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SOUNDS AND ECHOES.

PADEREWSKI says he sometimes spends an hour on one bar. There are musicians of less than one-tenth his ability who spend nearly a whole day at one bar.

THE Chinese language is said to be written backwards. This saves the dear little Chinese belles from having to turn over and see how the novel "came out."

ADMITTING the theoretical correctness of woman's demand for an enlarged field, many say that readopting crinoline is hardly the best way for her to spread herself.

A YOUNG Australian traveller claims to have discovered that the waltz was the creation of neither a German nor a Swiss, but of the ostriches of Africa. He asserts that every morning at sunrise these amiable birds assemble in groups and begin a regular and graceful movement which is none other than the waltz.

THAT eminently generous man, Baron Hirsch, who won vast sums on the racing turf last season, is hastening to give the n all away in charity. He has arranged that after his death all his racers shall be sold and that hospitals shall be founded with the proceeds. Thus race horses, good for nothing but sport in their lives, will prove of solid utility to the human race after they are dead.

MAPPING THE BRAIN.

All the motions and sensations of the various parts of the body are represented in the surface of the brain as on a map. Thus, there is a separate brain area necessary for sight, another for hearing, another for the motions of the fingers, and so on. Each of these areas is called a center. Four of these are especially concerned in the use of language, and may therefore be called language centres—the auditory center, by which words are heard; the motor speech center, which excites the vocal organs in speaking; the visual center, by which written words are seen, and the writing center, which guides the motion of the hand in writing. The centers are capable of individual development by practice, and in order that each may receive its due share of cultivation it is necessary to know its relative importance in the different ways of using language.

Disease instructs us on this point by

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making some interesting though ruthless experiments. Inflammation, or the growth of a tumor, or the rupture or plugging of a blood vessel may destroy any of these centers, involving, of course, a loss of the corresponding function. Consequently the various defects in the use of language are the subjects of a large and very important chapter in the treatise on brain disease. So far as I am aware no practical use has been made of this knowledge outside the domain of medicine.

Yet it would be very strange if, from way, in which the use of language is lost or suffers varying degrees and kinds of impairment, we could learn nothing as to how it may best be acquired. The loss occasioned by the destruction of any language center is an indication of the defect that must result from neglecting to cultivate the same center by practice; and, as disease selects now one and now another center for attack, we learn the extent to which each is necessary in hearing, speaking, reading or writing. The auditory center receives the nervous impulses started by sound.

When it is aroused by impulses coming from the ears the sensation of sound occurs, but when it is aroused by nerve currents not from the ears, but from other parts of the brain, we have only the memory of sound. For a word to be understood the auditory center alone is not sufficient. The sound must awaken the memories of other sensations. The word "orange" for instance, has a meaning because the auditory center, when the word is heard, arouses in the visual center the memory of the color and form of an orange; in the centers touch, temperature, posture and muscular sense the memory of the sensations which occur when the fruit is grasped by the hand; in the centers for smell and taste the memory of its peculiar odor, flavor and tartness. These sensations are said to be associated with the sound of the word, and together with it they constitute the concept "orange." The nerve currents passing from one center to another are called association impulses. If we have often eaten oranges and at the same time heard the name the auditory center, whenever it perceives or remembers the sound, will send vigorous impulses to the other centers and the idea will be vivid.



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But if our experience of oranges has been very limited, or if instead of the correct name a merely similar sound has been heard, the association impulses will be sent slowly, feebly, and uncertainly, so that the idea will be vague.—*Popular Science Monthly*.

The Pacific Portland Cement Co. has been incorporated with a capital stock of \$100,000. The company propose to establish works for the manufacture of Portland cement in the city of Victoria. The provisional directors are: F. H. Worlock, C. A. Holland, F. G. Jordan, E. H. Hill, C. Wood, Allan S. Dumbleton, John Wilson, Wood, Travis & Co., 6 Bastion Square, are the agents of the Company.