

THE SPICE OF LIFE.

Brown—Did his widow succeed in breaking his will?
Jones—Yes, long before he died.

The aged motor-van was somehow always getting out of repair, and it usually indulged in a little breakdown about once a week, in order to vary an otherwise monotonous existence.

Slowly it snorted its way into the broad stream of traffic, when there was a sudden whirring of wheels, a loud snap, and the weary and worn framework came to a dead stop.

"Look here," said the policeman to the driver, "this kind of thing is occurring too often. Let's see. What's your number? Yes, 1588!"

"Garn!" said the precocious youth who was in charge of the cart immediately behind. "That ain't its number. That's the year it was built!"

You may have heard some choice bits of sarcasm in your time, but I think the remark of an old dyspeptic who was in here this morning was the limit," confided a pharmacist in a down-town drug store, as he was preparing a prescription. "The old man in question came in with a prescription from a well-known physician for pills. As I finished mixing the pills, I asked the old man, merely as a matter of conversation, whether or not I should put them in a box. When I asked the question, he immediately flared up and became indignant. 'Shall you put them in a box!' he shouted. 'Well, I guess you will! What do you think I am going to do, roll them home?' That was enough for me," the druggist added, as he handed the customer a bottle; "never again will I ask unnecessary questions."

The lawyer eyed the woman in the witness-box in patient despair. Then, on the authority of a writer in the Detroit News, he rallied visibly:

"You say, madam," he began, "that the defendant is a 'sort of relation' of yours. Will you please explain what you mean by that—just how you are related to the defendant?"

"Well, it's like this," replied the witness, beaming upon the Court. "His first wife's cousin and my second cousin's first wife's aunt married brothers named Jones, and they were cousins to my mother's aunt. Then again, his grandfather on his mother's side and my grandfather on my mother's side were second cousins, and his stepmother married my husband's stepfather after his father and my mother died, and his brother Joe and my husband's brother Harry married twin sisters. I ain't ever figured out just how close related we are, but I've always looked on him as a sort of cousin."

"Quite right," assented the lawyer, feebly.

Dr. William B. Lamb, of Chicago, an enthusiastic automobilist, who is at the Shoreham, speaking of a trip through Manitoba, tells this one, says the Washington Herald.

"We stopped at a little inn near the town of Hargrave. I found in the inn the landlord and another man. They sat side by side on a bench. They were both very old.

"Excuse me, landlord," I said, "but can you tell me how far it is to Brandon?"

"The old man jumped up and hobbled behind the bar.

"Brandy?" he said, in a thin quiver. "Yes, indeed, sir; and a very fine brandy it is."

"He put the bottle and glass before me.

"I asked you," said I more loudly, "how far it was to Brandon?"

"The best brandy, of course, sir," he answered. "I don't keep nothing but the best."

"In despair I turned from this deaf veteran to the other man on the bench.

"Look here," I said, "can you tell me how far it is to Brandon?"

"The other old man, with a graceful look, and limped hastily to the bar. "Thank, sir," he said; "I don't care if I do."

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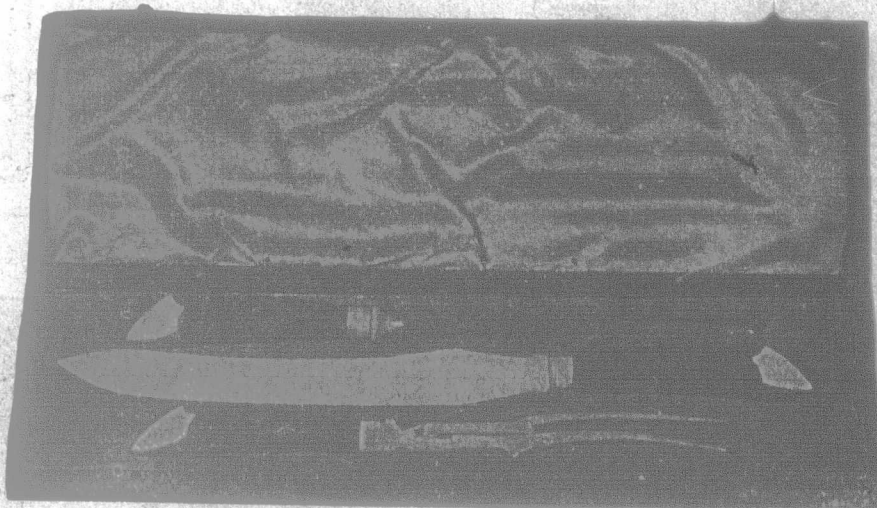
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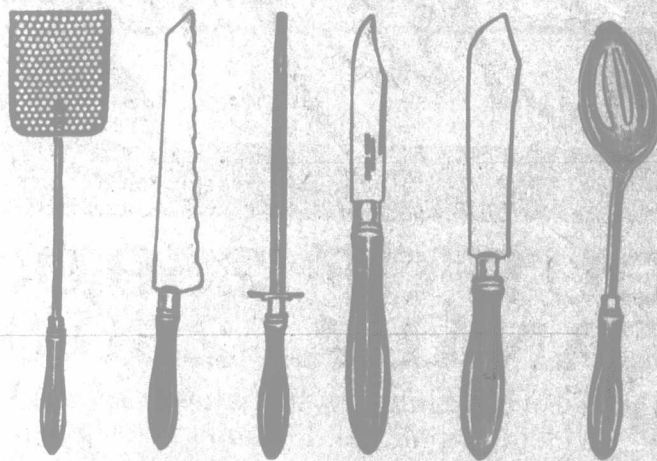
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