

The Diet of Children.

Permitting children to sit at table with their elders is the cause of a good deal of mischief and injury to their youthful digestions. A variety of dishes should never be permitted, and any attempt at wastefulness should be checked at once. Economy and self-denial can be taught at the children's table far more easily than at school.

The diet of children can hardly be too plain. If they require to be encouraged to eat by the administration of dainties, there must be something radically wrong somewhere. It is unlikely that that something is constitutional; more probably insufficient exercise is taken, or taken at wrong times, or the nursery is stuffy, or the bedroom badly ventilated, or the parents have forgotten that sunshine and fresh air are as necessary to the healthy life of a child as wholesome food is.

The want of cleanliness, or frequent use of the bath, is many times the cause of indigestion in children. Without cleanliness of clothes and cleanliness of person you cannot have healthy children. Without this the young blood seems poisoned, the child has neither buoyancy nor heart, appetite is depressed or absent, and he grows up as pale and poor as a sickly plant.

Injudicious clothing is another cause of dyspepsia. It is bad enough to encase the body which has attained its full development in a tight dress, but it is ruinous for a child to be clothed in tightly-fitting garments. Every organ of a child's body requires room to grow and expand; if it be in any way compressed, the circulation through it becomes lessened, and it is therefore sickly and rendered weak.

Tightness, therefore, of any portion of a child's clothing ruins not only the organ directly underneath the constriction, but indirectly those at a distance from it, for no damming up of the circulation can be tolerated by nature. Tightness round the waist in children and young people is the cause of many cases of dyspepsia, and in a lesser degree so is tightness of the neckerchief, by retaining the blood in the brain. Have your children's clothing loose, then, if you would see them healthy and happy. See, too, that at night they sleep not on feather beds, and that though warmly they are not heavily clothed.

Children should be fed with great regularity day by day. The parents, having chosen the hours for dinner, breakfast and tea, ought to see that the times are strictly adhered to.

Irregularity in meal hours, and times of getting up in the morning and retiring to bed at night, is not only prejudicial to the present health of a child, but it teaches him habits which are greatly against his chances of success in after-life.

I need hardly speak here about the quality of the food that is placed before a child; against indigestible or too rich food, against sauces and spices of all kinds, including curries; against heavy foods of the pancake, dough and dumpling kind, against unripe fruits, against too hot soup, against strong tea and coffee, or beer, or against over-much butchers' meat.

Pray, mothers do not forget that an interval of rest should ensue between the meals you give your children, and do not ruin their young digestions by cramming them with cake, or buns, or sweets of any kind. To do so is worse than cruel, it is a sin, and a sin you are but little likely to commit if you truly love them, and really wish to see them germinate into strong and healthy men and women. Tarts and sweets and confectionery would be had enough in all conscience for children, even if they were always pure and unadulterated. But they are too often positively poisonous. Feed on plain and wholesome food regularly from day to day, permitting no stuffing between meals, and not forgetting the benefits which accrue from frequent changes of diet more especially as regards dinner. Do this, and your children will live to bless you; do otherwise, and expect to see them sickly, with veins and arteries possessing no resiliency, with mucous membranes pale, flabby pipes of lungs that the accident of a slight cold is sufficient to close, muscles of limbs so weak that exercise is a penance instead of a pleasure, and flesh so unwholesome that a pin's prick may cause a festering, and all this because the blood is impoverished through errors in diet.

Large quantities of hay have been shipped on the Union Pacific Railroad to feed the herds of cattle upon the Platte Valley ranges and in Western Wyoming, where the grass is snowed under. The trains on the Denver short line are compelled to run slowly by the numbers of cattle who take to the track on their way to find water. Official returns for January in Michigan indicate that all kinds of cattle are in fine condition throughout that State. It is feared, however, that the wheat has been damaged by alternate freezing and thawing, or been "smothered" by late snow.

The Church Temporal.

Short Rules for Young Christians.

1. Never neglect daily private prayer and when you pray remember that God is present, and that he hears your prayers. (Heb. 11:6.)

2. Never neglect daily private Bible-reading; and when you read remember that God is speaking to you, and that you are to believe and act upon what he says. I believe all backsliding begins with the neglect of these two rules. (John 5:39.)

3. Never profess to ask God for anything you do not want. Tell him the truth about yourself, however bad it makes you; and then ask him, for Christ's sake, to forgive you what you are, and to make you what you ought to be. (John 4:24.)

4. Never let a day pass without trying to do something for Jesus. Every night reflect on what Jesus has done for you, and then ask yourself, "What have I done to-day for him?" (Matt. 5:13-16.)

