

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 time-
piece, 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 is it necessary to
feed a watch at regular intervals. You
feed a watch by winding it up. There-
fore, have a certain hour for wind-
ing 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
just 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 cus-
tomer that he worked in wool. He ad-
mitted 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 instru-
ments, 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 re-
ceive 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 epi-
demic. Don't laugh. I'm simply telling
you a fact. A year ago this spring
I was flooded with watches the main-
springs of which had snapped. A pec-
uliarity 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 ac-
count for the epidemics, except upon
the hypothesis that atmospheric condi-
tions are the cause. What these condi-
tions are remains to be determined."

"It has been asserted that when the
northern lights are the brightest main-
springs 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 hun-
dred dollar Swiss watch that was a whit
superior to a twenty-five dollar watch in
America."

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

Among Icebergs.

If the shortest possible line for a ves-
sel 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 thou-
sand 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 Is-
lands 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 un-
derstand 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 per-
haps 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 con-
venience on a beautiful park 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 pas-
ture 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 sta-
tion. 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
canyon full of rain water as a rendez-
vous, the finding of the cattle is com-
paratively 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 ar-
rived and taken them off. At the sta-
tion 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 dis-
posed of as inferior stock at the rate of
fifteen or twenty dollars a carat. To-
day 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 dol-
lars, and at five dollars advance on
those prices all the way up to five hun-
dred dollars a carat. I once owned a
stone weighing a carat and a quarter
that I bought in London for five hun-
dred 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 thou-
sand 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 num-
bers, 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 re-
tain her youthful appearance, Madame
Patti brightly answers, "I have kept my
temper. No woman can remain young
who often loses her temper." The wom-
an who is constantly flying 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
sneerishly 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. "Hand-
some is as handsome does," said our
grandmothers. An amiable face can
never be plain. Bright eyes and smil-
ing lips have their own beauty. The
ugly-faced damsel should cultivate pla-
cidity 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 transfigured
by its light.

Victoria's Throne.

The English throne, used in the coro-
nation ceremonies of the kings and
queens of Great Britain, is simply an
old oaken 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 magis-
terial power attributed to the old relic lies
in the seat, which is a large, rough sand-
stone. 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 patri-
arch Jacob rested his head the night he
had his wonderful dream.

THE PATERNAL OSTRICH.

Some Peculiarities of the Largest of Afri-
can 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 sev-
eral weeks before locating their nests
the hens drop their eggs all about the
pampas. These are called *haucho* 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 fla-
vor is excellent and one egg would sat-
isfy 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 pecu-
liar booming sound and every little
ostrich disappears in the grass. The old
ones then approach each other and en-
gage 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 oat-
meal, 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 espe-
cially 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
benzoïn (one ounce of the benzoïn 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 hus-
band, 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 associa-
tions. 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 mar-
riages of past times even green vege-
tables 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 particu-
larly portentous, according to the old
lines:—

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

The belief in supernatural agency,
ghosts and demons, underlies a great
part of those curious notions and ob-
servances of our forefathers which are
now rapidly dying out, and this asso-
ciation 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 advertise-
ment of Lydia E. Pinkham's
Vegetable Compound, and de-
cided 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
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