

The Poet's Corner.

The Crying Evil.
Our beer is full of awful things:
There's terra alba in our candy;
False notes, too oft, the tenor sings;
Our brandy's anything but brandy;
Our tea would make Celestia weep;
Our woollen bubble o'er with cotton;
Good fruit is always on the top—
While underneath is placed the rotten.
The oyster laughs their skill to scorn,
They can't adulterate potatoes;
But, though we know that "eggs are eggs,"
They often seem half saleratus.
The English ale is far behind
The brew that pleased the cheery Dick-
ens,
And I'm convinced we buy a kind
Of patent ligum-vite chickens!
On with the dance! We must not dare
To spend a moment in reflecting,
Since what we eat and drink and wear
Is filled with what we're not expecting.
My farewell words, though few and sad,
Perchance may be anticipated—
Our politicians are so bad
They cannot be adulterated.
—N. Y. Sun.

Shoeing of Horses.

At a Farmers' Institute held at Concord, Mass., Mr. Russell, Secretary of the Massachusetts State Board of Agriculture, addressed the meeting upon the care, management and the shoeing of horses. In reference to the latter, he said that in South America, Mexico and Central America, several years ago, he was surprised to see the amount of hard work horses will do without any shoes whatever; horse shoes there are not known, neither are lame and spavined horses—they have no words in their languages to describe interfering, sprain, corn, quarter crack or founder, diseases that owe their origin to bad shoeing. The horse shoe is an invention of the middle or dark ages; it was not known in the days of Ancient Rome, and they did very heavy work with horses on paved roads. In southern Europe, they shoe but little to-day. The horse shoe, then, is not a necessity, what is its use? It is useful simply to prevent soreness of the toes upon very hard, rough and stony roads, and to prevent slipping on icy roads in winter; the shoe should be as light as possible, and serve these purposes; it should not have high calks at the heels.

Some of the companies in Boston, who own many hundreds of omnibus and railroad horses, are coming to realize these facts, and are using very light shoes for the forward feet, without calks, and paring down the toe so as to give the frog a bearing upon the ground. The frog is a natural cushion intended by a wise Creator to break the concussion of the horse's foot upon the road; to raise it from the ground by unyielding iron calks is unnatural and dangerous. Still in our icy weather, horses need calks on their hind feet, but not upon their front ones, except a small toe calk, and even this is not very important.

Longevity of Animals.

Camels live from forty to fifty years; horses average from twenty-five to thirty; oxen about twenty; sheep eight or nine, and dogs twelve to fourteen. Concerning the ages attained by non-domesticated animals only a few isolated facts are known. The East Indians believe that the life period of elephants is about three hundred years, instances being recorded of these animals having lived one hundred and thirty years in confinement after capture at an unknown age. Whales are estimated to reach the age of four hundred years. Some reptiles are very long lived, an instance being furnished by a tortoise which was confined in 1633 and existed until 1753, when it perished by an accident. Birds sometimes reach a great age, the eagle and the swan having been known to live one hundred years. The longevity of fishes is often remarkable. The carp has been known to live two hundred years, common river trout fifty years, and the pike ninety years, while Gueser a Swiss naturalist relates that a fish caught in 1497 bore a record of the score of the same fish two hundred and sixty-seven years before. Insects are very short lived, usually completing the term of their existence in a few weeks or months. Some even perish within a few hours after emerging from a grub state and die upon the very day of entering upon their new life. As a general rule, not to be applied too closely, larger types of animals live longer than smaller.

Backsliding.—C. G. Finney says some of the principal causes for backsliding are:—1. Ill will toward any person. It is not a harbored toward any being God has made, you cannot enjoy the presence of God. No matter how wicked that person may be or how worthless, if you hate that being the spirit of God cannot dwell with you, must be a backslider. Sometimes persons who are really injured will let it fester in their minds, and rattle there until it eats out all their piety; you cannot have the spirit of prayer, nor hold communion with God, in such a state.

Dr. Smith's Great German Worm Remedy invariably acts as a gentle laxative, operating without nausea or griping. For sale by Jas. Wilson, Goderich, Ont. 2

Charles T. Casselman, Druggist of Chesterville, writes to the Proprietors of that Sovereign Tonic, Burdock Blood Bitters, "Your Burdock Blood Bitters, give universal satisfaction. All your medicines sell well, and I have not a customer who will take any other." 2

Duration of Dreams.

