

List of Agents.

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The Post-Office of Cyrus.

The invention of the post-office is ascribed to Cyrus, King of Persia, who lived about 600 B.C. Cyrus required all of his governors of provinces to write to him exact accounts of everything that occurred in their several districts and armies. The Persian empire was of vast extent, and some means had to be provided to render that correspondence sure and expeditious. Cyrus, therefore, caused post-offices to be built and messengers appointed in every province. He found how far a good horse, with an experienced rider, could travel in a day without being hurt, and then had stables built in proportion, at equal distances from each other. At each of these places he also appointed postmasters, whose duty it was to receive the letters from the couriers, as they arrived, and give them to others, and to give fresh horses in exchange for those that had performed their part of the journey. Thus the post went continually night and day, rain or snow, heat or cold, and Cyrus received speedy news of all occurrences and sent back whatever orders he considered necessary. Darius, the last king of the ancient Persians, was superintendent of them before he came to the throne.—Harper's Young People.

The following pleasant story is told of Lady Macdonald, wife of the late premier of Canada, who has long been an abstainer. Another lady of high position met her at dinner one day, and was surprised to see that she took no wine, and at length asked:

"Did you not set out wine when you entertained the Marquis of Lorne?" "Never," was the prompt reply. "But did you not feel that you must apologize?" "Certainly not. Wine is not a natural beverage, and so should rather come in than go out with apology." This answer and that example led the other lady to become an abstainer also.—Exchange.

In an Invalid's Room.

Look hopeful, never despairing. When requested to read the news, omit the death list.

Tell only the pleasant tidings; there is no fear of forgetting the evil.

Sigh, if you must, after leaving the sick room, not in the presence of the sufferer.

Leave stiff linen cuffs outside. Refrain from telling about a similar case in which the patient died a shocking death.

Let every article of food be delicately dished, taking only small, tempting quantities.

If you must chew gum, munch popcorn or nuts, wait until a half-mile away from sensitive ears.

Make the most of the luxuries at hand without expatiating upon the charms of the unattainable.

If your sick ones think the curtain is green when it is really blue, what harm in allowing them to think so?—Good Housekeeping.

Statistics of Population.

A German statistician says: There are at present 3,064 languages spoken by the inhabitants of our globe, whose religious convictions are divided between 1,000 different types of faith. The number of males is nearly equal to that of females. The average duration of life is 33 years. One-fourth of the population of the earth dies before attaining the 17th year. Of 1,000 persons only one reaches the age of 100 years. The entire population of the earth is upward of 1,200,000,000, of whom 35,214,000 die every year, 96,480 every day, and 4,020 every hour, 67 every minute, and 1 and a fraction every second; on the other hand the births amount to 36,792,000 every year, 100,800 every day, 4,200 every hour, 70 every minute, 1 and a fraction every second. Married people live longer than the unmarried, the temperate and industrious longer than the glutton and idle, and civilized nations longer than the uncivilized. Tall persons enjoy a greater longevity than small ones. Women have a more favorable chance of life before reaching their 50th year than men, but a less favorable one after that period. The proportion of married persons to single ones is as 75 to 1,000. Persons born in the Spring have a more robust constitution than those born at other seasons. Births and deaths occur more frequently at night than in the day-time. It may finally be added that only one-fourth the male inhabitants of the globe grow up to carry arms or perform military service.—Selected.

Let us have "unceasing fervent prayer." But prayer without action is useless. Let us agitate, discuss and compare views. The difficulty, however, in this, it seems to me, is that self is ever coming to the front. May I not suggest a better method—that of a more earnest preaching of Christ to our several congregations. Jesus says, "And I, if I be lifted up, will draw all men unto me." Let us have more of the lifting up of Christ in the church and in the several denominations, and God will bring on what we most desire—a united church.—Church Union.

"And still beyond your household duties reaching, Stretch forth a helping hand; So many stand in need of loving comfort All over this wide land: Perchance some soul you aid to-day, to-morrow May with the angels sing; Some one may go straight from your earthly table To banquet with the king."

CONSUMPTION. I have a positive remedy for the above disease by its use thousands of cases of the most fatal and of long standing have been cured. Indeed so strong is my faith in its efficacy, that I will send TWO BOTTLES FREE, with a VALUABLE TREATISE on this disease to any sufferer who will send me their EXPRESS and P.O. address. T. A. SLOCUM, M. C., 186 ADELAIDE ST. WEST, TORONTO, ONT.

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