

## CAREFUL OF THE FIRE.

The Stinky Hotel Keepers of Spain and Italy and of Spain, writes Mr. Hart in "Two Argonauts in Spain," the unfortunate tourists slowly freeze. The landlords display a touching solicitude about the stove. On days when fire is really needed to keep the guests warm they sometimes spend half their time trying to keep the servants from putting too much fuel on the fire.

To prevent Americans and other pyromaniacs from meddling with the fuel they often keep the coal bin locked. It is a touching spectacle to see a group of Americans shivering round a little stove; to see the servant enter, take out a key, unlock the coal bin, put two or three spoonfuls of coal in the stove and then lock the bin again; to see the gimlet eye of a Granadan landlord fastened on him from the office; then to see the hapless Americans sink back into their overcoat collars and wish they were back home.

As an instance of the desperation to which these cold hotels drive people I once in a Levantine hotel saw an elderly splinter seat herself in front of the stove in the men's smoking room, with her hair down, while an elderly female friend gave her a dry shampoo.

To the suggestion of the scandalized servants that she should finish this intimate toilet operation in her own room she replied briefly that she had found the only warm place in the hotel and proposed to finish the shampoo there, which she did.

## DREADFUL POISONS.

The Fumes of Mercury Methide Will Destroy the Face.

"The most dreadful poisons," said a chemist, "are only known to a few men. Mercury methide, for instance, the inhalation of whose fumes produces mercurial idiosyncrasy, can be manufactured by two Italians and by no one else in the world.

"Dithionite is a poison used in India. It, too, produces mercurial idiosyncrasy. A British army officer told me of a sad case—a case of two rival tailors, one of whom gave the other a small dose of dithionite. The victim of the drug remained an idiot all the rest of his life. He sat and moved his empty hands as though he were sewing. He was a formidable rival no longer.

"Mercurian produces a melancholy so great as to terminate nearly always in suicide. No government would permit the manufacture and sale of this poison.

"Dithionite, mercury methide, mercurian and some twenty other poisons are neither made nor sold in any public way. They are only experimented with. Such poisons would be formidable weapons in unscrupulous hands. Driving their victims to suicide or to insanity, they leave behind them nothing suspicious or untoward. The giver of these poisons is secure from any fear of punishment.

"Hence it is no wonder, is it, that the learned and good know such poisons keep their knowledge to themselves.

## A Bit of Stiffy.

"There is no Italian town more picturesque than the Sicilian capital, Palermo," writes a traveler. "In its port lie crowded the queerest coasting craft I have ever set eyes on. Sailing ships of all rigs, their hulls painted all the colors of the rainbow, nose up against the quay, where mule carts, whose drivers are shouting at the top of their voices, wait to take away the merchandise. The narrow street where the custom house officers examine the goods brought ashore is a place of terrible noise. When a driver, two clerks and two custom house officers are discussing the contents of a bale or a cask it seems as though murder must be committed within the next few seconds. But somebody signs something, the cart moves on, and everybody laughs."

## Value of Decayed Forests.

The decayed vegetation of forests has furnished to the fields their present fertility, upon which man depends for food. In the tree growth of virgin woods and in the floor of rotted foliage beneath are stored the accumulations of centuries. Nature does not care whether this growth is useful to the human race or not. It is left for us to encourage the growth of such trees as we find valuable to the exclusion of others. Thus an economical use is made of the resources at hand, and a new conception of the forest arises. The forest primeval becomes "woodlands," while the new "forest" includes only cultivated woods.

## The Palindromes.

A palindrome is a line or phrase that reads the same backward as forward. The Latin language is full of such linguistic freaks; the English has but few. One at least is inimitable. It represents our first parent politely introducing himself to Eve in these words: "Madam, I'm Adam."

From the Latin we have, "Roma, love will come to you suddenly with violence."

## Terms.

"Now, the good man," said the pompous stranger who had signed "Viscount Hardenside, London," on the register, "what are your terms here?"

