

Science Condensed.

The right ear is generally larger than the left.

There are nearly 25,000,000 widows in India.

In three faces out of five, the eyes are out of alignment.

France now realizes \$80,000,000 from her tobacco crop.

The annual profits of Monte Carlo amount to \$5,000,000.

In United States 20 per cent of the men are clean shaven.

The bone of the average whale weighs about 45 tons.

The rice paper upon which the Chinese do such charming drawing is a thin sheet of the pith of a tree.

The largest toothpick factory is in Paris. It was originally started as a manufacture of quillpens.

A chain, two and a half miles long and weighing 25 tons, was recently made in England for use in a colliery.

At one thousand fathoms below the surface of the ocean there is a uniform temperature just above freezing point.

The foundation of the stonework of the Bank of England is 66 feet below the level of the street.

Four and a half is the average size of the English family.

Australia is twenty-six times larger than the British Isles.

The human eye is rarely of equal power in the same person.

One person in a thousand reaches the age of one hundred years.

Spain is spending \$40,000,000 on new battleships and dockyard construction.

In a favorable wind, a fox can scent a man at a distance of one-quarter of a mile.

According to the observations of a New York barber, 56 per cent of the adult male population wear beards.

The cat's dislike for water is explained by the fact that its fur is devoid of oil and when wet it does not dry quickly.

The largest clock in the world is at St. Rombold's Cathedral, Mechlin, Belgium, if the size of the dial is the criterion.

The first post office scheme was a private enterprise and was inaugurated about 1464.

The world's sheep shearing record is 2394 animals in nine hours. It was made in Australia.

The foreign trade of Japan in 1888 amounted to \$130,000,000, and in 1906 to \$4,215,000,000.

It is stated that the nourishment in three baked bananas is equal to about 26 pounds of bread.

A complete tour through all the rooms or apartments of the Royal Palace, near Madrid, involves a 120-mile trip, covering six days' time.

A Swiss engineer has perfected a new fire escape. It consists of a series of folding iron ladders attached to the window frames. Each ladder reaches from one window to the next one below it.

By turning a crank on any floor all the frames beneath are unfolded in less than a minute, and form a continuous means of descending to the ground.

IF THE SUN ALWAYS SHONE

Development of Sleep Appears to Have Been Artificial.

If the sun always shone, we should never go to bed; sleep would not have been developed. It is true, nocturnal animals sleep and wake just as much as diurnal ones; and a drowsy owl, blinking and nodding in the light of daytime is a familiar object. But then, all such animals are themselves descendants of creatures which were once for many ages diurnal. The habit itself viewed abstractly, is one which could never have arisen except from the regular alternation of light and darkness.

There is no particular reason why we or any other animals should rest on an average about eight or nine hours out of every twenty-four, save for the fact that eight hours is about the average time during which there is an absence of light in which the animal might get about with comfort. If there are any animals in Mars, we would naturally expect them to sleep and wake alternately for a period which would be entirely determined by the duration of day and night in their own climate.

Observe, too, that this most fundamental distinction due to day and night is wholly relative to the sense of sight, and can affect only those trees or life which are not sufficiently high to have evolved for themselves eyes.

Plants, it is true, being dependent for their growth upon the chemical action of rays of sunlight that fall upon their surface, have an equally wide distinction of day functions and night functions with the highest animals; they eat and digest in the light, and grow or repair themselves through the hours of darkness.

But the lowest of animals have such marked division of nocturnal and diurnal habits; with ceaseless industry they roll through the waters by day and night alike, seeking by touch alone whom or what they may devour in their native element. If they rest occasionally for digestion and repair it is at irregular periods—sometimes for a few minutes, sometimes for hours or even days together. If dried up, they remain mummified for a year; if you moisten them once more, they start at once on their travels. In any other words, they have no distinct periodicity of their own.

But as soon as eyes are evolved, and in proportion to the perfection and height of their development, animals begin to divide their lives markedly into two main portions, a waking and a sleeping one; a more and a less active. While light is supplied them, they perform all their functions; the moment night comes on they retire to nests or lairs and become torpid and motionless.

