

## CARE OF A WATCH.

**DELICATE MECHANISM WHICH NEEDS REGULAR ATTENTION.**

**An Old Watchmaker's Instructive and Entertaining Talk on the Treatment of Timepieces—Information on a Subject of General Interest.**

"You want to know how to care for a fine watch, eh?" said the old watchmaker, as he took off his glasses and wiped them with his handkerchief. "Let me see your watch."

The reporter handed over his timepiece, and the old man examined it carefully.

"Well, my boy," he said, finally, "bear in mind continually that a watch is, in its way, almost as delicate a piece of mechanism as the human system. As it is necessary for a man who wishes to keep in good health to take his meals regularly, so it is necessary to feed a watch at regular intervals. You feed a watch by winding it up. Therefore, have a certain hour for winding your watch, and never deviate from it."

"In this case there are probably one hundred watches. Not one of them is running. On this rack there are eighteen, and all are going. I wind them the first thing in the morning, starting with the one in the lower left-hand corner. They get their meals regularly."

"You can regulate your own watch if you will only study its peculiarities. See this little arm? Well, if your watch is running slow, turn that arm with the blade of your penknife a trifle toward the letter 'F.' If it is running fast, turn in the opposite direction toward 'S.' Don't move the arm more than a fraction of an inch, for if that will not suffice, your watch needs a watchmaker's care."

"Don't open the inner case of your watch more than is absolutely necessary. Every time you open it dust sweeps in upon the works, and it takes very little dust to put a watch out of order. In nine cases out of ten, when a watch is brought to me to be cleaned, I can tell with my glass the business the owner of the watch follows. I examined a watch the other day, and told my customer that he worked in wool. He admitted the fact. I had found small particles of wool in the works of his watch."

"Have a chamois case for your watch, or chamois lining to your watch pocket. It preserves the case and keeps it from getting scratched. I have heard men say that a watch with a chamois case will keep no better than one without such protection, but that is nonsense."

"If you work near electric instruments, or ride on electric cars, you should have your watch demagnetized. A few years ago such an operation cost a great deal of money. Unprincipled jewellers would tell a customer that in order to make a thorough job of it every piece in the watch would have to be treated independently, first positively, and then negatively, in order to receive a magnetic or electric equilibrium. I have known watchmakers to charge twenty-five dollars for demagnetizing a watch."

"The real cost is almost nothing. There is a machine for the purpose. You place the watch on the positive side and then on the negative. There is no more work about it than there is in the baking of a loaf of bread."

"I have heard men say that it was impossible to take a sick watch to a jeweller without being told that the trouble lay in a broken mainspring. But how little men who wear watches know about mainsprings! Broken mainsprings come as a sort of epidemic. Don't laugh. I'm simply telling you a fact. A year ago this spring I was flooded with watches the mainsprings of which had snapped. A peculiarity of the breaking was that each of the twenty-five or more turns to the spring was severed and that the breaks were in a straight line from the centre to the circumference of the spring."

"Every watchmaker in New York had an experience similar to my own last spring. We have often compared notes, but we have been unable to account for the epidemics, except upon the hypothesis that atmospheric conditions are the cause. What these conditions are remains to be determined."

"It has been asserted that when the northern lights are the brightest mainsprings are most apt to snap. You probably remember that in February the aurora borealis was phenomenally brilliant, and yet during that period no watch with a broken mainspring was brought to me. I can't account for the phenomena, and I don't believe there is a watchmaker in New York who knows more about it than I do."

"Now let me add a few words as a sort of finale. The best as well as the cheapest watch movements in the world are made in America. It's all well enough to talk about Swiss watches, but in point of accurate timekeeping there never has been made a five hundred dollar Swiss watch that was a whit superior to a twenty-five dollar watch in America."

"Buy American watches with American movements. Wind your watch regularly, regulate it, study its moods in both hot and cold weather. Keep the inner case closed, get it demagnetized, and don't call the watchmaker a robber when he tells you the mainspring of your watch needs renewal."

### Among Icebergs.

If the shortest possible line for a vessel to follow between Panama and Hong Kong were drawn, what relation would it bear to the Sandwich Islands? It is safe to say not one person in fifty thousand knows. Did you say it would pass south of them? Not by thousands of miles. The line will pass east of San Francisco and will cut the Aleutian Islands away up among the icebergs and polar bears.

