

CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT.



A RIDDLE.

Five vowels, three T's, two S's, N, B. Only these letters, as plainly you'll see; Yet out of the same you can fashion one word.

That for magic or power is—well, simply absurd! The way that it governs and changes affairs, Folks, and their projects—perhaps unaware;

Decides who shall stay and, as well, who shall go; Secure in its fiat, its hold "thus and so," Such havoc with wills, or with heirs, I may say—

Such sudden 'eturnings to some other way! Well, to work it all out is to lead you a dance, Till you turn yourself into another, perchance!

It only is stable when harnessed, I'm told; By a big dictionary, both careful and bold; Yet none of them differ—these books born of Babel;

Though always 'tis changing, none to change it are able; 'Tis a very hard task, and admits of no shinking; Beware, lest it change itself while you are working!

—M. M. D., in St. Nicholas.

THE DOG'S COMPASS.

A friend writes us an interesting account of a dog brought from Plymouth, Mass., to Cambridge, Mass., some forty miles. He was kept tied up two days, then untied and started for his old home in Plymouth, where he arrived safely. This is one of thousands of similar cases, in some of which the dog has traveled hundreds of miles.

We remember one in which the dog traveled up the Mississippi River from New Orleans to a Northwestern State. What sort of a compass dogs carry have never yet been ascertained.—Our Dumb Animals.

THE SEA KING.

This game can be played by any number of children. They proceed by first choosing one of the party to act as the Sea King, whose duty it is to stand in the center of a ring formed by the players seating themselves around him. The circle should be as large as possible. Each of the players having chosen the name of a fish, the king runs around the ring, calling them by the names which they have selected.

Each one on hearing his name called, rises at once and follows the king, who, when all his subjects have left their seats, calls out: "The sea is troubled," and seats himself suddenly. His example is immediately followed by his subjects. The one who fails to obtain a seat has then to take the place of the king, and the game is continued.

HOW BANANAS GROW.

The Cuban children like bananas as well as Americans do. Their mothers bake green bananas in the oven. If you should prick the skin of a banana with a fork and bake it forty minutes, I think you would like them as well as the little Cubans.

If bananas could talk, this is what they would say:

I came from Cuba. While I was living near the top of a tall tree with its great, broad leaves, I saw a banana farm planted near us in the swampy woods. The trees were left standing to shade the men from the hot sun while they cut away the brush. They measured the farm with long ropes six yards apart. This rope was stretched along the ground, and small shoots from banana trees were planted at every red tape. Next week the men came and cut down the forest trees. The shoots were left to grow for six months, then the grass and weeds were cut down with machetes. A machete has a long steel blade with a bone handle. Soon the sprouts were packed into the cars and sent to the New York boats waiting at the wharves.

The man who owned the farm only got thirty cents for a large bunch and fifteen cents for small ones. When the boat reached New York the best bunches were sold for \$5. There are many kinds of bananas as there are varieties of apples.

If you should ask any boy or girl which kind they like the best, ten to one he or she would answer, "The biggest kind."—Indianapolis News.

CAUGHT AT THE PICNIC.

Willie Star and Johnny Williams lived in a country town among the mountains. It was a very quiet place. The air was so fresh and the grass so green that many city people came every year for their vacation. One of the boarders named Nelson took a great fancy to Willie and Johnny.

Every year there was the big picnic over in the woods. The money earned at the big picnic was used to keep the sidewalks of the town in repair, so big people and little people were all eager to help.

On the day of the big picnic Willie and Johnny met Mr. Nelson at the gate of his boarding house.

"Here, boys, is something to help you celebrate at the picnic," he said, slipping a bright silver half dollar into the hand of each. Neither of the boys had ever had so much money before. They thanked Mr. Nelson and ran away, shouting with delight, to where the bus was ready to start.

"I'm going to buy ice cream," said Willie Star.

"So'm I," said Johnny Williams, "and there'll be a fish pond over there, too."

