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SYSTEMS OF WRITING.

The Famous Method Known as the **Boostraphedon.**

About the year 450 B. C. the Ionians first introduced the system of writing from left to right. Previous to that time all scribes and penmen in general had been in the habit of beginning the line on the right hand side of the page and running it toward the left. The introduction of the left to right mode of writing caused considerable confusion for a time, and from the mixed systems which prevailed during the following century sprang the famed method known as the boostraphedon. Those who used the system last mentioned would begin a line at the left margin of their parchments and run it through to the opposite margin and then drop a space below and run back to the opposite edge of the sheet again. In other words, the boostraphedon mode of writing was a system in which the lines ran alternately from left to right and from right to left. This system did not entirely disappear until about the time of Christ. The ancient Hebrew and Greek languages were written from right to left, but at about the time the Ionians were reforming writing methods the Greek letters were changed in form from the uncial to the cursive, and the system of writing was changed in both cases so as to run from left to right. The following quotation from Franklin illustrates the mixed, or boostraphedon, system of writing:

"When I see a merchant overpelt to a ekat of melt gnigzeb sromotns sll little brandy and throwing his goods on na sah nam talt I skullit retanoe eht ax to grind."—St. Louis Republic.

SHOE NAILS.

The Way They Are Made and Why They Are So Cheap.

Three million separate shoe nails are often cast from one ton of metal. Of the smaller sizes 2,000 nails are molded in a single mold, and an expert workman will make eighty molds in an ordinary working day, thus turning out 160,000 separate nails.

When the metal in a liquid state is poured into the mold it runs through the sand in passages provided in the molding process; the whole of the nails are cast together and are, when removed from the sand, connected by a network of iron one with another. In this condition the iron is as brittle as glass, and very little force is required to separate the nails from the network which holds them together.

They then have to undergo the process known as annealing. They are mixed up with hematite iron ore, which is in a powdered state, put into iron pots, and placed in an annealing furnace, a sort of kiln. Here they remain for some days, care being taken to so regulate the heat to which they are subjected that the iron will not be re-tempered, but brought very nearly to that condition. The action of the raw iron ore upon the brittle casting is marvelous. After cooling, it can be bent without risk of breaking, and it becomes a useful and serviceable article.—London Express.

the greatest variety at marvelously low prices and out of all sorts of material, even to the seemingly impossible potato.

Black Snakes.

I have never seen black snakes over seven feet long and much doubt if they grow to a greater length. They are not hard to catch, though in an open field they can run about as fast as a man can. When caught, they struggle desperately until they find there is no opportunity to escape, when they will give up fighting and may be handled with impunity. I have never found these snakes to be vicious. They can be handled easily, and their bite is harmless. They can squeeze pretty hard if they get a turn around your waist, but not hard enough to break a bone.—Forest and Stream.

The Calm Spirit.

The people in all lines of duty who do the most work are the calmest, most unburied people in the community. Duties never wildly chase each other in their lives. One task never turns another out nor ever compels hurried, and therefore imperfect, doing. The calm spirit works methodically, doing one thing at a time and doing it well, and it therefore works swiftly, though never appearing to be in haste.—Home Notes.

VARIETIES OF CRAMPS.

Curious Afflictions of Men in Various Walks of Life.

One of the curious consequences of the modern division of labor is the cramp that attacks those who constantly use their hands in one particular manner.

Writing cramp was the first to appear, being quite unknown until the introduction of steel pens. It affects men far oftener than the fair sex, and, singularly, those who suffer are not literary men, but copyists. It is almost incurable, and even when the left hand is used the cramp very soon crosses over to it.

Musicians of every kind are attacked. Among pianists it is chiefly ladies ambitious to become professionals who are the victims. Violent pain, weakness and fatigue of the arm make playing an impossibility. Violinists are affected both in the fingers of the left hand and the hand that holds the bow. Clarinet players get cramps of the tongue, and flute players get cramp in the larynx.

Telegraphers suffer very often, and they call it "loss of the grip." Tailors get cramps in legs as well as hands. Smiths and carpenters get what is called "hammer cramp," resulting from the enormous number of blows struck. It is estimated that a forger of knives and scissors strikes 28,000 blows every day.

Drivers get cramps in the hand, especially in the case of those who break in hard mouthed horses. Cigar makers, watchmakers, photographers, auctioneers, sawyers, billiard players, dentists, turners, stampers, weavers, painters, money counters and ballet dancers—all suffer from their own peculiar cramps and often so severely that they have to exchange their employment for some other.

CHARING CROSS.

History of This Ancient Landmark of London.

In reading English history you will happen across numerous references to Charing Cross, but the chances are you will wonder if the allusion is to a real cross erected as a memorial or simply a crossroad. Charing Cross was formerly one of the noted landmarks of Britain, and its history is as follows: In November of the year 1291 "Good Queen Eleanor," as she was termed by her loyal subjects, was called to join her husband, who was then making an expedition into Scotland. When Eleanor had got as far on her way as Grantham she sickened and died.

The remains must, of course, be buried at Westminster, and the funeral cortege started in that direction.