It is claimed that the longest dream lasts less than three minutes. A man fell asleep as the clock tolled the first stroke of twelve. He awakened ere the echo of the twelfth stroke had died away, having in the interval dreamed that he committed a crime, was detected after five years, tried and condemned. The shock of finding the halter around his neck aroused him to consciousness, when he discovered that all these events had happened in an infinitesimal fragment of time. Mohammed, wishing to illustrate the wonders of sleep, told how a certain man, being a sheik, found himself, for his pride, made a poor fisherman; that he lived as one for sixty years, bringing up a family and working hard; and upon waking up from this long dream, so short a time had he been asleep that the narrow-necked bottle filled with water—which he knew he over-turned as he fell asleep—had no time in which to empty itself.—(Christian Leader.)

An Annoying Note.

A teacher in a school district in Marathon, Mich., requested excuses to be sent him by parents or guardians when pupils were wanted at home or detained from school for any cause. In compliance therewith, a person whose name we omit sent in the following, which is copied from the original:

"I the step daddy of—do hereby order you, his teacher, if he has no lessons to learn after the afternoon recess, to send him home at that time, soul, body, and breeches, and all the appurtenances thereunto belonging or otherwise appertaining.

"P. S.—This order may not be right, but as I am only a country plug, and not used to the manners and customs of modern school teaching, why, darn it all, send him home anyway.—[Ex.]

How to Wash a Baby.

Thirty women listened for thirty minutes last Saturday night, in the Franklin Institute, Philadelphia, to Miss Mary Hobart, who told them "How to wash and dress a baby." The lecture was illustrated. The illustration was kindly furnished by a young mother in the audience. It had a red face, very bright eyes, a wee bit of a nose, and a voice. The lecturer, a fresh-faced, handsome woman, began by explaining how to wash and dress a newly-born infant without drowning it in a basin or causing it to burst by tight bandaging. "White castile soap is the proper thing to wash a babe with," said she, "and the water should not be at a temperature of 100". The babe should not be washed a little at a time. Its head, face, and ears should be attended to first, and then the entire body should be immersed in the water."

The illustration was placed in a deep basin filled with water, and the illustration, manifested its disapprobation by a howl. "In drying the child," continued Miss Hobart, as she lifted the squalling bit of humanity out of the bath, "do not rub the child much, but pat carefully until dry. Rub its back if you like—that pleases a baby. Then powder it with starch or Bermuda arrowroot," and the squaller was liberally besprinkled with a white powder. "Some mothers," said the lecturer, "in drying a child's ear, dig it out this way." The illustration blinked its eyes, puckered up its mouth and let a wild yell. "Use a soft rag, wound around the little finger," and as the action was suited to the word, the illustration crowd gratefully. "In dressing," went on the speaker, "the bandages should be loose enough to slip two fingers underneath, and as the babe was deftly turned on its stomach it grunted a satisfied grunt. Then came the ticklish operation of pinning the band. Miss Hobart showed how to do it, without sticking the pin more than the sixteenth of an inch into the babe's back. A proceeding, she said, that nearly all infants objected to. The lecturer advised that where it was practical and could be done properly, the broad linen straps should be sewed and not pinned. "In putting on the babe's socks," continued the *pro tem* mother, cleverly thrusting a little pink foot into its woolly covering, "be careful about tootsey-wootsey a little toes. 'E don't like 'e little toes all turned up, do 'e?" and the illustration lifted up its voice and howled a denial.

Miss Hobart then took a small piece of soft rag and washed out the child's mouth, something she said that should be done after each meal. General advice was then given on keeping the baby away from a strong light; how to handle it properly, and to soothe it to sleep when fretful. The lecture was concluded by a practical illustration, showing how to change the bed clothing expeditiously and without discomfort to the mother. The babe, comfortably dressed and crowing in delight, was handed back to its mother, and the audience dispersed.