"Cash in advance," replied the shrewd hotel clerk promptly.

## He'd Square the Circle.

"I understand that you are a geometer. Can you square the circle?"

"Yes, if I had a couple of thousand dollars I could square my circle of creditors."

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**BOECKH BRUSHES**  
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**Liquozone Free!**  
Any person who has been afflicted with Liquozone should write the Liquozone Co., 45-47 Wabash Ave., Chicago. They will send you an order on your druggist for a 50-cent bottle free, if you will state the disease to be treated.

**The Greatest Things Are the Simplest**  
The trouble with us is that we look too high and too far away for our chances. We forget that the greatest things are the simplest. In hunting for roses we trample the daisies under our feet. We are blind to the chances and blessings near us because we are looking so far away from them. Everything depends upon the power of the mind to see opportunities. It is the eye that can see the chance, the pluck and determination to lay hold of it and wring from it every possibility that we lack rather than the chance "to make good."—Orison Swett Marden in Success Magazine.

## Effect of Arsenic on the Face.

The slow absorption of many poisons changes in some more or less modified form the complexion, but arsenic and ammonia show their effect about as quickly as any. The popular belief that arsenic clears the complexion has led many silly women to kill themselves with it in small, continued doses. It produces a waxy, ivorylike appearance of the skin during a certain stage of the poisoning, but its terrible after effects have become too well known to make it of common use as a cosmetic.

## Opportunity.

You think that an opportunity must necessarily be something great and unusual, but the fact is the stepping stone to the place above you is in the very thing you are doing, in the way you do it. It does not matter what it is.

## Worst of All.

"So the specialist said you'd have to give up smoking for awhile, eh?"  
"Yes, and he also said I'd have to give up \$15 for good."

Time is the great comforter of grief, but the agency by which it works is exhaustion.

The woman who carries her age well shows the pride she has in it.

A woman's influence may be strong but she seldom uses it judiciously.

**DODD'S KIDNEY PILLS**  
CURES RHEUMATISM, BRIGHT'S DISEASE, DIABETES, GRAVEL, NEURALGIA, MIGRAINE, AND ALL KIDNEY DISEASES.  
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## THE ENCORE.

It Originated in France in the Seventeenth Century.

The beginning of the encore dates back to some time between 1645 and 1709, probably about 1680, when Louis XIV. demanded the repetition of certain parts of an opera. The opera was by Corneille, Fontenelle and Boileau, which was sung before his majesty, and the king was so pleased with certain parts that he asked to have them repeated. It took fully a century for the ordinary opera goer to obtain the king's prerogative for themselves. It came about in this way: Gluck had produced an opera which had been a failure; but, having rewritten the worst parts, he produced it again. One or two songs were accepted by the audience with applause, and one in particular was demanded a second time.

The most remarkable encores on record are those which were insisted upon by the late king of Bavaria. Before he was known to be insane, when merely thought eccentric, he had plays performed before him as the sole auditor, the curtain rising at midnight. If he liked the play he insisted on having it repeated at once. But, unlike most encores, he paid liberally for them.

Though our word "encore" is adopted from the French, they themselves do not make use of it in this connection. They call "Bis, bis," and obtain a repetition.

## THE RUSSIAN ICON.

It Is Simply a Religious Picture Misused by a Priest.

An icon is simply a religious picture, generally of little artistic merit, and the subject usually represented is either a Russian saint, some event in the life of Jesus Christ or the Virgin Mary. In the Greek church, as in other Christian churches, the worship of graven images is forbidden, but no objection is made to anything reproduced on a flat surface. Therefore icons are permitted in the form of mosaics, paintings, enameled or printed. They play an important part in the religious life of the Russians and are to be met with everywhere—in churches, public offices, private houses and shops. A picture to become an icon must be blessed by a priest, and it is then regarded not on itself as an ornament, but as an accessory in the worship of the Greek church. Icons are also worn on the person when they take the form of a plaque or a book with two leaves. Almost every soldier wears one on his bosom, and when he prays he takes out his icon and, opening it, kneels down before it as if it were a portable altar. Every regiment has its own icon, which it carries and would carry its banner when the regiment goes into battle.