During the time this royal funeral procession was slowly winding its weary way toward the capital thousands of people flocked to the wayside to get a glimpse of it. It was a great event in the history of the rural districts, and they did everything possible to make the solemn occasion a memorable one. Wherever the procession halted for the night or for other cause the people afterward set up a memorial. One of the longest stops was made at Charing, and subsequently a richly carved memorial cross was erected on the site of the camp. This was the Charing Cross of history. It stood until 1647, when the last vestige of it was destroyed during the civil wars of Charles I. The vandals who destroyed the relic claiming it to be a monument of popish superstition. Charing Cross as seen today was erected by the Southern Railway company in the year 1855.

CLIMBING ELEPHANTS.

How They Make Their Way Up and Down Steep Cliffs.

Elephants are able to make their way up and down mountains and through a country of steep cliffs, where mules would not care to venture and even where men find passage difficult. Their tracks have been found upon the very summit of mountains over 7,000 feet high. In these journeys an elephant is often compelled to descend hills and mountain sides which are almost precipitous. This is the way in which it is done: The elephant's first maneuver is to kneel down close to the declivity. One fore leg is then cautiously passed over the edge and a short way down the slope, and if he finds there is no good spot for a firm foothold he speedily forms one by stamping into the soil if it is moist or kicking out a footing if it is dry. When he is sure of a good foothold, the other fore leg is brought down in the same way. Then he performs the same work over again with his feet, bringing both fore legs a little in advance of the first foothold. This leaves good places all ready made for the hind feet. Now, bracing himself up by his huge, strong fore legs, he draws his hind legs, first one and then the other, carefully over the edge, where they occupy the first places made by the fore feet. This is the way the huge animal proceeds all the way down, zigzag, kneeling every time with the two hind legs while he makes footholds with his fore feet. Thus the center of gravity is preserved and the huge beast prevented from toppling over on his nose.

INSURANCE.

The Beginnings of This Now Common Mode of Protection.

The practice of insurance was known to the ancients, being in vogue at the beginning of the Christian era.

The insurance of ships was undoubtedly part of the business of the Hanseatic league, which was formed about 1140 by the port towns of Germany to protect themselves against the pirates of Sweden and Denmark.

The custom of drawing out insurance policies originated in Florence in 1523, although a regular chamber of insurance was formed at Bruges early in the fourteenth century, and the practice was in general use in Italy in 1194 and in England in 1590.

Fire and life insurance is of much more recent origin. Some of the ancient guilds provided compensation for any of their members who suffered loss from fire, but the insurance of goods and houses as a distinct branch of business cannot be traced farther back than 1667, the year after the great fire of London.

The first regular company, the Hand-in-Hand, was founded in 1696, and five other companies still existing were started in the quarter of a century which followed. Life insurance was first undertaken by the Amicable in 1706.—London Standard.

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LIBEL IN DIVORCE.

Anna Elizabeth McGorty vs. Charles McGorty. No. 181, November Term, 1905. Pluries Subpoena in Divorce. JEFFERSON COUNTY, ss: The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

To CHARLES MCGORTY, GREETING: We command you, as twice before you were commanded, that all matter of business and excuses being set aside, you be and appear in your proper person before our judge at Brookville, at our Court of Common Pleas, there to be held on the second Monday of April next, to show cause, if any you have, why your wife, Anna Elizabeth McGorty, should not be divorced from the bonds of matrimony which she hath contracted with you the said Charles McGorty agreeable to the Petition and Libel exhibited against you before our said Court, and this you shall in no case omit at your peril.

Witness the Hon. John W. Reed, President of our said Court at Brookville, the 23rd day of January, A. D. 1906.

Allowed by the Court.
CURTIS H. BLOOD, Prothonotary.

CRIMINAL BEES.

Honey Gatherers That Have Very Loose Moral Ideas.

Almost every form and variety of human crime is to be found among animals. Cases of theft are noticed among bees. Buchner in his "Psychic Life of Animals" speaks of thieving bees which, in order to save themselves the trouble of working, attack well stocked hives in masses, kill the sentinels and the inhabitants, rob the hives and carry off the provisions. After repeated enterprises of this description they acquire a taste for robbery and violence. They recruit whole companies, which get more and more numerous, and finally they form regular colonies of brigand bees.

But it is a still more curious fact that these brigand bees can be produced artificially by giving working bees a mixture of honey and brandy to drink. The bees soon acquire a taste for this beverage, which has the same disastrous effects upon them as upon men. They become ill disposed and irritable and lose all desire to work, and finally, when they begin to feel hungry, they attack and plunder the well supplied hives.

There is one variety of bees—the apheodes—which live exclusively upon plunder.

A SHIP WORTH TAKING.

What the Capture of the San Philippe Meant to England.

On the 9th of June, 1857, Drake, coming back from "stealing the king of Spain's beard in India," fell in with a huge vessel, which he captured. She proved to be the San Philippe, an East Indian owned by the king of Spain himself and then the largest merchant-man afloat.

