

Selected from "Common Objects in the Country."]  
**A SHORT ESSAY ON LEGS.**

BY REV. J. G. WOOD.

As, in common with many other animals, mankind is furnished with legs and the power to move them, it is universally acknowledged that those limbs ought to be put to their proper use. But while men agree respecting the importance of the members alluded to, they differ greatly in the mode of employing them.

To the tailor, for example, legs are chiefly valuable as cushions, whereon to lay his cloth. For the jockey, the same members form a bifurcated or pronged apparatus, by the help of which he sticks on a horse. The legs of the acrobat are mostly employed to show the extent of ill-treatment to which the hip joint can be subjected without suffering permanent dislocation. The dancer values his leg solely on account of the "light fantastic toe" which it carries at its extremity. The turner sees that two legs are absolutely necessary to mankind—i. e., one to stand upon, and the other to make a wheel run round. The surgeon views legs on other people as objects affording facilities for amputation. The boxer professionally regards his legs as "pins," upon which the striking apparatus is kept off the ground. The soldier's opinion of his legs is modified according to the temperament of the individual and the position of the enemy. Some people employ their legs in continually mounting the same stairs, and never getting any higher; while others use those limbs in continually pacing the same path, and never going any farther.

And of all these modes of employing the legs, the last, which is called "taking a walk," is the drier and least excusable. For, in the preceding cases, the owners of the legs gain their living, or at all events their life, by such employment of those members; and in the case of the interminable stairs the individual is not acting by his own free will. But it does seem wonderful, that a being possessed of intellectual powers should fancy himself to be the possessor of a right leg and a left one, merely that the right should mechanically pass the left so many thousand times daily, and in its turn be passed by the left; while the sentient being above was occupied in exactly the same manner as if both legs were at rest, snugly tucked under the table. Sad to relate, such is the general method of taking recreation.

A man who has been over-taxed his brain all the early part of the day, rises corporeally from his work at a certain time, places his hat above his brain, buttons his coat underneath it, and sallies forth to take a walk. Whatever subject he may be working upon he takes with him, and on that subject he concentrates his attention. Supposing him to be a mathematician, and that the prevalent idea in his mind is to prove that

$$\Delta ABC = (\Delta DEF + \Delta GHI).$$

He takes one final look at his Euclid while drawing on his gloves, and sets off with ABC before his eyes. As he walks along he sees nothing but ABC, hears nothing but DEF, feels nothing but GHI, and thinks of nothing but the connection of all three.

An hour has passed away, and he re-enters his room without any very definite recollection of the manner in which he got there. He has mechanically paced to a certain point, mechanically stopped and turned round, mechanically retraced his steps, and mechanically come back again. He has not the least recollection of anything that happened during his walk; he doesn't know whether the sky was blue or cloudy, whether there was any wind, nor would he venture to say decidedly whether it was night or day. He does recollect seeing a tree on a hill and a spire in a valley, because, together with himself, they formed an angle that illustrated the proportions of the triangle ABC; but whether the tree had leaves on it or not he could not tell. But he is happy in the consciousness of having performed his duty—he has taken a walk; he has been for a "constitutional."

Oh! deluded and misguided individual! The walking powers are meant to carry yourself—not only your corporeal body—into other scenes, to give a fresh current to your thoughts, and to give your brain an airing as well as your nose. The mind requires variety in its food as does the body; and to obtain that change of nutriment is the proper object of taking a walk. That a rational being can condemn himself to walk three miles a day along a turnpike road, and three miles back

again, at one uniform pace, his eyes directed straight ahead, and his thoughts at home with his book, seems incredible to ordinary personages.

The real use of taking a walk is to get away from one's self, and to change the current of the thoughts for a while by changing the locality of the individual.

### FAITH-HEALING.

The Century for March has two articles on faith-cure—one pro, the other con. From the latter, by the Rev. Dr. Buckley, we quote as follows: "Families have been broken up by the doctrine taught in some of the leading faith-homes that friends who do not believe this truth are to be separated from because of the weakening effect of their disbelief upon faith, and a most heartrending letter has reached me from a gentleman whose mother and sister are now residing in a faith-institution not far from this city, refusing all intercourse with their friends, and neglecting the most obvious duties of life.

"Certain advocates of faith-healing and faith-homes have influenced women to leave their husbands and parents and reside in the homes, and have persuaded them to give thousands of dollars for their purposes, on the ground that 'the Lord had need of the money.'