Still Has Hopes.

Trusty Henchman—Think you can get around this primary law?

Spoils Politician—I'm not going to try to get around it. But unless I've lost my grip altogether—and I don't think I have—I'll find some way to climb over it.

Shiloh's Cure

Cures Coughs and Colds QUICKLY

Signalling on Railways.

Several times during the past year or two Britain has been compelled to realize that even the perfection of organization of British railway service cannot totally eliminate the risk of disasters.

The sequence of accidents at Salisbury, Grantham, Shrewsbury, and Arbroath, though differing in time, place, and circumstances, had one striking feature in common. In each case the men on the foot plate ignored, or at any rate did not obey, the usual signals. Possibly they could not, but whether the fault was human or mechanical, the result was the same. It is not surprising, therefore, that the subject of railway signalling has been brought into prominence.

With regard to the engineer's requirements and duties, he must, in the first place, be able to know the condition of the line in darkness, fog, and snow, and if it can be brought to his notice in time of a temporary lapse of attention on his part, so much the better. Now the ordinary semaphore does not do this. In many of the varieties of weather met with in Great Britain, its indications are invisible, and in any case they presuppose the driver is on the alert. In bad weather semaphores are admittedly practically useless, and they have to be supplemented by fog-signals. These latter appeal to the only sense that is open to appeal from without the cab, and do it effectively; but their use involves two more links in the chain of responsibility, and at best they are a costly and unsatisfactory makeshift. There is little doubt that sooner or later some method of cab-signalling will be considered essential to safe railway working.

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Trusty Henchman—Think you can get around this primary law?

Spoils Politician—I'm not going to try to get around it. But unless I've lost my grip altogether—and I don't think I have—I'll find some way to climb over it.

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QUEER USE FOR BREAD.

Watchmakers Consume Many Leaves in Their Daily Work.

Perhaps the most novel use to which bread is put, says The American Food Journal, may be seen in the great factories of the Elgin National Watch Company, at Elgin, Ill., where more than forty leaves of fresh bread are required each day. Superintendent George B. Hunter, of the watch factory, is quoted as saying:

"There is no secret regarding the use of bread in this factory, and I am willing to tell all I can concerning it. From the earliest times in the history of watchmaking it has been the custom of watchmakers to reduce fresh bread to the form of dough. This is done by steaming and kneading. They then use this dough for removing oil or chips that naturally adhere, in the course of manufacture, to pieces as small as to be barely visible to the naked eye. The oil is absorbed by this dough, and the chips stick to it, and there is no other known substance which can be used as a wiper without leaving some of its particles attached to the thing wiped. This accounts for the continued use of bread dough in the watchmaking industry. The Elgin National Watch Company uses something over forty-two pounds of bread per day, or about 24,000 pounds a year."

Port Hope, Ont.

Psychic is the greatest cure for catarrh of the head, throat or stomach in the world. It is a wonderful tonic and strengthener of run down system, acting directly on all the vital organs, giving youthful vigor and strength to the system. At all druggists 50c and \$1.00. Dr. T. A. Slocum, Limited, Toronto.

What Newspapers do For the Mail.

Many people have been led to believe that the cent-a-pound mail rate accorded under the law to publishers mailing their papers and magazines in bulk was the cause of actual loss to the government.

In a recent discussion of the subject, a writer maintaining this thesis asserted that the publications enjoying these so-called second-class privileges paid only four per cent of the postal revenues. Whether this estimate is correct or not it is of little importance; the fact which is important, and which biased and thoughtless critics ignore, is that the granting of the second-class privilege has brought millions of dollars of profitable first-class business to the postal service. It is on record in the archives of the postal commission, which sat in New York in October, 1906, that a single advertisement in a publication enjoying second-class rates was the cause of the writing of more than 3,000 letters. This case might be multiplied by thousands, and it would be shown that, far from being itself the cause of a deficit in the postal revenues, the second-class privilege, by the profitable business it creates, goes far to make up for the losses occasioned by rural free delivery, the ridiculous abuses of the franking privilege, and the failure to credit the Postoffice Department with the mail carried for all other government departments.—Leslie's Weekly.