5. If ever you are in doubt as to a thing being right or wrong, go to your room, and kneel down and ask God's blessing upon it. (Col. 2:17.) If you cannot do this, it is wrong. (Rom. 14:23.)

6. Never take your Christianity from Christians, or argue that, because such and such people do so and so, therefore you may. (2 Cor. 10:12.) You are to ask yourself, "How would Christ act in my place?" and strive to follow him. (John 10:27.)

7. Never believe what you feel if it contradicts God's Word. Ask yourself, "Can what I feel be true if God's Word is true? and if both cannot be true, believe God, and make your own heart the liar." (Rom. 3:4; 1 John 5:10, 11.)—*Bronson North.*

Modern Skepticism.

Dr. Schaff, in his first volume of Church History, devotes some pages to the direct consideration of modern skepticism. The following extract will show the author's views as to the manner and spirit with which honest skeptics ought to be treated. He says:

There are two kinds of skepticism: one represented by Thomas—honest, earnest, seeking, and at last finding the truth; the other is represented by the Sadducees and Pontius Pilate—superficial, worldly, frivolous, indifferent to truth, and ending in despair. With the latter "even the gods reason in vain."

But honest, truth-loving skepticism always deserves regard and sympathy, and demands a patient investigation of the real or imaginary difficulties which are involved in the problem of the origin of Christianity. It may be more useful to the Church than an unthinking and unreasoning orthodoxy. One of the ablest and purest skeptical critics of the century (De Wette) made the sad but honorable confession—

"I lived in times of doubt and strife. When childlike faith was forced to yield, I struggled to the end of life. Alas! I did not gain the field."

But he did "gain the field" at last, for a few months before his death he wrote and published this significant sentence: "I know that in no other name can salvation be found than in the name of Jesus Christ, the crucified; and there is nothing loftier for mankind than the divine humanity realized in him, and the kingdom of God planted by him." Blessed are those who seek the truth, for they shall find it.

Shake Hands.

Shake hands with somebody as you go out of church. The more of it the better, if it is expressive of real interest and feeling. There may be a great deal of the spirit of the gospel put into a hearty shake of the hand. Think of St. Paul's four times repeated request, "Greet one another"—after the custom then in common use, and one which is expressive of even warmer feeling than our common one of handshaking. Why not give your neighbors the benefit of the warm Christian feeling that fills you to your finger tips, and receive the like from them in return? You will both be benefited by it; and the stranger will go away feeling that the church is not, after all, so cold as he had thought it to be.

Seven Dead Men.

A Strange Legend of Venice.

There is a story current among the gondoliers and fishermen of Venice. There were six men fishing once in this "Valle" of the Seven Dead. They had with them a little boy, the son of one of their band. The boy did not go fishing with his father, but stayed behind to take care of the hut, and to cook the meals for the men when they returned. He spent the nights alone in the cabin, for most of the fishing was done between sunset and sunrise. One day as the dawn was beginning across the water, the men stopped their fishing and began to row home with their load as usual. As they rowed along they met the body of a drowned man going out to sea with the tide. They picked the body up and laid it on the prow, the head resting upon the arm, and rowed on slowly to the hut. The little boy was watching

for them, and went down to the edge of the canal to meet them. He saw the body of the seventh man lying on the prow, but thought he was asleep.

So when the boat came near, he cried to his father, "Breakfast is ready; come along!" and with that he turned and went back to the hut. The men followed the boy, and left the dead man lying on the prow. When they had sat down the boy looked round and said:

"Where is the other man? Why don't you bring him in to breakfast, too?"

"Oh! isn't he here?" cried one; and then added with a laugh, "You had better go and call him, he must be asleep."

The boy went down to the canal and shouted:

"Why don't you come to breakfast? It is all ready for you."

But the man on the prow never moved nor answered a word. So the boy returned to the hut, and said:

"What is the matter with the man? He won't answer."

"Oh! said they 'he's a deaf old fool. You must shout loud, and swear at him.'"

The boy went back again, and cried: "Come along, you fool; the others are waiting for you."

But the man on the prow never moved nor answered a word.

Then the boy ran back to the hut and said:

"Come one of you, for I can't wake him up."

But they laughed, and answered: "Go out again and shake him by the leg; tell him we can't wait till doomsday for him."

The boy went down to the water once more. He got into the boat and shook the man by the leg. Then the man turned and sat up on the prow, and said to the boy:

"What do you want?"

"Why on earth don't you come? Are they all to wait till doomsday for you?"

"Go back and tell them that I am coming."