Now that there is a reliable remedy for kidney troubles, half the terrors attached to these complaints have been removed. For this let all be thankful, and to Dr. Van Buren's Kidney Cure award all praise for having thus removed a hitherto considered fatal disease from our path. It was never known to fail. Sold by J. Wilson.

THE ART OF REMEMBERING.

Hints for the Benefit of those who are Troubled with Forgetfulness.

From the New York Sun.
A very interesting account of the wonderful feats of calculation performed by Jacques Inaudi in Belgium was printed in a letter in the Sun. Another correspondent sends us the following:

The account of the marvelous performance by Jacques Inaudi suggests a few remarks upon the cultivation of the memory—the faculty of all others most capable of improvement. The science of mnemonics is as old as the Egyptians, but Cicero tells us that it was first reduced to a system by the poet Simonides of Cos, about 500 B. C. The story is that he was called from a banquet just before the roof fell in and crushed the remaining guests beyond recognition. Simonides identified the bodies by remembering their places at table, and this suggested to him the association of thoughts and words and things with places, images and signs.

Petrus Ravennus in 1491, John Romberch do Krysee in 1533, Gulesimo Gratarioli in 1562, Marafortus in 1609, and John Wallis in 1618, all published plans more or less complicated, and more or less useless, for assisting the memory.

The Memoria Technica of Richard Grey, first published in 1730, appears to be the first system of much practical value. Consonants represent figures, and are formed into words by connecting them with vowels. I remember at school forming the initials of certain historical persons and events into words, and have never forgotten history thus learned. For example, four of Marlborough's battles, in the order in which they were fought, form the word Brom—Blenheim, Ramillies, Oudenares and Malplaquet.

The system of Fainagle, who lectured at the beginning of this century, is very complicated, and requires, one would imagine, more labor for its mastery than would suffice to impress the matters with which it deals at first hand upon the memory.

Dr. Stokes, who is now teaching in London, is said to possess a simple and more practically useful system than any which had gone before.

I believe, however, that the true method of strengthening the memory is to cultivate a habit of close and careful attention. What is read, heard, or seen, should not be dismissed simultaneously, but should be, as it were, revolved in the mind for a moment. This may at first prove a little irksome, and may give a certain appearance of sluggish apprehension, but it will not long be so, and the gain will be found incalculable.

Robert Houdin, the great French conjurer and mechanic, gives an interesting account of the origin of the "second sight," which he invented, and which was brought to such a pitch of perfection by the late Prof. Heller. He says that as he and his son walked along the streets they would look at windows crowded with toys or jewelry. Then they would each write down as many articles as they could recollect having seen, and going back would verify their lists. Very soon, he says, his son could with a comprehensive glance take in every article in a large well-furnished window. Houdin then conceived the idea of the "second sight," prepared an elaborate system of mnemonics, and made his fortune.

It is needless to insist upon the extreme value of a good and trustworthy memory. Petty annoyances as well as serious inconveniences are the result of forgetfulness, and the worst forgetfulness is the result not of any organic defect or morbid condition, but of simple heedlessness, and the habit of letting things in at one ear and out at the other.

"Letters to a Young Merchant and Talks to Clerks" is the title of a little work by D. J. Parker, author of the "Green's Manual," and just published by the Toronto News Company. To the merchant and clerk many useful hints are given, which will repay them for a perusal of its contents. Price 30 cents.

It made me feel like a "Band of Music," was the rather forcible expression of an individual who was praising "Pectoria," the great remedy for Coughs and Colds, Hoarseness, Asthma, Bronchitis. It is safe, pleasant, and effectual. If you suffer, try it. For sale by all Druggists and general dealers at 25 cents a bottle. For sale by Geo. Rhynas.

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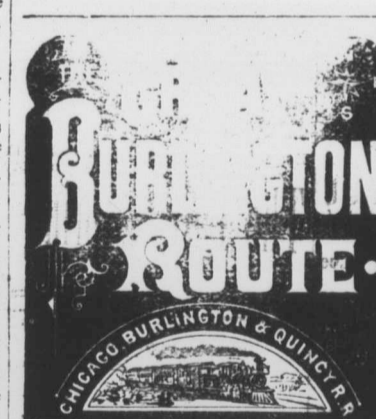
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