

ATTENDING STRICTLY TO BUSINESS.

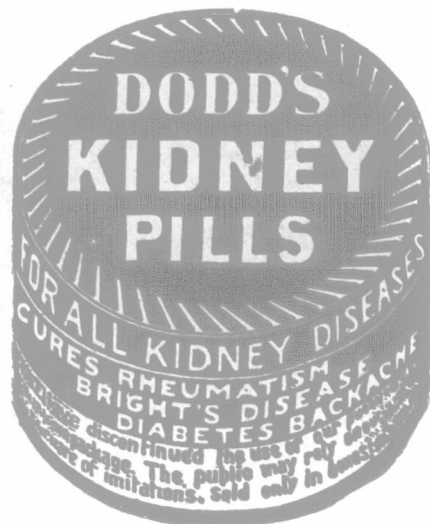
John E. Watrous, of Burlington, Kan., is one of the deputy collectors of internal revenue. Travelling along a country road one day, Mr. Watrous was attracted by frightful screams coming from a little house not far from the road. Hurriedly tying his horse he ran to the house and found that a little boy had swallowed a quarter, and his mother, not knowing what to do, was frantic. Mr. Watrous caught the little fellow by the heels, and holding him up, gave him a few shakes, whereupon the coin soon dropped on the floor. "Well mister," said the grateful mother, "you certainly know how to get it out. Are you a doctor?" "No, madame," replied Watrous, "I'm a collector of internal revenues."

HER RESPONSIBILITY REALIZED.

Mrs. J.'s patience was much tried by a servant who had the habit of standing around with her mouth open. One day, as the maid waited upon the table, her mouth was open as usual, and her mistress said:

"Mary, your mouth is open."
"Yassum," replied Mary; "I opened it."

The sexton of a certain famous English church the other afternoon had conducted a party round, and, despite dropping more than one 'gentle, 'int,' it appeared as if the sexton was to go unrewarded. In the porch the leader paused. 'I suppose,' he said, 'you've been here many years?' 'Forty,' replied the old man, 'an' it's a werry strange thing as whenever I'm a-showing a party out o' the porch they allus asks me that question or



(with emphasis) the other.' 'Indeed!' smiled the visitor. 'And what may the other be?' 'What I calls question number two,' replied the sexton calmly, 'is jest this—'Samiwell, is tips allowed?' And Samiwell allus answers, 'Tips is allowed!' The hint was taken, as was the tip.

LOOKING AT THE BRIGHT SIDE.

A lady residing in a quiet village in Suffolk used to take an interest in a very aged couple who were spinning out the last thread of life in 'Darby and Joan' fashion, seated on either side of the fireplace. She often paid them a visit to cheer them up. The old man had been ailing, and at last a day came when the visitor found only one chair occupied. Darby was not in his usual place.

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'Where is your husband?'
'Well, mum, he be gone at last.'
'Oh, I'm sorry. That is very sad for you,' said the lady, seeking to find some words of consolation.
'Yes, mum, it be sad,' replied the old woman, 'but then, you see, he were fearfully in the way of the oven.'

'For my part,' said one, 'I think Fred is very bright and capable. I am confident he will succeed.' 'Yes,' replied the other, 'he is certainly a worthy young man, but I doubt whether he has head enough to fill his father's shoes.'

NOT ALL LOSSES.

Quotations cleverly malapropos or neatly distorted furnish half the wit of the professional humorist. Nevertheless, when such a verbal misstep is spontaneous, there is often real fun in it.

A young man had been out sailing with his sister and a friend of hers. He did not know particularly well the fine points of the art, and on trying to make the landing against a head wind, he exclaimed, after several vain attempts:

"Well, it is better to have luffed and lost than never to have luffed at all!"

METHODS AGAINST FLEAS.

The following are recommended:—Fill a soup-plate with soapsuds; in the centre place a glass of water with a scum of kerosene on top; place the soup-plate on the floor in an infested room, and set fire to the kerosene at night. Fleas in the room will be attracted and will jump into the soapsuds. It is also said that houses may be rendered immune by dissolving alum in the whitewash or kalsomine applied to the interior walls, putting sheets of thick paper that have been dipped in the solution of alum under the floor matting, and scattering pulverized alum in all crevices where insects might lodge or breed. Powdered alum may be sprinkled upon carpets already laid, and then brushed or swept into their meshes with no injury to the carpets, and with the certainty of banishment to many insect pests, including both moths and fleas. Sheets that have been soaked in alum water and then dried may profitably enclose those that are spread nearest to the sleeper.—*Science*.

When a certain Berks County store-keeper, who was also the postmaster of the borough, began the transaction of business one morning about a year ago, he found that the safe in which were kept the postage stamps had been robbed during the night, and promptly reported the matter to the authorities. The latter decided, after an investigation, that restitution should be made for the stolen stamps, but that the expense of repairing the damage to the

safe would have to be borne by the store-keeper, which was accordingly done.

Some time later, a second robbery was committed and reported as before, as the result of which there was another investigation, which disclosed the fact that the stamps had been extracted on this occasion without any violence to the safe.

'But how was it done?' asked the inspector, somewhat puzzled. 'The safe does not seem to be injured at all.'

'I made up my mind that I would not be caught again,' replied the postmaster, slyly, 'I left it open.'—*Philadelphia Public Ledger*.

'The paper states that a girl's presence of mind averted a panic.' 'How?' 'She sang, and the audience quietly sneaked out.'—*Louisville Courier-Journal*.

A dentist received a call the other morning from a couple whom he soon had reason to believe were lovers. The girl had an aching tooth, and as they entered the young man said:

"Now, darling, the worst is over. Just take a seat, and it will be out in a minute."

"Oh, I daren't!" she gasped.
"But it really won't hurt you at all, you know."

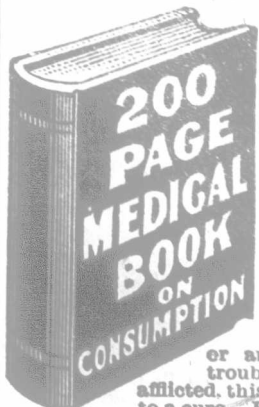
"But I'm afraid it will."
"It can't. I'd have one pulled in a minute if it ached."

"I don't believe it."
"Well, then, I'll have one pulled out just to show you that it doesn't hurt."

He took a seat, leaned back, and opened his mouth, and the dentist seemed to be selecting a tooth to seize with his forceps, when the girl pro-

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tested:
"Hold on! The test is sufficient. He has proved his devotion. Move away, Harry, and I'll have it pulled." She took the chair, had the tooth drawn without a groan, and as she went out she was saying to the young man:
"Now I can believe you when you declare that you would die for me." And yet every tooth in his head was false.

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