"This system is connected with every other superstition. The Bible is used as a book of magic. Many open it at random, expecting to be guided by the first passage that they see, as Peter was told to open the mouth of the first fish that came up and he would find in it a piece of money. A missionary of high standing with whom I am acquainted was cured of this form of superstition by consulting the Bible on an important matter of Christian duty, and the passage that met his gaze was, 'Hell from beneath is moved to meet thee at thy coming.' Paganism can produce nothing more superstitious than this, though many other Christians instead of 'Searching the Scriptures,' still try to use the Bible as a divine rod.

"It feeds upon impressions, makes great use of dreams and signs and statements foreign to truth and pernicious in their influence. A young lady long ill was visited by a minister who prayed with her, and in great joy arose from his knees and said, 'Jennie, you are sure to recover.Dismiss all fear. The Lord has revealed it to me.' Soon after, physicians in consultation decided that she had cancer of the stomach, of which she subsequently died. The person who had received the impression that she would recover, when met by the pastor of the family, said, 'Jennie will certainly get well. The Lord will raise her up. He has revealed it to me.' 'Well,' said the minister, 'she has got the nervous disease she had some years ago. The physicians have decided that she has cancer of the stomach.' 'O, well,' was the reply, 'if that is the case she is sure to die.'

"A family living in the city of St. Louis had a daughter who was very ill. The members of this family were well acquainted with one of the leading advocates of faith-healing in the East, who made her case a subject of prayer, and wrote her a letter declaring that she would certainly be cured, and the Lord had revealed it to him. The letter arrived at St. Louis one day after her death.

"These are cases taken not from the operation of recognized fanatics, but from those of leading lights in this ignis fatuus movement.

"It is a means of obtaining money under false pretences. Some who promulgate these views are honest, but underneath their proceedings runs a subtle sophistry. They establish institutions which they call faith-homes, declaring that they are supported entirely by faith, and that they use no means to make their work known or to persuade persons to contribute. Meanwhile they advertise their work and institutions in every possible way,

publishing reports in which, though in many instances wanting in business accuracy, they exhibit the most cunning wisdom of the children of the world.

"The horrible mixture of superstition and blasphemy to which these views frequently lead is not known to all persons. I quote from a paper published in Newark, N. J., in the interest of faith-healing:

"DEATH—Three of the richest men in Ocean Park, N. J., have died. Faith-healing has been taught in the place, but was rejected by them, so death came."

"CHARLESTON, S. C.—A few years ago the Holy Ghost sent me to preach in that city. But they rejected the Gospel and me. A wicked man shot at me and tried to kill me, but God saved me, so that I was not harmed. . . . But I had to leave Charleston and do as the great Head of the Church said: . . . 'when ye depart out of that house or city, shake off the dust from your foot.' Earthquake, September 1, 1886, one half the city in ruins. It has a population of about fifty thousand people. Ye wicked cities in the world, take warning! God lives!"

### TOPICS OF INTEREST.

Do not be satisfied with one correction of an error.

Study to acquire the art of aptly illustrating a difficult subject.

The Queen's authority has been extended over Eastern Zululand by the assent of the Zulus.

Jay Gould drops a bit of wisdom in saying that "men appreciate their own earnings more than a gift."

What is the difference between the North and South Pole? Why, a world of difference, to be sure.

The familiar word "dun," which so many people have tried to trace to French or Saxon roots, took its rise from a famous English bailiff, named Joe Dunn, in the time of King Henry VIII., who plied his hard trade of collecting doubtful debts with remarkable success. As a last resort, creditors would threaten to put Dunn on their debtors. Hence the phrase of "Dunning," which has continued to this day.

### QUESTION DEPARTMENT.

Question 215, Lesson XI, of Hotze's Physics is as follows: "Explain the action of the 'Thief.'"  
 What is the "Thief" here referred to, and explain its action? O. E. B.

Try the experiment on your neighbor's oil barrel with his knowledge, but without his consent, and you will have a practical demonstration of its truth—as well as learn the relevance of the term and an explanation of its action. M.

In answer to "H. W. R." we may state that the Board of Education has not prescribed any new text-books recently.

"T."—The Aryan Race comprehends the Teutonic, Celtic, Greek, Latin, Slavonic, Persian and Indian (Hindustani) nations. There is no distinctive Aryan race now in existence, but all the races named above are descended from one great ancestor—the Aryan nation, which occupied the great tablelands of Western Asia 3,000 or 4,000 years ago. Successive migrations of this great family to Europe were made, so that the nations of Europe to-day, and the colonies planted by these nations are of Aryan descent. Read the instructive article which recently appeared in the JOURNAL from the pen of Dr. Hutchison on the origin of the English language. It is called the "race of progress," because the history of the race has been the history of civilization and progress. The English, French, German and Russian nations of to-day are the offshoots of this great family, and the growth of these and other great nations of Aryan origin has been and is constantly progressive.