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In answering any advertisement in this paper, please state that you saw the advertisement in THE CANADIAN EPWORTH ERA.

**The Operator**

A New York matron bought a sewing-machine recently, and her eleven-year-old daughter, anxious for a novelty, says the New York Sun, laid out the printed directions and attempted to run the machine. All seemed to be going well, till the mother's attention was attracted by a deep sigh and a whispered "O dear! I cannot find it."

"What is it, daughter, that you cannot find?" she asked.

"Why, mother," was the reply, "the directions say, 'Place the screw to the right of the operator,' and I can't find the operator!"

**The Danger of Being Alive**

Drink water, and get typhoid fever. Drink milk, and get tuberculosis. Drink whiskey, and get the jim-jams. Eat soup, and get Bright's disease. Eat meat, and encourage apoplexy. Eat oysters, and acquire toxæmia. Eat vegetables, and weaken the system. Eat dessert, and take to paresis. Smoke cigarettes, and die early. Smoke cigars, and get catarrh. Drink coffee, and obtain nervous prostration. Drink wine, and get the gout. In order to be entirely healthy one must eat nothing, drink nothing, smoke nothing, and even before breathing one should make sure that the air has been properly sterilized.—Southwestern World.

**Not on the Spot**

How can a man serve as witness when he was not on the spot? And unless he was a witness, how should his testimony be trusted? The New York Times tells a pathetic story of a young man who applied for a position as teacher in a small Georgia town.

But, alas! there was an examination to be passed, and from that ordeal the candidate returned in a melancholy state of mind.

"What's the matter, Sam?" asked one of his townsmen. "Couldn't you stand the examination?"

"No, suh," was the answer. "They asked me about things that happened before I was born."

**The Indifferent Bridegroom**

The absence of all conventionalities and restrictions in Labrador is also very refreshing. A peripatetic minister was called on at a place known as Spotted Islands to marry a couple who were awaiting a chance for the ceremony. The bridegroom was an elderly man, who was a kind of king in the place. When the minister arrived at the island he found all the islanders assembled in the little school-room awaiting him. It was not till he actually entered the building that he discovered the bride was the deceased wife's sister. This being a forbidden relationship, he refused to proceed, whereupon the intending bridegroom quietly remarked: "Never mind, Mister. One of these others will do." So, turning to the expectant crowd, he selected a suitable partner, and she being willing, "Dr. Greenfell, as usual, rang the bell."—Dr. Greenfell, in Leslie's Monthly Magazine.

**An Optimist**

The story of the laziest man yet discovered comes from the Atlanta Constitution.

"Yes, sir, he was the laziest man on record. What do you reckon he did when his house was on fire?"

"Durns."

"Warmed his hands at the blaze, and said he was thankful he didn't have to split the wood for it!"



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