

How Playing Cards Are Made. Did you know that ordinary playing cards are made of three or four sheets of paper pasted together? In making them the sheet on which is printed the back of the card is laid down on a table and the white side brushed with paste. A sheet of cartridge paper is laid on this and covered with paste. Perhaps a second sheet of cartridge paper is added. Finally the sheet which is to form the face of the card is placed on top. When the workman has a great stack of these pasted sheets he puts them in a strong press and squeezes out all the water from the paste. Then they are separated and dried, which makes them rough and wrinkled, so that they have to be ironed between steel rollers and pressed between smooth sheets of zinc in another press. After this they are brushed with a mixture of white lead, water and glue. When this is dry they are rubbed with flannel dipped in soapstone and polished with a brush to give them a smooth, bright finish.—Detroit Free Press.

The Unpatriotic. We take this little sentence from Pierre de Coubertin's "The Heart of Love": "What constitutes the worth of a country is the worth of each member of it." That is a great truth. In the light of it only a worthy citizen is a patriot. The questions are: Who is the worthy citizen? What are his qualities? What sort of a life does he lead? When these questions are pressed with respect to very many people it will be found that there are many persons who are real enemies of the country rather than its patriots. Every grafter, every demagogue, every spoils politician, every drunkard, every gambler, every profane swearer, every liar, backbiter and every man who beats and curses his wife is an enemy of the country, and as long as they last the republic will be an experiment and a problem. One must be a worthy man to be a friend of his country.—Ohio State Journal.

Aviation Tests. Could you learn to aviate? Try the following tests, which were given to a number of would-be government aviators who were examined recently in the government school of aviation: Balance thirty seconds on either foot with your eyes closed. Walk backward and forward thirty paces with your eyes closed and see how far you have strayed from a straight line. Sit on a revolving chair and twirl yourself around a half dozen times; then, without opening your eyes, name the direction you are facing. Put cold water in your ears; then replace it by warm water. If the effect is the same in both cases your ears are normal as far as susceptibility to altitude is concerned.—Chicago Tribune.

Carnegie's Advice. Andrew Carnegie, who for years yielded an influence in the industrial world as great perhaps as any living man, came to this country practically penniless when he was twelve years old. His phenomenal rise in life may be attributed to his following clear principles and methods. In an address to students in a commercial college he said: "Avoid speculation; avoid indorsements. Aim high. For the question, 'What must I do for my employer?' substitute 'What can I do?' Begin to save early—capitalists trust the saving young man. Concentrate your energy, thought and capital; fight it out on one line."

Knocking Horses. In ancient times, before the invention of stirrups and luxurious saddles, horses were taught to kneel to permit their riders to mount. A beautiful Greek vase in one of the museums in Petrograd shows a war horse of many centuries ago kneeling low before an amazon. The riders in those days mounted from the "off" side in contradistinction to the modern usage. Plutarch tells how in the first century of this era certain effeminate Roman riders forced even the horse block of too little assistance and had their horses trained to kneel to them.

Hair of the Bear. How many hairs are on a square inch of a bear's skin? A count, carefully checked, because prizes were awarded to the winners closest to the actual number, disclosed that one square inch of this particular bear skin held just 10,543 hairs.—New York Sun.

Punishment Postponed. "The next time you spill your coffee on the tablecloth, my dear, don't try to hide it by setting your cup on it. I shall notice it anyhow when I clear away." "Yes, but I am in my office by that time."—Stray Stories.

Her City Training. It was Phyllis' first visit to the country. "What are you thinking about?" asked grandma. "I'm wondering," answered Phyllis, "where the cow keeps all the bottles."—Chicago News.

It Came Out. "Well, I didn't think you had it in you," remarked the jocosé chap as the sword swallower drew a five foot cavalry saber from out of his gullet.—Jack o' Lantern.

Writing Backward. The Chinese and Japanese write in columns up and down, beginning at the top of the right side of the page and going toward the left.

The true man hates no one.—Napoleon.

Menin's Bid For Fame. "It is barely possible that had there been no Menin there might have been no world war, for it was at the siege of this little Belgian city in 1704 that the Hanoverian army officer, Scharnhorst, won his first distinction. Subsequently he wrote a military paper on the escape of the Menin garrison, and this brought him to the attention of staff officers of various German states, and he was offered several commissions. He accepted service under the king of Prussia, and from this time dates the beginning of activities that eventually resulted in the establishment of the Prussian military system which was the genesis of the holocaust of nations. It was Scharnhorst, the hero of Menin, who induced his sovereign to put aside the Prussian professional long service army which had been shattered at the battle of Jena and to inaugurate the policy of universal service. This was not order, however, until after the originator's death from a wound inflicted at the battle of Lutzen in 1813.—National Geographic Society Bulletin.