A SERMON FOR SUNDAY

AN ELOQUENT DISCOURSE ENTITLED, "PETER'S RENUNCIATIONS."

The Rev. Dr. John Humpstone Draws a Lesson From a Chapter in the Life of Simon Peter—He Gave Himself Unreservedly to Jesus Christ.

BROOKLYN, N. Y.—Dr. John Humpstone, pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church, preached Sunday morning a sermon on "The Life and Character of Simon Peter," the special subject being "Peter's Renunciations." The text was from Luke vi. 16, 17: "When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord."

And Jesus said unto Simon, Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men. And when they had brought their ships to land, they forsook all and followed Him." Dr. Humpstone said:

It was the second decisive day in the life of Simon Peter—a day of destiny. Months ago in Judea he had followed his brother into the presence of Jesus; for the first time he then saw and heard the Messiah. With Peter, as with every other man, they forsook all and followed Him."

Dr. Humpstone said: It was the second decisive day in the life of Simon Peter—a day of destiny. Months ago in Judea he had followed his brother into the presence of Jesus; for the first time he then saw and heard the Messiah. With Peter, as with every other man, they forsook all and followed Him."

For an incipient crisis had been precipitated in the career of Jesus as Messiah. His rejection by the Jews, His flight to Nazareth to take up His residence at Capernaum, that He might be near the most prominent and promising of the group of His early disciples. What though these were only a quartet of the multitude that the Lord saw not as men saw, but with the insight of one who "knew what was in man, and needed not that any should testify of man to Him, for He knew their hearts."

His method of capturing a bug is to dart out his tongue, which, by the way, reverses the usual order of nature, it being fastened in front and loose behind. It is coated with a gelatinous secretion, and when it strikes an object it fastens firmly to it and conveys it into the toad's mouth. If the object, like a big worm, for instance, is too large to go unassisted into his gullet, he uses his forepaws, like a greedy child, to stuff it down.

Most of the vials which the toad loves are, in their living state, pests of the farm and garden. It is hard to say just where to place ants in this classification. Nearly all students of nature, as well as persons who have nothing but the traditions of their childhood to guide their judgment, have acquired a certain affection for the ant. Its seeming intelligence, its artistic or mechanical instinct, its untiring industry, its courage, its care for its dead and wounded, its nice domestic economy and its habit of providing against the "rainy day," all tend to give it a sort of human claim upon mankind.

Still, the fact cannot be ignored that the ant is an active distributor of plant lice; that it destroys lawns, spoils garden walks, infests dwellings and makes itself a common nuisance in the kitchen and pantry, driving the dainty housewife almost to distraction. In the same category with ants, as to human regard, might be placed honey bees, which the toad will eat when he gets a good chance.

One of his tricks is to station himself at the entrance to a hive and capture the belated homecomers. As the toad does not spring into the air for his food, however, any apiarist may avoid this danger by raising his hives well above the ground.

Reference has been made to the toad's consumption of food as being out of proportion to his bulk. But what he can actually do at a sitting is best told by figures derived from an exact case where he ate ninety mosquitoes without being satisfied; another where he snapped up eighty-six house flies in less than ten minutes. In one toad's stomach were found seventy-seven thousand-legged worms; in another sixty-five gypsy moth caterpillars; in another fifty-five army worms, and so on.

On the basis of his being able to fill his stomach four times in twenty-four hours, it requires a simple mathematical calculation to discover how many of each variety of winged or crawling pest a single toad might get away with in a day if he kept at it and the conditions were favorable, and multiplying this product by ninety, as representing the days in a summer—for Mr. Toad is no respecter of Sundays or holidays—we can measure his potential capacity for good as the gardener's friend.

Revival in Car Building. Carefully compiled figures show that during the past two months orders have been placed for 69,990 cars and about 800 locomotives. Present indications point to a general revival in business and heavier traffic in 1905, and orders for new equipment and rolling stock should show a steady increase from now on.—Railroad Gazette.

