack! quack!"—The Progressive Grocer.

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Who Was Swedenborg?

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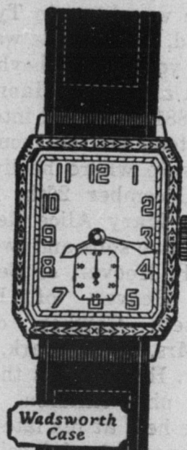
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