## THE PRICE OF A LIFE.

How It Was Fixed Under the Old Anglo-Saxon Laws.

According to Anglo-Saxon laws, every man's life, including that of the king, was valued at a fixed price, and any one who took it could commute the offense by a money payment upon a fixed scale. The life of a peasant was reckoned to be worth 200 shillings, that of a man of noble birth 1,200 shillings, and the killing of a king involved the forfeiture in a payment of 7,200 shillings.

It has been pointed out that the king to the throne could thus get rid of the existing occupant by murdering him, and thereafter handing over the fine, according to the scale, to the exchequer, when his offense would be purged and his money would come back to himself, for in those days the sovereign received all fines as personal property. There is very little doubt that these rough means were practically applied in the case of some rulers of England in the pre-conquest period.—London Telegraph.

## Two Edged Punishment.

An English newspaper says that a schoolmaster was in the habit of punishing scholars who came late to school in the morning by keeping them in the afternoon. One who was five minutes late was kept in ten minutes and so on in proportion. One morning it chanced that the schoolmaster was half an hour late, and a smart boy among his pupils was not slow to remind him of the fact. "I'm very sorry for being late, boys," said the schoolmaster, with a twinkle in his eye, "and as I punish you it's only fair that you in turn should punish me, so you will all stay and keep me in for an hour this afternoon."

## A Browning Letter.

One of Browning's letters is a reply to a young poet who wrote asking Browning's advice about publishing a volume of poems. The reply, in part, is as follows and may serve a useful purpose to young poets of today as well: "It sounds strange and almost sad to me that I should be imagined of authority in this kind. I, who for years could not get a line printed except at my own expense, and I began half a century ago or more."

## Mistook the Panacea.

The Young Woman (surprised and indignant)—How dared you kiss me, sir? Penitent Young Man—Why, you said you'd like to see me do it. The Young Woman—But you know as well as I do that I said it with an exclamation point at the end!

## Setting.

Smith—Jones, I'm going to marry and settle down. Jones—Humph! You'd better remain single and settle up.

There was no full moon in the whole of February, 1898. According to astronomers, this will not occur again until the year 2409963.



She stood before her glass in the sitting-room. The girl she saw there had a well-tounded face and figure, expressive eyes, and her cheeks had the freshness of rose petals; her hair was wavy and beautiful. She looked well and strong. The reason for it is given in her own letter, as follows:

"I am glad to be able to testify to the merits of Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription for the many ills that women suffer with," writes Miss Gertrude Mitchell (President Young Ladies' Christian Endeavor Society) at Columbus, E. Detroit, Mich. "After many years of suffering and pain I took your medicine, and in a short time began to feel stronger, became more regular and had been my lot for so long. Continued its use until I was a well woman, and shall never cease to be very grateful that it was brought to my notice. I have no pains, and feel much stronger generally."

A healthy body will usually be a shapely body, and no means at hand will more quickly restore the womanly functions to a healthy state than Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription.

The proprietors of Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription now feel fully warranted in offering to pay \$100 in legal money of the United States, for any case of Leucorrhoea, Female Weakness, Prolapsus, or Falling of the Uterus, which they cannot cure. All they ask is a fair and reasonable trial of their means of cure. Could any test be more fair showing the faith of the makers. Send 50 one-cent stamps to Dr. R. V. Pierce, Buffalo, N. Y., for his Common Sense Medical Adviser—100c paper.

## A HOME SHAMPOO.

How to Clean the Scalp and Have the Hair Soft and Fluffy.

Washing the hair is a task most women dislike, and even the girl who can least afford the dollar a month necessary to a professional shampoo prefers to pay it at a sacrifice rather than bother to wash her own hair. Yet if the work is gone about in the right manner at home it need not be difficult at all.