SCIENCE & MECHANICS

DO THE N-RAYS EXIST?

Their Being Called Into Question by Noted Scientists.

At a recent meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science a discussion of the so-called N-rays took place which was remarkable in that their existence was practically denied by the German and British physicists present. The N-rays, it will be remembered, are a form of radiation first noticed and described by Blondlot in 1902, and produced in many and curious ways, such as by the nerves of the human body, by plants, by incandescent burners, and are detected by an increase in the luminosity of a fluorescent screen on which they fall. The experiments of Blondlot were repeated and extended by a number of French scientists, and have been officially noticed by the French Academy. On the other hand, remarks Harper's Weekly, British and German investigators have uniformly failed in their attempts to detect the new radiation, and believe that the phenomena are for the greater part subjective, and depend entirely on the observer. This brings about a most curious state of affairs, as we find the scientists of one nation defending a certain group of investigations, which are disputed by those of other nations. Nevertheless, the French physicists are persisting in their work, and will further experiments they may be able to convince even the foreign doubters.

The baby Chego just added to the London Zoo was caught in the African Gaboon, and is regarded by naturalists as coming between a gorilla and a chimpanzee.

An armor-plated motor-car carrying a quick-firing field gun is being constructed at the Daimler works, in Wiener-Neustadt. It will be so arranged that it can be fired in all directions, even over the head of the driver.

Professor Garcia, of Madrid University, has invented an instrument which may solve the problem of wireless telephony. He states that he has been very successful in reproducing the sounds of various musical instruments at a distance of over 1500 yards, but he has not yet been able to make the sounds of the human voice sufficiently distinct to be intelligible. The difficulty lies in finding a sufficiently powerful microphone.

A new system of laying asphalt roads is being adopted in London. Instead of paving the road with one homogeneous mass of the paving material, which means the closing of the thoroughfare for a prolonged period, the asphalt is laid in slabs, in the same manner as paving stones. The asphalt slabs are previously hardened, so that all it is necessary to do is to lay them down on the prepared foundation, and cement them into position with tar. By this system a road can be reopened for traffic as rapidly as it is paved, while a further distinct advantage is obtained, as owing to the use of the tar at the joints, the surface of the roadway is less slippery than in the case of large unbroken stretches of asphalt paving.

The Country Press. One of the finest tributes to the country newspaper that has ever been rendered was contained in a recent address by Senator Chauncey M. Depew before the New York Press Association. Mr. Depew said: "I pay my respects to the country newspaper and the country editor. His lines are not cast in places of the great and profitable organs of the metropolis, whose profits are reckoned often by the hundreds of thousands of dollars every year. But the country editor lives in and is part of his community. His virtue is not so much in what he prints as in what he refuses to print. He could easily destroy the peace of the community by admitting to his paper the scandals and gossip of the neighbors. But he stands as a censor and a guardian of public morals, and I know of no conditions under which the public is appealed to in a certain measure where the utterance is so free from criticism as the general tone of the country press."

Old-Fashioned Remedy. In the schools of a Connecticut town measures were taken recently to test the children's eyesight. As the doctor finished each school he gave the principal a list of the pupils whose eyes needed attention and requested him to notify the children's parents to that effect.

One night, soon after the opening of the fall term, a little boy came home and gave his father the following note, duly signed by the principal: "Mr. —: Dear Sir—It becomes my duty to inform you that your son shows decided indications of astigmatism, and his case is one that should be attended to without delay."

The next day the father sent the following answer: "Dear Sir—Whip it out of him. Yours truly, —."—New York News.

Not So Absent-Minded. In his "Scottish Reminiscences" Sir Archibald Geikie tells of a Scottish workman who, when the ticket-collector came around, began to fumble in all his pockets for his ticket. The official, when his patience was exhausted, said he would return for the ticket in a few minutes.

When he came back he noticed that the man, who was still fumbling in his pockets, actually had the ticket between his lips, and he angrily snatched it away and departed.