## ON A RANCH.

**How the Cattle Are Collected Together and Sent to Market.**

The wise man from the East, on first visiting a ranch comprising six or seven hundred thousands of acres, can not understand how the cattle wandering at large over the range are ever collected together. He sees a dozen or more steers here, a bunch of horses there and a single steer or two a mile off and even as he looks at them they disappear in the brush, and as far as his chance of finding them again would be, they might as well stand forty miles away at the other end of the ranch. But this is a very simple problem to the ranchman. The superintendent of the ranch perhaps receives an order calling for one thousand head of cattle. The breed of cattle the firm wants is grazing in a corner of the range fenced in by barbed wire, and marked pale blue for convenience on a beautiful map blocked out in colors, like a patchwork quilt, which hangs in the superintendent's office. When the order is received he sends a Mexican on a pony to tell the men near that particular pale blue pasture to round up a thousand head of cattle and at the same time directs his superintendent to send in a few days as many cowboys to that pasture as are needed to "hold" a thousand head of cattle on the way to the railroad station. The boys on the pasture, which, we will suppose, is ten miles square, will take ten of their number and five extra ponies apiece, which one man leads, and from one to another of which they shift their saddles as men do in polo, and go directly to the water tanks in the ten square miles of land. A cow will not often wander more than two and a half miles from water, and so with the water tank or a dammed canon full of rain water as a rendezvous, the finding of the cattle is comparatively easy and ten men can round up a thousand head in a day or two. When they have them altogether the cowboys who are to drive them to the station have arrived and taken them off. At the station the agent of the firm and the superintendent of the ranch ride through the herd together and if they disagree as to the fitness of any one or more of the cattle an outsider is called in and his decision is final. The cattle are then driven on to the cars and the superintendent's responsibility is at an end.

### Diamonds.

A lemon diamond is the exact shade of the outside peel of a lemon. It is the fashionable stone of the day, and it is sold as high as five hundred dollars a carat, being a little more rare than the blue diamond. Thirty years ago a blue or lemon diamond was rejected as "off color" by diamond merchants and disposed of as inferior stock at the rate of fifteen or twenty dollars a carat. Today they rank as high as white stones, though they do not approach the latter in beauty. "It is a popular fallacy," said a jeweller, "that the size of the diamond counts most. It doesn't. I can sell you a diamond weighing one carat for thirty, thirty-five, forty dollars, and at five dollars advance on those prices all the way up to five hundred dollars a carat. I once owned a stone weighing a carat and a quarter that I bought in London for five hundred and fifty dollars. The big stones of the common sort are worth only the same price as the small ones. Thus a twenty carat stone of the thirty dollar per carat variety will be worth only six hundred dollars. But a twenty carat stone of the kind that is valued at five hundred dollars for the single carat would be sold for one hundred thousand dollars. The reason for this is that there is an abundance of the poorer stones. They come from the African mines, which are inexhaustible, and which will supply the world with all the diamonds it needs for a thousand years or more. But the more valuable stones are not found in such large numbers, because they come from the East Indies, where the supply is exhausted, or from Brazil, where there are few good diamonds left."

### Charm of Amiability.

When asked how she managed to retain her youthful appearance, Madame Patti brightly answers, "I have kept my temper. No woman can remain young who often loses her temper." The woman who is constantly lying in a rage soon has her reward. A deep-graven line stretches from each corner of the mouth up toward the nostrils. The mouth becomes poutingly flabby or shrivelledly compressed. Between the eyebrows appears the fretful, petulant frown, and no amount of dress, no powdering, rouging or face-staining will bring back the lost beauty. "Handsome is as handsome does," said our grandmothers. An amiable face can never be plain. Bright eyes and smiling lips have their own beauty. The ugly-faced dame should cultivate placidity of temper, human sympathy and generosity. Let her assume a victim, if she has it not, for even the assumption of womanly sweetness will lead to its possession, for its own charm, and the naturally plain face will be transformed by its light.

### Victoria's Throne.

The English throne, used in the coronation ceremonies of the kings and queens of Great Britain, is simply an old oak chair of curious pattern and great antiquity. Ages of use (it is known to have been used in its present capacity for more than seven hundred years) have made the old frame as hard and as tough as iron. The magic power attributed to the old relic lies to the seat, which is a large, rough sandstone. Ages before it was trimmed in velvets and gold for the use of the Stuarts and the Tudors it served as a seat for the early kings of Scotland; tradition even asserts that it is the identical stone upon which the patriarch Jacob rested his head the night he had his wonderful dream.