The first thing is to prepare a shampoo liquid. Take a square inch of some good soap, shave it fine and dissolve it in half a cup of hot water. Then add a teaspoonful of violet ammonia and the raw white of an egg. Beat these thoroughly and strain through a wire sieve. Now stand with the head over a basin, pour a little of the shampoo over the scalp and rub brightly with both hands. Use all the liquid in this way, rubbing it thoroughly on the scalp. After this wash the scalp with several basins of warm water and then wash the long hair in the basin of water. Rinse by holding the head over the bathtub and pouring over it a stream of warm water, keeping the hair up until the water that drips from the hair is perfectly clean. Then dash with cold water to close the pores and prevent taking cold.

You are now ready to dry the hair. First wrap it in a thick towel and wring thoroughly. Then spread a dry towel across the back, throw the hair back and rub the scalp well and dry. It may take some time, but it is the best possible means of drying, acting as a massage too. Call in the aid of the sun if possible, but never use steam. Do not brush the hair until it is thoroughly dry. Then, as you brush, raise the hair, that the strands may be separated. After this combing will not be difficult, and when the hair is ready to go up it will be soft and fluffy.—Chicago News.

No girl ever learns much at school after she begins to press in her book the flowers the boys gave her.

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**Carter's Little Liver Pills.**  
Must Bear Signature of  
*Wm. Wood*  
See Fac-Simile Wrapper Below.  
Very small and so easy to take as sugar.  
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FOR HEADACHE, FOR DIZZINESS, FOR BILIOUSNESS, FOR TORPID LIVER, FOR CONSTIPATION, FOR SALLOW SKIN, FOR THE COMPLEXION.  
Cure Sick Headache.  
**Glenn & Co.,**  
WILLIAM ST.  
Import direct the finest Ceylon, Assam and China Tea, Black Gunpowder and Young Hyson, Best English Breakfast Tea 35c and 40c.

## M'GAHAN AND SCOBELLEFF.

The Newspaper Man's Picture of the Great Russian General.

McGahan was the correspondent who first described to Europe the Bulgarian atrocities. What a brilliant creature he was, with his steel blue eyes, his face as delicately chiseled as though it were of marble, his thin, light frame and that suggestion of absolute courage, iron resolve, underneath the almost feminine fineness of the features. He was one of the intimates of Scobelleff—indeed, the men were so attached to each other that Scobelleff nearly always insisted that McGahan should share his tent with him, and McGahan was in the tent of Scobelleff the night after the disastrous assault on Plevna. Scobelleff was, said McGahan, a wonderful picture of the horrors and terrors of war. His face was black with powder, his uniform was in rags, and his sword was twisted like a corkscrew. It is evident from this description that Scobelleff took part with his own hand in some of the work of the day. There was a sequel, by the way, to this picture. I am not quite sure whether McGahan published it, but he told it to me. Scobelleff was always a dandy. Even in leading a charge he was dressed with dandified precision. In the middle of the night McGahan was woken up, and he saw Scobelleff dressing himself with great care, putting on a new uniform and even perfluming his hair and clothes. And then came another transformation. Scobelleff, his elaborate toilet finished, sat down on his bed and burst into a shower of tears and a tempest of sobs, thinking over all his poor men who had been so vainly sacrificed in the attempt to gain the fortress.—London M. A. P.

## SHE GOT HER BAGGAGE.

Mrs. Isabelle Bishop Was a Self Possessed Traveler.

Mrs. Isabelle Bishop, whose travels in different parts of the world secured for her membership in the British Royal Geographical society, visited America when she was a young woman. She was unused to travel and was alone when she had the following experience:

Once in a train going to New York she was dreadfully tired, and yet she had a feeling that if she went to sleep the man sitting next her would pick her pocket. She struggled for some time against her inclination to sleep; but, having for a moment given way, she awakened to feel the hand of her neighbor gently withdrawing her purse from her pocket.

