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An assortment of Boys' and Girls' School Satchels.

Side Talks by Ruth Cameron

WHY WE RESIST THE NEW.



What is the psychology of people who dislike improvement? I have never tried them, or having tried them, set their minds against being convinced that they are helpful? I never can quite understand it though sometimes I find a trace of it in myself. For instance, after everyone else in the world has had a fountain pen for years, I have just been converted to one. Having been converted I am devoted. Yet all through college when others used fountain pens I preferred a pencil (and as a consequence was often unable to read my own notes.) All through my newspaper work and the big correspondence which I have long handled I wasted time and effort in pen dipping. Why on earth did I do it?

We are apt to feel that it is the old folks who are always against innovations but I think it is more a matter of temperament than age. I know a young woman who will never try anything new. She uses a hot water bottle a great deal and I suggested an electric pad to her and showed her mine. "It seems all right," she said doubtfully. "But," triumphantly "if it were a really good thing why wouldn't everybody who had electricity use it?"

"If They Are Good Why Doesn't Everyone Use Them?"

I might tell her that the answer to that is that there are so many people just like her in the world who cling with narrow minded distrustfulness to the old and never give any new thing a chance till it is too old. Or I might ask her what would have happened to all the conveniences she enjoys in her house, electricity, hot water, heat, plumbing, etc., etc., if others had said when their inventors were trying to get people to try them. "If they are any good why doesn't everybody use them?"

You Can Prove But Not Convince
But it wouldn't be of the slightest avail for she is one of those people

whom argument only makes more set. You can prove a thing is true so far as anything they have to offer to the contrary to them but they still have you—you can't make them believe it. And speaking of age this woman's mother is very open-minded. She is always ready when she can to "try anything once."

This same woman will not admit a gas stove is more useful in certain lines or any quicker than a coal stove. She happens to have one in her apartment but she wouldn't care if she never saw one she says. I notice, however, that if she wants hot water in a hurry she heats it on the gas stove.

One Part Liking To Be Odd

I suppose after all the psychology is not so difficult to analyze. There is one part obstinacy in it and one part natural conservatism, one part the habit of a closed mind and perhaps one part of liking to be odd. I can remember with what a superior air I used to say, "Oh yes, I've had a fountain pen offered me several times but I really prefer the good old fashioned pen."

Fortunately it is usually ourselves we rob the most by this state of mind. Yet can one rob one's self without robbing others?

One of the earliest habits to teach a child is to brush its teeth night and morning.

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The After-Dinner Speech

(From the Thrift Magazine.)

The after-dinner speech, like lightning or a flat tire, often strikes at the most unexpected moment. To most men it is a trying ordeal to stand before a vast audience of up-turned shirt-fronts and perpetrate a speech whether one's extemporaneous remarks have been carefully prepared in advance or not.

It is always well to go throughly armed for such dangers. To this end the following outline has been prepared for use in case of accident: Begin by saying, "Unaccustomed as I am"—then say, "This reminds me of a little story about an Irishman named Pat." If possible tell one that has no bearing whatever on the occasion.

Tell a story about a Scotchman named Sandy. Don't fail to call him the canny Scot, and as nearly as possible, use the same dialect employed in relating the story about Pat.

Wait several minutes till the laughter has died down and then tell the one about Sambo stealing chickens that your grandfather used to relate. Introducing it by saying, "I

am reminded of a little story I just heard this afternoon."

It is now time to drag in the subject of your address. Do this by saying, "The subject I have been called on to discuss this evening reminds me of a little story I once heard about an Irishman named Mike." In relating this anecdote be sure to use the term "be gorry" several times. The audience will thus know at once that you are still continuing your story about Sambo and the chickens.

Apologize for having taken up so much time.

Try desperately to take a drink of ice-water from an empty glass.

Say in a soft, subdued voice, "I thank you."

Perspire eloquently.

And then sit way down.



WAKIN' UP O' MORNINGS.

Wakin' up o' mornings for another happy day.
Another round o' laughter an' another whirl o' play;
Another time o' smilin' from the dawn till dusk descends,
Another day o' laughter an' another day o' cheer

With the mother an' the baby an' the children smilin' near.
Wakin' up o' mornings for the gracious gifts of God,
An' a round o' glad surprise as along life's way I plod
To see some new-born blossom shining gaily at the door
An' to hear the baby prattling something never said before.

Wakin' up o' mornings to an ever changin' scene
To find some thrill o' gladness that before has never been;
To live the old joys over an' to come upon the new
An' maybe find some little dream o' splendor comin' true.

MINARD'S LINIMENT is the only Liniment asked for at my store and the only one we keep for sale.

All the people use it.
HARLIN FULTON.
Pleasant Bay, C. B.

Peace Pens.

That there will be the keenest competition for the pen or pens used in signing the great Peace Treaty goes without saying.

The ex-Empress Eugenie possesses one of the most historic peace pens—that used at the signing of the Treaty of Paris in 1856. This pen is formed of the quill of a golden eagle's wing, richly mounted with diamonds and gold.

When the Anglo-American and Franco-American Treaties were signed, President Taft was presented with the gold pen with which the signatures were inscribed on the various documents; while the pen with which the Treaty of Vienna was signed is preserved in the family of Viscount Bangor. Mr. Ward, who afterwards succeeded to the title, was private secretary to Lord Castlereagh at the time of the signing of the Treaty, and managed to gain possession of the pen.

In the Berlin Museum may be seen two historic pens—that with which Queen Louise of Prussia signed her last will and testament, side by side with the pen used by William I. of Prussia in his famous letter to Queen Augusta, informing her of the victory of Sedan.

Among other historic pens may be mentioned that used by Charles Dickens just before his death, and which was sold in an auction-room for £19.10s., although £40 was paid for the well-worn gold pen used by "Box" for many years. The quill pen used by Wellington when writing to Queen Victoria in 1844 brought only five and a half guineas, while one of Sir Walter Scott's pens, selected by Lord Dalhousie in 1829 from the novelist's writing-table at Abbotsford, only realized three guineas more.

Heaven—Via Aberdeen.

(From the London Chronicle.)
A chaplain lately returned from a base hospital tells of a dying Scottish soldier whom he was called upon to see in the night.

The soldier assured the padre that he had arranged all his earthly affairs, thanked him for his ghostly ministrations, and ended by saying that there was one question he would like to ask, and that the padre promised he would do his best to answer.

"Well, sir, ye've made me sure that I shall go to heaven; but wud it no be possible for me to pass through Aberdeen on ma way?"

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ACCORDING TO JEFF, THE OFFICER HAD IT PRETTY SAFE.