So the boy went back to the hut and found the men laughing and joking.

"Well! what did he say?" they cried. "It is all right," answered the boy, "he says he is coming."

The men turned pale and looked at one another, and sat very still and laughed no more. Then outside they heard footsteps coming slowly up the path. The door was pushed open, and the dead man came in and sat down in the boy's place, the seventh at the table. But each sat with his eyes fixed upon the seventh, their guest. They could not move or speak. Their gaze was fastened on the dead man's face. Their blood flows chillier and chillier in their veins, till, as the sun rose and flashed along the lagoon, there were seven dead men sitting round the table in the room.

Young Wives for Old Husbands.

By-the-by, a few years ago a friend loaned me a book containing the reminiscences of Henry A. Wise. In it he was out riding one evening with President Tyler, who informed him that he was going to get married to Miss Gardner. "Why," said Wise, "she is too young for you." "Not at all," replied the President, "I'm still in my prime." "That reminds me," continued Wise, "of an old dandy down in Virginia, who was generally consulted by his old master on any affair of importance to both. The old master was a widower, and when he got the consent of a young lady to marry him he communicated the fact to the old dandy. 'My Lord,' said Sambo, 'she is too young for you.' 'Not a bit of it,' answered the master; 'I'm still in my prime.' 'Yes,' responded Sambo, 'you are in your prime now, but wait till she gets in her prime, then where will your prime be?'"

How Texas Cattle are Utilized.

There are beef-packing establishments at Rockport and Fulton, Texas, both of which places are in the centre of cattle ranges, in which at least 100,000 head are slaughtered every year. Every part of the beef is utilized, even to the tufts of the tails, which are preserved and sold for the making of ladies' frizzettes. The blood flows into tanks and is pressed, and is sold at two cents a pound for the making of fertilizers. The tongue and lean beef are boiled and canned. The hides are salted and sold again. The fatty matter is extracted and goes to tallow. The bones are boiled to a pulp to extract this fatty matter, and the dry bones, mainly phosphate of lime, are sold at one cent a pound for fertilizing. The feet are cut off, and from the hoofs neat-foot oil is extracted. The horny part of the foot, the shin-bone and the knuckle-bones, are sold for the manufacture of domestic ivory. The horns are piled up until the pith becomes loose, and this is added to the fertilizers, and the horns are sold for manufacture. Every atom of the animal is probably used.

Kisses on Interests.

A father talking to his careless daughter said: "I want to speak to you of your mother. It may be that you have noticed a careworn look upon her face lately. Of course it has not been brought there by any act of yours, still it is your duty to chase it away. I want you to get up to-morrow morning and get breakfast, and when your mother begins to express her surprise, go right up and kiss her on the mouth. You can't imagine how it would brighten her dear face. Besides, you owe her a kiss or two. Away back when you were a little girl she kissed you when no one else was tempted by your fever-tainted breath and swollen face. You were not as attractive then as you are now, and through years of childish sunshine and shadows she was always ready to cure, by the magic of a mother's kiss, the little chubby hands whenever they were injured in those first skirmishes with the rough old world. And then the midnight kiss with which she routed so many bad dreams as she leaned over your restless pillow have all been on interest these long, long years. Of course she is not so pretty and kissable as you are, but if you had done your share of the work during the last ten years the contrast would not be so marked. Her face has more wrinkles than yours, far more, and yet if you were sick that face would appear more beautiful than an angel's as it hovered over you, watching every opportunity to minister to your comfort, and every one of those wrinkles would seem to be bright wavelets of sunshine chasing each other over the dear face. She will leave you some of these days. These burdens, if not lifted from her shoulders, will break her down. Those rough, hard hands that have done so many unnecessary things for you will be crossed upon her lifeless breast. Those neglected lips that gave you your first baby kiss will be forever closed, and those sad, tired eyes will have opened in eternity, and then you will appreciate your mother, but it will be too late."

Scraps.

"How is business?" asked a man of a glazier. "Putty good," was the reply.

There is a limit.—First young lady, "I could sit here forever." Second ditto: "And I till lunch time."

A Michigan man dreamed recently that his aunt was dead. The dream proved true. He tried the same dream on his mother-in-law, but it didn't work.

A celebrated poet advertised that he would supply "lines for any occasion." A fisherman sought him soon after and wanted "a line strong enough to catch a porpoise."

A correspondent inquires what we will pay for "original stories—such for instance, as we publish in the *Sunday Republican*." Three cents a pound.

One of the saddest moments in life is when a man is looking through an old vest, and thinks he has found a ten cent piece, which when brought to light, turns out to be a cough lozenge.