Her cargo, valued at more than a million sterling of modern money, was in itself the most valuable ever captured, but there was something else even more valuable than the cargo. This consisted of the ship's papers and accounts, which disclosed to the merchant adventurers of England all the methods and mysteries and the boundless possibilities of the East India trade.

Indeed, it would hardly be stretching the facts to say that the morning which saw the capture of the San Philippe saw also the dawn of our Indian empire. The immediate result was the formation of the East India company, which was not only the greatest commercial corporation the world had ever seen, but also the only one that ever commanded its own armies and fleets and welded powers little less than imperial.—London Spectator.

Animals That Do Not Grow Thirsty.

There are many different kinds of animals in the world that never in all their lives sip so much as a drop of water. Among these are the llamas of Patagonia and the gazelles of the far east. A parrot lived for fifty-two years in the zoo at London without drinking a drop of water, and many naturalists believe the only moisture imbibed by wild rabbits is derived from green herbage laden with dew. Many reptiles—serpents, lizards and certain batrachians—live and thrive in places entirely devoid of water, and sloths are also said never to drink. An arid district in France has produced a race of non-drinking cows and sheep, and from the milk of the former Roquefort cheese is made. There is a species of mouse which has established itself on the waterless plains of western America and which flourishes notwithstanding the absence of moisture.

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LIBEL IN DIVORCE.

Rachel W. Thompson vs. J. D. Thompson. No. 19, November Term, 1905. Pluries Subpoena in Divorce. JEFFERSON COUNTY, ss: The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

To J. D. THOMPSON, GREETING: We command you, as twice before you were commanded, that all matter of business and excuses being set aside, you be and appear in your proper person before our judge at Brookville, at our Court of Common Pleas, there to be held on the second Monday of April next, to show cause, if any you have, why your wife, Rachel W. Thompson, should not be divorced from the bonds of matrimony which she hath contracted with you the said J. D. Thompson agreeable to the Petition and Libel exhibited against you before our said Court, and this you shall in no case omit at your peril.

Witness the Hon. John W. Reed, President of our said Court at Brookville, the 8th day of January, A. D. 1906.

Allowed by the Court.
CURTIS H. BLOOD, Prothonotary.

How to Rest.

To understand how to rest is of more importance than to know how to work. The latter can be learned easily. The former it takes years to learn, and some people never learn the art of resting. It is simply a change of scenes and activities. Laying may not be resting; sleeping is not always resting; sitting down for days, with nothing to do, is not restful. A change is needed to bring into play a different set of faculties and to turn the life into a new channel. The man who works hard finds his best rest in playing hard; the man who is burdened with care finds relief in something that is active, yet free from responsibility. Above all, keep good natured and don't abuse your best friend, the stomach.

Trinidad's Asphalt Lake.

The famous asphalt lake of Trinidad looks like a great black swamp surrounded with a fringe of cocoanut palms. A little railway runs across it, and men stand in it working, some on asphalt firm enough to support them, some on asphalt in which they keep sinking down an inch or two a minute, some on asphalt so soft it is like quicksand. The stuff looks like a cross between black mud and pitch. The lake is 110 acres in size, and its depth is tremendous. The thick asphalt, mixed with water, moves a little, and now and then an old tree comes slowly up from the depths. The men work with pickaxes, digging out the asphalt in lumps the size of pumpkins.

Needless Wear.

Many people wear themselves out needlessly. Their conscience is a tyrant. An exaggerated sense of duty leads a person to anxious, ceaseless activity, to be constantly doing something, overpunctual, never idle a second of time, to scorn rest. Such are in unconscious nerve tension. They say they have no time to rest, they have so much to do, not thinking they are rapidly unfitting themselves for probably what would have been their best and greatest work in after years.

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LIBEL IN DIVORCE.

Della Fish vs. Thomas Fish. No. 155, November Term, 1905. Pluries Subpoena in Divorce. JEFFERSON COUNTY, ss: The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

To THOMAS FISH, GREETING: We command you, as twice before you were commanded, that all matter of business and excuses being set aside, you be and appear in your proper person before our judge at Brookville, at our Court of Common Pleas, there to be held on the second Monday of April next, to show cause, if any you have, why your wife, Della Fish, should not be divorced from the bonds of matrimony which she hath contracted with you, the said Thomas Fish agreeable to the Petition and Libel exhibited against you before our said Court, and this you shall in no case omit at your peril.

Witness the Hon. John W. Reed, President of our said Court at Brookville, the 8th day of January, A. D. 1906.

Allowed by the Court.
CURTIS H. BLOOD, Prothonotary.

Ropemaking 2,000 Years B. C.

The name of the first ropemaker and that of the land in which he practiced his art have both been lost to history. Before the beginning of the historical period considerable skill had been acquired in that line. Egyptian sculptures prove that the art was practiced at least 2,000 years before the time of Christ.

Feminine Esteem.

When women like each other, they kiss; when they love, they do one another's hair.—Lady Evans in London Mail.

Worse Than Broken.

The American Tourist—I suppose I speak broken French, eh, Henri? The Waiter—Not exactly, m'sieur. You had a word describes it better—let me see—ah, yes—it is pulverized.—Puck.

