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lead? I can't answer your letters separately, as I'd like to, because I am so busy there's no time, but I can—and will—always acknowledge them in my letter; besides, I like to keep them to show people. Do you know I still have letters you wrote me ages ago, when we first discovered we were cousins? You didn't think I was so proud of you, did you?

With love, and hopes that I'll hear from some more of you.

Your affectionate
Cousin Mike.

ELECTRIC DOGS.

A BOAT was recently manoeuvred around Boston Harbour, and out into the open sea as far as Graves Light, a distance of twenty-eight miles, and safely back. There was not a living person on the boat, all of its movements being directed by a single wireless operator stationed at Marblehead, more than twenty miles away.

Besides being susceptible to control by wireless waves, the electrical steering machinery may also be actuated by the beams of a searchlight acting on selenium cells. Selenium has the property of controlling propelling machinery by means of light, as demonstrated by a device known as an "electric dog." This is a box mounted on three wheels, containing a motor operated by a storage battery, with another motor which actuates the steering wheel. At one end of the box are two bull's eyes of glass, with a partition projecting between them so that light shining into one of the eyes does not reach the other. Behind each bull's-eye is a screen of selenium. When a light shines into the right eye the steering wheel is turned so that the "dog" turns to the right, and vice versa. This curious contrivance will follow the light of a lantern at night, training along behind the person carrying the light and turning corners as though it were alive.

THOUSAND-YEAR-OLD TOYS.

Ages ago, infantile Egypt played with dolls, boats, balls, dishes, wagons, miniature horses and other animals, just as twentieth-century children are doing. The little Greeks and Romans amused themselves with much the same playthings, except for the further possession of a rattle, which some wise Grecian gentleman very kindly invented for them.

We know this from the chance words of a few early writers, from the sculptures which have been saved of the different ancient nations which represent children in the act of playing—and also from the fact that many small toys, closely resembling many toys of to-day, have been found in the tombs of the children of by-gone ages—dolls, balls, boats, tops and tiny dishes, added to which there were small warlike implements for the boys, such as javelin, and bows and arrows.

In the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, there is a fascinating terra-cotta boat, complete to the smallest detail. It was found in the tomb of an Egyptian boy of 4,000 years ago.

Take the doll, one of the few of the very old toys. The prehistoric Peruvians had pieces of bone wrapped in cloth, a male doll being identified by the blanket over his shoulder, the female by a petticoat.

Horace makes mention of the stick horses of the Roman children. Tapestries of the Middle Ages picture little people still astride such makeshift steeds, and the ordinary riding horse of the ordinary child remained a stick with a horse-head until late in the seventeenth century.

Early in the nineteenth century rocking-horses came into fashion,

after which, in 1847, horses were shown at the French Exposition covered with hair and very natural in form—the toy horse as we know him to-day.

LEGENDS OF NATIONAL EMBLEMS

Most people are acquainted with the legend of St. Patrick and the shamrock, which has given Irishmen their special decoration. In somewhat similar manner most nations have equipped themselves with a symbolical plant to which is generally attached a legend.

Scotsmen are said to owe their symbol of a thistle to the fact that when a party of invading Danes were approaching the slumbering camp in the darkness, one of them trod on the prickly thistle, and announced his contact with it in rather loud tones, which awakened the Scots, who drove off the enemy.

Patriotic Welshmen decorate their caps with a leek on St. David's Day because that saint is supposed to have advised the Britons on the eve of a battle with the Saxons to wear leeks in their caps so as to distinguish easily, friends from foes.

England has always been famed for her roses, but the adoption of the rose as the national symbol does not seem to have taken place till Edward IV. introduced it on his seal.

The lily of France has been traced to very early times, but probably owes its adoption to the Franks at the battle of Tolbiac, who crowned themselves with lilies after the battle.

CONVICING SPEECH.

First Lawyer—Did his speech carry conviction?

Second Lawyer—It did. His client got five years.

MISTAKEN RESPONSIBILITY.

Teacher: "How is it you were not at school yesterday, Tommy?"
Tommy: "Please, teacher, when I was coming to school I saw a steam roller."

Teacher: "Well, what about it?"
Tommy: "A man touched me on the shoulder, and said: 'Mind that steam roller, boy, and I stood minding it all the afternoon.'"

A NEW IDEA.

A British gunner, who had successfully passed a blacksmith's course, was home on furlough wearing the hammer and pincers on his arm, when he was accosted by a civilian, who asked what the decoration was for.

"Oh," replied Tommy, "I'm an army dentist!"

"I see," said the civilian. "Of course the pincers are for extracting teeth. But what is the idea of the hammer?"

"Well, you see, it's like this. Some of the chaps are a bit nervous, so we use the hammer to chloroform them," was the reply.

This school story concerns a little girl who could not grasp her lessons in geography. The teacher had tried various means to impart knowledge—all in vain, however, and as a last resource she one forenoon punished the girl. Perhaps the punishment "fitted the crime," but the girl's mother thought otherwise, and in the afternoon she bounced into the school room, in quest of an explanation. "She could not say her geography," was the teacher's bland answer to her inquiry. "Geography! I dinna ken geography, and I got a man! Oor Jean disna ken geography, and she got a man! And there's you, who kens a'boot geography—and you canna get ane at a'."

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