"What an absent-minded man you must be," said a fellow-passenger, "not to remember that you had the ticket in your mouth!"

"No, sir, absent-minded as ye wad think," was the retort, "I was just rubbin' out the auld date wi' my tongue."

Zola, "I," and Hairpins. When Zola was last in London he instances the egotism of the capital "I" in English as significant of English character; the number of wafers and stray hairpins to be seen on the pavement was another. On this last subject Mr. Vizetelly, who told the story, has returned to the charge. An analysis of some pigeons' nests in London has revealed the hairpin as one of the stock architectural materials.

Mr. Kruger's Fortune. The value of the fortune left by the late Mr. Kruger amounts to no less than £750,000. In addition to the £25,000 bequeathed to various societies in Holland, the ex-President has left some of the funds opened after the South African War for the support of the widows and orphans of Boers who lost their lives. He has also made bequests for the maintenance of the Dutch language.—London Mail.

WIDE WORDS.

Gratitude helps to kill greed.

The preacher's life is the life of his preaching.

Divine favor makes a feast of a barren board.

The lights of men never think lightly of men.

Borrowing is not much better than begging.—Lessing.

A woman whom we truly love is a religion.—Emile de Girardin.

Not until we know all that God knows can we estimate to the full the power and the sacredness of some one life which may seem the humblest in the world.—John Ruskin.

Dinner With Austrian Emperor. The Emperor Francis Joseph has a rule of life which greatly perturbs some members of his court. He dines every day at half past 5, and he has done this since the beginning of his reign. As that hour does not suit everybody, it follows that the personages who are honored with invitations to dine with the Emperor find it very difficult to muster an appetite for dinner at tea time. They suffer in silence for the most part, but it is said that a certain great lady resolved to act.

She was invited to dine with the Emperor, but she sat at table and ate nothing. The kindly sovereign feared she was indisposed. No, she was quite well. Then why did she send every dinner away? "Sire," she answered, "I never eat between meals." The repartee has had a success at Vienna. But the Emperor still dines at half past 5, without the society of that great lady.—London Chronicle.

Missouri Girls to Carry Pistols. A number of young ladies of Joplin are forming themselves into a very unique club, the purpose of which will be to protect themselves from masher, with which the town is overrun. The club will not have a flowery name and a set of beautifully worded by-laws.

The girls, profiting by experiences they or their friends have had recently, are intending to carry pistols when forced to be out at night unattended, and in the future when some fair one has a hand shoved deeply into her coat pocket or beneath her jacket she may be clasping the handle of a weapon, which may become dangerous in the hands of one so strongly determined to learn how to use it as the girl who enters the new club.

The club is composed of girls who are employed in stores, business and telephone offices and others who are forced to be out late at night.—Joplin Correspondence, Kansas City Journal.

Reason For Extravagance. George H. Daniels, of the New York Central Railroad, knows a man "up the State" who bears a local reputation for extreme stinginess.

One day the man of frugal tendencies was met by a friend, who observed that the other was rigged out in his best attire, including a silk hat that was taken out of its box on only the most festive occasions.

The stingy man said: "Heard the news?"

"No. What is it?"

"Twins!" he exclaimed, jerking his thumb over his shoulder in the direction of his domicile.

The friend began to understand. "I congratulate you," said he. "That explains the holiday make-up."

"Sure!" responded the close-fisted man disgustfully. "What's the use in my trying to be economical?"—Sunday Magazine.

Up-State Attorney's Fees. There is a good story going the rounds about a brace of popular young attorneys whose shingle adorns the front of an office on St. Paul street. They were retained to defend a man whose business is dealing in dogs, and they carried his case to a successful issue. Imagine how they felt when they sent him a bill for legal services and in response he called at their office and informed them that they would have to take their pay in pups. They rebelled, but it was a case of take-box-worms or nothing and they settled on the basis of two bull pups, a black and tan and two water spaniels. The next dog fancier who invades that legal lair will be given a warm welcome.—Albany Journal.