## THE PATERNAL OSTRICH.

**Some Peculiarities of the Largest of African Birds.**

The ostrich has many strange ways, and I was particularly interested in studying them. They go in flocks of three or four females and one male about their nesting time, and for several weeks before locating their nests the hens drop their eggs all about the pampas. These are called *hatched* eggs (pronounced "watcho") and are much more delicate in flavor than the eggs taken from the nests. They have a thinner shell, and when fresh laid are of a beautiful golden color. We cooked them by roasting them before the fire. We would first break a hole in the small end of the egg large enough to insert a teaspoon. The egg would be set up among some hot ashes, a pinch of salt and pepper put into it, and the contents kept stirred with a stick so that all would be done alike. The flavor is excellent and one egg would satisfy a very hungry man. As soon as the ostriches decide upon a suitable place for a nest, the male bird scratches away the grass and slightly hollows out the ground for a space of about three feet in diameter. All the hens of the flock lay in the same nest until there are from twenty-five to thirty eggs laid. The male birds then take possession and sit on the eggs until they are hatched. As soon as the flock can leave the nest the old fellow leads them away to feed on flies and small insects, and everything is lovely until he espies another male bird with a brood. As soon as the old birds see each other they make a peculiar booming sound and every little ostrich disappears in the grass. The old ones then approach each other and engage in a most deadly conflict. They fight until one or the other is killed or runs away. The remaining one will then utter another peculiar sound and both broods will spring up from their hiding places and follow the victor, who struts off as proud as a peacock. I have seen old male ostriches with three broods, each of a different size, two of which they had captured.

### Pretty Hands.

Not only ladies should have pretty hands—a rough, untidy pair of hands is just as unnecessary for a man to have as for a woman—beautiful white hands very many can have if nature has been kind enough to bestow upon them fair skins. All may have neat-looking, smooth hands. A lemon, some oatmeal, palm oil soap and tepid water and a few ounces of glycerine will be all-sufficient to accomplish the desired result. After the hands are washed clean in the water, to which has been added a tablespoonful of oatmeal and a teaspoonful of glycerine, and the palm-oil soap freely used, rub over the wet hands the lemon juice; apply it especially well about the nails, for it hardens the skin and prevents the formation of hang nails. If the hands are rough and scaly or bleed, before beginning this treatment freely use (every time the hands are washed) a mixture of glycerine and compound tincture of benzoin (one ounce of the benzoin to four of the glycerine) until all soreness and rawness has been removed. Then the persistent use of the oatmeal and lemon will be sufficient to keep the hands soft and tidy.

### Fable of the Pansy.

Lovers of this pretty flower may be interested in the fable concerning it. The blossom has five petals and five sepals. In most pansies, especially of the earlier and less highly developed varieties, two of the petals are plain in color and three are gay. The two plain petals have a single sepal each, and the third, which is the largest of all, has two sepals. The fable is that the pansy represents a family consisting of husband, wife, and four daughters, two of the latter being step-children of the wife. The plain petals are the step-children, with only one chair; the two small gay petals are the daughters, with a chair each and the large gay petal is the wife, with two chairs. To find the father, one must strip away the petals until the stamens and pistils are bare. They have a fanciful resemblance to an old man with a flannel wrap around his neck, his shoulders upraised and his feet in a bathtub. In France, the pansy is universally called the step-mother.

### Symbolism of Green.

It seems singular that green, the color which is pre-eminently that of hope and of youth, should be also so generally regarded as unlucky. In some parts of the south of England rustic folks regard green with such an aversion that they will not use it at all, either in dress or in the furnishing or decoration of their homes. A few years ago a learned German, Doctor Casel, of Berlin, published a little book on the emerald color, in which he lays it down that green is the color of the devil and of demons generally, and this position he supports by a multitude of instances gathered from various parts of Europe, showing its diabolical associations. In Scotch country places green is tabooed at weddings for the reason that it is the chosen color of fairies; and the little people, as everyone knows, are very quick to resent anything that may appear to them to be intended as an insult. At Lowland Scotch marriages of past times even green vegetables were looked at askance, and kale was not allowed to adorn the table with its curly head. The combination of white and green appears to be particularly portentous, according to the old lines:—

"These dressed in blue  
Have lovers true;  
In green and white  
Forsaken quite."

The belief in supernatural agency, ghosts and demons, underlies a great part of those curious notions and observances of our forefathers which are now rapidly dying out, and this association of such agency with the color green is doubtless at the bottom of the very general belief in its unluckiness.

An open letter to women. No. 1. Laurel Ave., San Francisco, May 18, 1892.

"Dear friend of women:

"When my baby was born, five years ago, I got up in six days. Far too soon. Result: falling of the womb. Ever since I've been miserable.

"I tried everything: doctors, medicines, apparatus; but grew worse.

"I could hardly stand; and walking without support was impossible.

"At last I saw an advertisement of Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, and decided to try it. The effect was astonishing. Since I took the first bottle my womb has not troubled me, and, thanks only to you, I am now well. Every suffering woman should know your reliable your compound is. It is a sure cure."

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All druggists sell it, or sent by mail in form of Pills or Lozenges, on receipt of \$1. Correspondence freely answered. Address in confidence, LYDIA E. PINKHAM MEDICAL CO., LYNN, MASS. Live Pills, &c.



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