

How Silly of Us

ILLICITS THAT NEVER DIE.

The meter inspector says that the town for new shillings, under the impression that the heavier the more gas they will get. It is impossible to persuade them that it is the width and not the height of the coin that releases the gas, and a thin shilling gives the same amount of gas as a thick one. Another misconception is equally prevalent. This is that the way to dry a new house is to shut the doors and leave a gas jet burning. The heat makes the new paint sweat, and the moisture means of getting away, the room is beaded with drops of water and everything in it becomes rusty.

Things We Forget.

It takes a great deal of persuasion to get people to believe that the way to dry a place is to get a good draught of air through it. Open windows and an open fire with a good draught up the chimney will soon do the trick.

As regards to fires, most people declare that smoke rises, and if you tell them that smoke is really heavier than air they are unwilling to believe you. "Look at the fire," they say. "Watch the smoke go up the chimney. If it were heavier than air it would come out into the room."

Does Whisky Kill Germs? The sceptic will take the ingenuous outside the house on a full, cold day. He will soon become convinced that you are right and he is wrong.

Another proof is the way for settling over a town on a still day. Of the top of St. Paul's is bathed in sunlight while in the streets below Londoners group in funeral

is a child, you probably took the fashionable castor oil, which, to con- sider its taste, was floated on the top of milk or coffee. The average man therefore under the impression of all floats on every other liquid.

You want to have a little fun with your child, tell him how it will behave if he goes into the same glass with whisky. Brandy, being a spirit, is of a lighter specific gravity than oil, and in this case the oil goes to the bottom and the brandy floats on top.

Don't Believe Them. A fallacy that is not so amusing, be- cause its consequences may be seri- ous, is that the addition of spirits to water "kills the germs in it"—in other words, sterilizes it. As a matter of fact, it does nothing of the sort, and the water is still bad even when mixed with whisky.

Another misconception is that freex- kills all germs, and therefore that the use of freex is always wholesome. This is a dangerous belief, for there are many diseases which strike down- from the sky, that earwigs can get into people's ears, and that a house cannot be built on sand are other popular fallacies so firmly be- lieved that it will take generations to remove them.

CONFEDERATION LIFE—

How We Got

Camouflage

NATURE USED IT IN THE VERY BEGINNING

People who think that camouflage came into being for the first time during the war are altogether wrong. Nature thought of camouflage in the very beginning, and for hundreds of years the chameleon has been a past-master in the art.

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The Shoe worth while—"K" F. SMALLWOOD'S—dec17,1

CHRISTMAS SLAUGHTER SALE

Bought at BANKRUPT PRICES

Thousands of Pairs of Boots, Shoes and Rubbers

Values such as these will act as Magnets in Drawing the Buying Crowds!

Tell Your Neighbours! Tell Your Friends! And I'll TELL THE WORLD that this is the GREATEST SHOE SALE EVER HELD IN ST. JOHN'S

SALESGIRLS WANTED! Apply Immediately **Sale Starts To-Morrow at 9 a.m.** **SALESGIRLS WANTED!** Apply Immediately

3000 PAIRS	EXTRA!	LADIES! A JOB LOT	YOU MUST SEE THESE	MEN!
Ladies' Rubbers SPECIAL 19c. ONLY	Ladies' Spats 19c.	Strap and Lace Shoes \$1.49	Men's Vici Kid Boots ONLY \$3.98	Extra Special Boots \$2.48 and up.
Ladies' Black Boots \$1.89	Ladies' Vici Kid Comfort Shoe \$1.59	DON'T MISS THIS! LADIES' Suede Strap Shoe \$1.89	BIG SPECIAL! Men's Sample Shoes HIGH GRADE \$3.97 and up	Boys' Tan Boots TO CLEAR \$1.98

Thousands of Pairs not mentioned in this Ad. You will find in the Store at **BANKRUPT PRICES!**

Boys' Boots	Misses' Patent Shoes	EXCELLENT GIFT FOR CHRISTMAS Ladies' Fancy Slippers	Child's Boots
SIZES UP TO 6 SPECIAL \$2.69	ONLY \$1.85	88c.	XMAS GIFT NOW 89c.

THE AMERICAN BOOT and SHOE STORE
10-12 New Gower Street

Just Folks.

By EDGAR GUEST.

CROSSES.

The thing we dread, seen far ahead,
Has countless hurts to fear,
But the past has taught by the night
We're taught.

We shall laugh in the coming year,
And the loss of to-day shall pass away
And the sting of it disappear.

We may fall to rise, for hope never dies.

'Tis only the dream that breaks,
And one victory sweet shall soften de-
fect.

And pay for the old mistakes;
For we smile at last, when the storm
is past.

And the dawn in beauty breaks.
Every conquering mind can look be-
hind
At the ghosts of its doubts and fears,
As the fearsome fright of a child at
night.

Eventually disappears;
So the thing we dread, as we look
ahead,
Stands a milestone for our years.

So stand you fast till the danger's past
Stand fast till the blow shall fall;
For the chance may be by the thing
you see.

You shall not be hurt at all.
And the day may dawn when the cross
you've borne
You shall gratefully recall.

Christmas Gifts of Beauty and Value at low cost. Ladies' Handkerchiefs direct from Ireland, boxes at 25c., 60c., 75c. and \$1.2. Values that will delight you at TEMPLETON'S.—dec17,31

We suggest Galters for Men, Women, Boys and Girls, at SMALLWOOD'S.—dec17,11

CONFEDERATION LIFE—

The Answered Prayer

Private Smith was feeling very wor-ried. He had been warned to prepare for guard duties. In the course of his assiduous preparations he managed by some mischance to break the blade of his bayonet. Unable to obtain another, he persuaded a comrade to make him a wooden substitute.

Smith appeared on parade, trusting that the sergeant wouldn't order fixed bayonets. But, alas, this was the very thing he did.

All fixed except Smith, who stood still.

"What's the matter with that man there?" roared the sergeant. "Why don't you do as you're told?"

"Sergeant," replied Smith, in a truly melancholy tone, "I am sorry I cannot draw my bayonet to-day. I promised my poor mother, when she was dying, that I would never draw steel on the anniversary of her death."

"Rot!" yelled the sergeant. "Fix your bayonet at once."

"Well, sergeant," answered Smith, "I must obey orders, I know; but—Oh, Heaven, turn it into a wooden one!"

With these words Smith drew his bayonet, and the sergeant fainted on the spot.

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The leopard's spots and the tiger's stripes are camouflage pure and sim- ple, for against a background of tall grass these animals are almost invisible.

The lion was spotted, too, till he left the forest for the desert sands. Then his coat became a golden brown to harmonize with his surroundings.

It is in the insect world that the art of camouflage is supreme. You see a piece of dry twig suddenly be- come alive, then behold the same transfiguration in what had seemed to be a young green leaf.

Colour, form, markings, are all so perfect that until that leaf-insect moves away you are certain it is not a leaf! Were it not for their camou- flage, both stick and leaf-insects would soon fall victims to wasps and bees.

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