Possibilities of Bad Verse. No one has yet written any adequate appreciation of the possibilities of bad verse—the verse, I mean, that is composed at the crises of life, on the mountain tops of exultation and in the joyless valleys, by persons unskilled and ordinarily unpoetic; the verse that is hidden away in vases and bureau drawers, never to be shown and always produced in some moment of vanity. Only a true poet could write a just appreciation of bad verse, and from his pen the words come too much tainted with the implication of irony. The quality of bad verse is not strained. It is written to suit no magazine's policy. It is rewarded with no check. It is a brave denying of reality, a prayer that is its own answer. It is, to use Maeterlinck's phrase, "a making or invoking of wings" by creatures that creep on their bellies.—New Republic.

Famous Men's Favorite Hymns. Favorite hymns of famous men make an interesting catalogue. Gladstone's special choice was "Praise to the Holiest in the Height," and it was sung at his funeral. Tennyson's favorite was Heber's "Holy, Holy, Holy." One of Ruskin's preferences was "Jesus, Here From Sin Deliver," upon which he preached a sermon to some 300 school children, his guests one afternoon at Brantwood. Matthew Arnold's choice was "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" (Watt's masterpiece), the third verse of which M. A. was overheard reciting to himself only an hour before his quite unexpected fatal seizure. And Henry Ward Beecher declared, "I would rather have written 'Jesus, Lover of My Soul' than have the fame of all the kings that ever sat on the earth."—London Standard.

How the Camera Man Fools Them. The life of the camera man who takes the weekly news motion pictures is not always one of glory. When Mrs. Vanderlic, for instance, asks him to take a picture of her poodle when he wants a permission to take pictures of her yacht he finds himself between two fires, notes the Popular Science Monthly. Either he must waste some precious film on the dog or he must refuse and be shown the quickest way back. One wise camera man, however, improvised a fake-camera crank for such occasions. The crank arm fits loosely on the shaft of the film gear in the camera. When the poodle is going through his antics the turning arm slips on the shaft, and not a foot of film is exposed, although to all appearances a picture is being made.

White Sands. The sands at Blackpool, in Lancashire, are said to be the whitest in the British Isles. From Penzance to Land's End, on the coast of Cornwall, the sand on the seashore is very white, while in St. Mary's, one of the Scilly islands, the sand on the shore is exceedingly white and glistening. On the other hand, the sand about Plymouth is bluish gray in color, probably owing to the shells of mussels broken and mixed with it, and on the coasts of the North sea the sand of the seashore is yellowish brown or reddish.—Pearson's Weekly.

Bacteria Long Lived. How long some bacteria may live under proper conditions is brought out by M. W. Lyon, Jr., of George Washington university in a letter to Science. He tells of a culture of organisms of paratyphoid beta kept for more than ten years sealed in a test tube at Howard university, which, when transferred to another medium, produced the reactions that proved the bacteria to be alive and active.

His Reason. "Every man should be studying something." "I've taken up the higher mathematics." "Where?" "In the household expense accounts."—Washington Star.

The Secret Elopement. He—We had best elope about 2 in the morning. I will bring my motor to the next corner, and— She—Oh, couldn't you make it a little earlier, dear? Pa and ma do so want to see us off, and I don't like to keep them up so late.

Japanese English. A correspondent of the Chicago Tribune reports having run across the sign in Tokyo: "T. Cockeye, Tailor, Respectable Ladies Has Fits Upstairs."

He who loses money loses much; he who loses a friend loses more; he who loses his spirits loses all.

Bad Health and the Mouth. Dental educators and high grade practitioners have for years urged medical men and the public to recognize the importance of mouth conditions. But only recently has the menace of pyorrhea, "blind" abscesses and other diseases of the mouth been widely accepted as important factors in general health. By the romance of the microscope and X rays we are learning many things before unknown, and through these agencies the dentist is enabled to put his finger on diseased centers that would otherwise not be seen or positively determined. We are told that a large percentage of our ills, other than contagious diseases, have their origin in the mouth. As bad health is one of the most dreaded and one of the most expensive things in life, mouth conditions must, therefore, be among the most important things in life. If a healthy mouth is so large a factor in general health, mouth hygiene should be an important part of our children's education. It is essential that every child should be carefully taught how to take the best care of the teeth. We owe it to the coming generations.—Saturday Evening Post.