Engineering Hint From the Beaver.

Human science owes many a debt, especially on the practical side, to the instinct of the lower animals. One of these obligations is cited by an eminent authority. Engineers frequently build dams straight across streams, the object being, in some cases, to save expense by sparing material. But the beaver arches his dam against the current, and experience has shown that this form of dam is best to resist floods and the impact of floating ice. Acting upon the knowledge which is instinctive with the beaver, and which human calculation approves, the Great Bear Valley dam, in California, and some other dams in that State, have been constructed and so made that their stability depends upon the resistance which their arched form presents.

Useful Soldering Fluid.

A soldering fluid, which has proved very useful in certain railway shops, is made, says the Street Railway Journal, by killing two quarts of hydrochloric acid with all the zinc it will take up. Then to the acid a quart of water is added, or it may have to be added before the zinc will fully dissolve. A quart of glycerine, which has previously been mixed with a quart of alcohol, is then added to the solution. This fluid is used for all kinds of soldering, and has been found especially desirable with greasy or dirty connections, as well as for soldering iron. It is claimed that the glycerine prevents all rust, which plays havoc with many soldering fluids containing hydrochloric acid are used.

Minard's Liniment Cures Diphtheria.

An Inherited Tendency.

A Cleveland society woman gave a party to nine friends of her young son, aged 6. To add to the pleasure of the occasion she had the ice frozen in the form of a hen and ten chickens. Each child was allowed to select his chicken as it was served.

Finally she came to the son of a prominent politician.

"Which chicken will you have, Bertie?" she asked.

"If you please, Mrs. H., I think I'll take the mamma hen," was Bertie's polite reply.

EDDY'S "SILENT" PARLOR MATCHES

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The Famous Pedestrian

"I was a martyr to catarrh of the head, throat and stomach. I was so bad the doctors feared consumption. I tried many physicians and medicines. A friend suggested Psychine. I tried it and it was the only thing ever did me any good. I am now perfectly well. It is the greatest remedy the world has ever known. I do not need it for my health now but I use it as a strengthener for my walking matches. I owe much of my physical endurance to Psychine."

JAMES REYNOLDS, Port Hope, Ont.

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GREATEST OF PATENTEES.

Edison Holds the Record With One Thousand to His Credit.

The greatest patentee in this country—and that probably means the greatest in the world—is Thomas A. Edison. He has rolled up the enormous total of almost 1,000 patents and shows no inclination to quit.

Ask the patent office people who comes next to Edison, says the New York Sun, and they will tell you that nobody is within halting distance of the wizard. A good many men can count their patents by the score, and, as some of them are much younger than Edison, they may beat him out in time.

Up to the present, however, he deserves the title of the Great American Patentee. That means a good deal, for it is undoubtedly a fact that an American will take out a patent on less provocation than any other man or woman in the world.

As a consequence the Patent Office is piling up a swollen fortune which makes it a bloated bondholder among the government departments. It has achieved a surplus of \$6,000,000 and is growing higher every day. Yankee ingenuity is gorging the Patent Office with records as piling up models by the hundred thousand.

Hamilton Took Something.

Mrs. Brown, living in the country, had five trunks carried up from the station, some three miles away, by an old man. The day was very rainy and the old fellow was soaked through as he drove up to the door.

Mrs. Brown (with sympathy)—Why, Hamilton, you must be wet.

Hamilton (shivering)—Ye-es, ma'am.

Mrs. Brown—Aren't you afraid you'll take cold, Hamilton?

Hamilton—Ye-es, ma'am. Rheumatism pretty bad, ma'am.

Mrs. Brown—Don't you ever take something when you are soaked through, Hamilton?

Hamilton (eagerly)—Ye-es, ma'am (Rubs the back of his hand against his