Lubbock still insists that bees are not of a sympathetic nature. And yet this gentle insect, with the buff mainsail and red-hot rudder, has frequently brought tears of sentiment to our eyes.

A carpenter in Newport, R. I., who had put on a pair of horse doors with the glass portion at the bottom, said to the indignant and protesting wife of the owner, "that is the very latest Queen Anne style, ma'am."

A gentleman who is no longer young, and who never was handsome, asked his son's child what he thought of him. The boy's parents were present. The youngster made no reply. "Well, so you won't tell me what you think of me? Why won't you?" "Cause I don't want to get licked," replied the sprig of a rising generation.

Even idiotic brains have been sometimes very clever at repartee. It was a celebrated Edinburgh professor who accused one of these unfortunate ones, rather unfeelingly, saying, "Weel, Jock tell me how long a person can live without brains?" "Ah!" said the idiot, "I dinna weel ken, sir, but how lang have ye lived yersel?"

Pawnbrokers have never been described as the pioneers of progress, although it must be admitted they are always ready to make an advance.

A Clattering Conscience.

One of the neatest stories is that of an early Judge, an Archbishop, who, in denying an accusation, said, striking his breast, "By my conscience, my Lord, I know nothing of it!" The blow made his shirt of mail rattle, which brought the caustic rebuke, "My Lord! your conscience is not good; I hear it clattering." He had to flee with his clattering conscience, and seek safety disguised as a shepherd in tending sheep on the mountain side.

"Landlady," said he, "the coffee isn't settled." "No," she replied; "but it comes as near it as your last month's bill for board is."

Recent Legal Decisions.

1. EVIDENCE—PRESUMPTION OF DELIVERY OF TELEGRAMS. 2. AGENCY—LOAN—RATIFICATION.—The superintendent of a mine owner borrowed money at a bank to pay the miners, and executed notes in the name of his principal for the loan, and sent letters and telegrams to his principal at his residence in Cincinnati, advising him of what he had done. No replies were received from him. Upon refusal to pay the bank brought suit on the notes, and recovered judgment. The defendant appealed to the Supreme Court of Colorado, who also decided the case—*Breed vs. First National Bank of Central City*—in favor of the bank. The Chief Justice (Elbert) in the opinion said: "I. Greenleaf, in his work on evidence, said: 'If a letter is sent by post it is presumed from the known course in that department of the public service that it reached its destination at the regular time and was received by the person to whom it was addressed, if living at the place and usually receiving letters there.' This presumption has also been held to apply to telegrams. 2. The silence of Breed upon the receipt of letters and telegrams will, by presumption, ratify the acts of his agent. And it was proper to show, for the purpose of charging Breed, and as bearing upon the question of ratification, that the money borrowed was expended in his business and to his advantage."

FIRE INSURANCE—OTHER INSURANCE—AVOIDING POLICY.—A fire policy had a condition in it that the insured should not be entitled to recover upon it if he got other insurance on the property without the consent of the secretary of the company. Other insurance was taken out by the owner without getting the consent; but the policy, by reason of misrepresentation and because of prior insurance, was void. On the trial the company was beaten on its defense of the violation of this condition, the Judge deciding that there was no actual violation of the condition, and an appeal was taken to the Supreme Court of Minnesota, which gave the company a judgment. The Chief Justice (Gillilan) in the opinion, said: "In the American Courts generally it has been held that conditions similar to that in question here were not violated if the contract for other insurance was either void or voidable; but we cannot yield our assent to such a construction of the contract. It involves a disregard of the plain objects contemplated by the parties to the contract when it was made, and to accomplish which the condition against other insurance was adopted. In this view we are sustained by the Federal, New York, Georgia, Louisiana and Canadian Courts."

FIXTURES—PERMANENT MACHINERY—CUSTOM.—An action was brought by certain creditors against the owner of land on which there was a steam engine and accompanying machinery, which were annexed to a building by the owner for permanent and habitual use in smelting lead ore and manufacturing it into pig-lead. In this case—*Thomas vs. Davis*—the Supreme Court of Missouri decided in favor of the grantee of the land. Judge Henry, in the opinion, said: "Between grantor and grantee of land, if the fixture is one to become a part of the realty, it must be so firmly annexed that its removal would involve the destruction, impairment or substantial injury to the freehold; and the manner of annexation would seem to be a material question. The offer, on the trial, to show that it was the custom to regard machinery for making pig-lead as chattels was properly ruled out. The intention in making the annexation to the freehold is to be determined by the consideration of the character of the annexation, and its appropriation and adaptation to the use or purpose of that part of the realty with which it is connected."

MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE—DIORCE FORBIDDING MARRIAGE—MARRIAGE IN ANOTHER STATE.—A husband was forbidden to marry in the decree of divorce granted to his wife in New York. This part of the decree was made under the express provisions of a statute of that State. The husband, however, contracted a marriage in Philadelphia, having left the city of New York for the express purpose of avoiding the prohibition of the decree. He returned to New York at once, and lived there with his second wife. The validity of this marriage having been assailed in a New York Court, the Judge decided that it was void; but on an appeal to the New York Court of Appeals the decree in this case—*Thorpy vs. Thorpy*—was reversed, Judge Tracy, in upholding the marriage, said: "The marriage being a valid contract by the laws of Pennsylvania, it must be held to be valid here, unless it is contrary to natural law or the express prohibition of a statute. The provisions of our statute are penal in character and, therefore, have no effect outside of the State in the absence of express words showing the legislative intent to give them that

effect, and no such words are to be found in it. This disqualification to marry again, like the disqualification by statute upon a person convicted of felony to testify, is imposed as an additional punishment for the offence of which he has been convicted, and neither has any force or effect beyond the territorial limits of the State in which it is imposed."—*Phila. Record.*

Something to Live For.

It has been asserted by scientific surgeons that the will-power of a sick man has a great deal to do with his dying, and the ease of Charles O'Conner is cited as evidence. A still stronger case occurred in Michigan the past summer. An old man, living in the northern part of the State, got out a lot of timber many years ago for a toll-road company, but the company failed and left him in the lurch. For years and years he tried to sell the timber to this one or that, but no one wanted it, and at last time and decay rendered the beams almost worthless. Last summer the Supervisors of that county advertised for proposals to build a bridge, and the old man put in a bid. While waiting to see what would be done he was taken very sick, and he grew worse so rapidly that a council of doctors was called. After due deliberation he was informed that he was approaching his end.

"When will I know about that bridge?" he coolly asked.

"The bids will be opened to-day."

"Well, I'll send John over to see who gets the job, and my living or dying will depend on his news."

At five o'clock in the afternoon the son and the family physician arrived in company. The old man was neither better nor worse.

"Well!" he asked as John approached.

"Our bid was accepted, father."

"And we've got the job?"

"Yes, but the doctor says you can't live."

"I can't, eh? I'm not only going to live to build that bridge, but I'm going to work that square timber into it up to the last foot, or my name isn't John Rodgers!"

It is a fact, vouched for by a dozen good men, that he was off that dying bed in a week, and in less than a fortnight he was at work on the bridge.

Clips.

A Kansas hotel has the following notice displayed in the bedrooms: "Gentlemen wishing to commit suicide will please take the centre of the room, to avoid staining the bed-linen, walls and furniture with blood."

The *National Sunday School Teacher* tells the story of a scholar who, when asked in the lesson of "David sparing Saul," why David compared himself to a flea, replied that he guessed "it was because Saul couldn't catch him."

It is the opinion of a Kingston lady that dog carts were invented by some rascally husband to keep the women from talking. It is next to impossible for a woman to talk while riding in them without biting her tongue.—*New York Graphic.*

A grumbling old bachelor, after listening to the following, "She was her niver's own 'little darlin' wopsy, popsy, deary ducky, so she was, in 'the mus' keep still," asks, "Why don't women talk some decent kind of English to their children?"

A bad spell.—"Thomas, spell weather," said a school-master to one of his pupils. "Well, Thomas, you may sit down," said the teacher. "This is the worst spell of weather we have had since Christmas."

"You advertise that there is a fine stream of water on the place, but I don't see it," remarked a stranger who wanted to rent the place. The landlord said: "Just work that pump handle a little and you will see a fine stream of water. You don't expect to have the Niagara Falls on the place for fifteen dollars a month, do you?"

No Such Word as Fail.

We begin to think that Richelieu's counsel was right; there is no such word as fail in the vocabulary of the man who is bound to succeed in his undertakings. In this world of ours there are men of men. We see on the one hand young men well educated, with perfect brain and form, unable to cope with the world. On the other hand we find men without education, with imperfect physical development, overcoming natural disadvantages, achieving honorable success. There is residing somewhere in New Jersey a man who was born without arms, and yet can write remarkably well, chiefly by using his lips. His ambition backed by a persevering industry has enabled him to overcome difficulties that seemed insurmountable, and he therefore qualified himself for an active business man. He is now nearly thirty years of age, and is an object of absorbing interest to all who come in contact with him.