



The Experimenters

The Fable of a Little Boy whose Parents Practised on Him

By THE DOCTOR THEY DIDN'T HAVE
(Continued from last month)

IN the early days, when geese were swine, and turkeys chewed tobacco, there lived an old man of the sea, whose name was Proteus (pronounced pro-tuse). He was a wonderful person indeed, for he knew everything that had ever happened, and everything that was happening at the time and everything that was to happen in the future. And this knowledge made his head so hot, that he had to live beside the sea, so that he could dip his head in the water and keep it cool. Of course people came every day to ask questions and he got so tired of answering all the questions put to him that he became surly, and would not reply.

Among other things, he knew magic and could turn himself into a lion or a fish or a cloud, and thus get away from people. The only way to manage him was to catch him when he was asleep, and bind him with a chain. Then he would wake up, and turn into a lion or a whale, or something else and try to get away. But if the chain was strong enough to hold him, he would change back again into his very self, and answer questions, although he didn't wish to do so. Of course, when he looked like a lion or a whale, he was Proteus all the time, and was only trying to get away from the people who annoyed him. When we find things that can change their form and yet be the very same we call them protean, because they are like Proteus.

And there is a very important food stuff, which we all must eat, in one form or another, if we want to keep alive; and it has a great many different forms, so we call it protein. You see, it is like Proteus. Some persons think that the name protein has another origin, and comes from a Greek word meaning "first," but that must be wrong, because it spoils the story; and anything that spoils a good story must be wrong.

Protein is the stuff out of which our flesh and bones are chiefly made; and just as you must have iron if you want to mend a machine, so we must have protein if we want to mend the worn out parts of our bodies. If you ask me what protein is like I cannot tell you, because, just as the surly old man of the sea might look like a man or a fish or a lion or a cloud, while he was Proteus all the time, so protein may look like cheese or like beef or like eggs or like peanuts or like bread, for all these things are largely made up of protein.

That is why we eat these things, to get the protein that is in them. You remember how *Only* grew thin and weak, when he fed on apples and pears and other fruit; and how he was glad to eat the worms in the apples, after a while. Now that was because the fruit had hardly any protein in it; but the worms were made of protein, just as our own bodies are. It was too bad that he could get protein, in no other way than by eating worms; but I have read of people who were so hungry that when they could get protein in no other way, they ate each other. Ask your mother to read to you the "Yarn of the Nancy Bell," written by a man called Gilbert, and you will learn all about it. Yes, we must have protein, but I would rather eat cheese or beef or eggs than have to eat worms, like poor little *Only*. (To be Continued)

The Woman at the Wheel

(Continued from page 28)

A Pioneer Motorist

MISS Clara Dennis, daughter of Senator and Mrs. Dennis, of Halifax, may be counted among the pioneer motorists of Nova Scotia. This statement does not imply that she has attained a venerable and hoary age, for she was a mere schoolgirl when her brain and hand grasped the intricacies of the automobile.

She drove, naturally, for the love of it—and of other people, too. Many an aged and infirm inmate of the City Home has slept better for a spin beside her, into the country. Her skill was put to the test lately during the disaster, when she answered the urgent call for drivers and sat at her wheel, enduring with a fortitude which was truly marvellous, a strain which many a man might have buckled under. For twenty-four hours without a real break, and for many days after, Miss Dennis conveyed from the devastated district wounded and homeless persons, performing a never-to-be-forgotten service to her stricken city.

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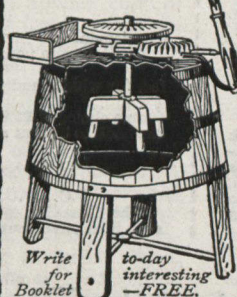
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