Man and Civilization. The marvelous progress of the last fifty years has lulled us into a sense of self confidence and security as regards our racial progress, says Dr. Eugene Lyman Fisk in the Scientific Monthly. Dr. Fisk believes that "civilization" has not improved mankind. He writes: "I do not think we have any evidence that man as an organism, whether in regard to his physical or mental capacities, now presents a higher average type than characterized the nations of antiquity. Indeed, so far as his physical structure is concerned, there is much evidence to the contrary, and I think we may be assured that the great minds of antiquity would have made equally good use of present day knowledge if they were with us today and in a position to utilize it."

Submarines and Speed. The size of the submarine must be limited by its ability to maneuver, and to maneuver quickly. In quick submergence lies the only hope of safety for the submarine attacked on the surface. It is figured that a boat built to make twenty-five knots on the surface would, through its great size, take nearly ten minutes to submerge. A destroyer traveling at thirty knots would cover something like six miles in that length of time, which simply means that the commander of such a submarine, caught on the surface by a torpedo boat or a destroyer anywhere within a radius of six miles, might just as well surrender his ship, for if he did not he could not escape ramming and sinking.—San Francisco Chronicle.

Joan of Arc's Bell. In the cathedral church of Notre Dame, Paris, there is a bell which dates from the days of Joan of Arc—"the blessed bell" which sounded the tocsin when the Maid of Orleans appeared in August, 1429, and Paris was besieged by the English. This historic bell, referred to by Victor Hugo in "Notre Dame de Paris," was given to the cathedral in 1400 by Jean de Montaign. It was refounded in 1686 and then re-baptized under the name of Emmanuel Louise Therese in honor of Louis XIV. and Marie Therese of Austria.—London Globe.

Detecting Shortcomings. Do you wish to find out a person's weak points? Note the failings he has the quickest eye for in others. They may not be the very failings he is himself conscious of, but they will be their next door neighbors. No man keeps such a jealous lookout as a rival.—J. C. and A. W. Hare.

A Grave Question. When Daniel Webster was asked what he considered the most momentous question in life he is said to have replied, "Man's individual responsibility to God."

Widow's Weeds. Jack—"There's one good thing about widow's weeds. Tom—What's that? Jack—They rarely interfere with the growth of orange blossoms."

Care of Children's Eyes. It is especially important that parents should appreciate the need of proper care of the eyes of the newborn baby and the urgent necessity of consulting a competent physician as soon as anything wrong with the baby's eyes is noticed, especially if there is a discharge from them. Many cases of blindness result from the disease known as ophthalmia neonatorum, or the eye disease of newborn babes, which could have been prevented had simple preventive measures been used or which could have been cured if treated in time by the doctor.

Great Britain's Great Seal. Measuring six inches in diameter and made of silver, the great seal of Great Britain is kept in the custody of the lord high chancellor, and a new one is prepared for each reign. Quick Time. Ada—Men are slow! It took him nearly two hours to propose to me last night. Floss—And how long did it take you to accept him, dear? Ada—Just two seconds. If thou shouldst lay up even a little upon a little and shouldst do this often, soon would even this become great.—Hesiod.

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Phosphorescent Skunks. Patrick Brennan of Phoenix, Ariz., writes to the Scientific American: "The large black, the black and white and the hydrophobia skunks are phosphorescent in darkness, giving off a continuous blue flame, the head being of a more fiery red, then tapering off into blue to the tail tip. This fact may answer in a degree for the blue marsh gas flame, the jack o' lantern and the night ghost lights of all states. I make this suggestion from my experience in trapping in deserted mine tunnels in this state."

Wonderland of Australasia. The hot spot district of New Zealand is called "wonderland of Australasia." It is said to be to New Zealand what the Yellowstone park and Hot Springs of Arkansas are to the United States. Maori women have no need to light a fire to cook meals. An old can or pall sunk in hot mud or set on a steam jet answers admirably for a boiling pot or oven.

Then She Smiled. "Dear me," she wailed, "I'm getting a double chin!" Hubby tried to console her. "Your chin is so pretty," said he, "that you shouldn't kick because gratified Mother Nature is giving you another one."—Kansas City Journal.

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