In her purse, besides some money, which was, comparatively speaking, of small moment, was her baggage check. That was the only thing that really mattered. If she accused her neighbor of theft, nothing was simpler for him than to drop the purse out of the open window beside which he was sitting. No she determined she would leave any interference until they arrived at their destination.

She secured the services of a porter and, with apparent calmness, followed her traveling companion down the platform. Having described her baggage to the porter, she at the critical moment bowed slightly to the pickpocket and with a airy smile, said, "This gentleman has my baggage check." And he immediately presented it to her.

## A Well Conducted Riot.

In 1767, irritated by the high price of provisions, the poor people of England rose in many parts and seized the corn from the flour mills, which they sold at reasonable prices, giving the money to the rightful owners—a well conducted riot that caused a law to be passed against the eighteenth century cornering of wheat. But, a severe winter following, the distress became so great that the London common council ordered £50,000 to be subscribed out of the city funds and that "a subscription book should be opened for the donations of all well disposed persons." "By this noble plan," says a writer of that time, "great numbers of people were happily relieved from the most abject state of distress."

## Wax Matches.

Wax matches, so called, are made by drawing strands of fine cotton thread, twenty or thirty at a time, through melted tallow, with a small admixture of paraffin. The wax hardens quickly upon the threads, and the long tapers thus produced are smoothed and rounded by pulling them through iron plates perforated with holes of the desired size. Finally the tapers are cut into match lengths and dipped.

## The Bessing Sin of "Gentlemen."

All people above the condition of laborers are ruined by excess of stimulus and nonshameful, clergy included. I never yet saw any gentleman who ate and drank as little as was reasonable. Looking back on my past life, I find that all my miseries of body and mind have proceeded from indigestion.

## Knew Him.

He was looking for a rich wife and thought he was on the trail. "I love you," he said in soft, warm tones, "more than I can tell in words." "You'd better try figures," she replied coldly, for she was not so green as she looked.

## The "Governor" Was Enough.

"Charles, have you ever considered going into any business?" "Now, the governor wanted me to last year, but I told him, don'tcher know, it was enough to have one tradesman in the family."

The readiest and surest way to get rid of ennui is to correct ourselves.—Demosthenes.

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and pleasure, too,  
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**Surprise Soap**  
It makes child's play of washday  
—and every day a happy day.  
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cleanses easily—without  
injury. Remember  
**Surprise**  
is a  
pure, hard Soap

## THE SCHOOLTEACHER.

How a Young Man Fresh From College Makes His Start.

A young man fresh from college who decides to become a schoolteacher has many things to consider. The profession, if it can be called a profession, is still unorganized. No standard of excellence, no diploma certifying ability, is required. Methods of teaching in public schools in New York state are very different from those in Colorado, and those in Utah are different from those in Buffalo. There are private schools of all kinds. There are almost as many methods of teaching arithmetic as there are of teaching vocal music. To obtain his first position he ordinarily joins an agency. He takes to the agency his record at college, supplemented by as many pleasant recommendations from his professors as possible, pays his yearly fee and promises the agency a certain percentage—5 per cent usually—of his first year's salary. Occasionally his college will find a place for him in one of the schools that prepare directly for it. At any rate, he will find without great difficulty a position.

Once in a train going to New York she was dreadfully tired, and yet she had a feeling that if she went to sleep the man sitting next her would pick her pocket. She struggled for some time against her inclination to sleep; but, having for a moment given way, she awakened to feel the hand of her neighbor gently withdrawing her purse from her pocket.

## CHARMING DOLLY MADISON.

The Greatest of All the Mistresses of the White House.

To define the charm of a charming woman is always difficult. Dolly Madison's features were not regular, nor was her figure perfect. She was not witty, nor was she wise, and she participated little if at all in her husband's intellectual life. Nevertheless she stands out as the greatest of all mistresses of the White House, and her popularity was unbounded. She ruled over her world in Washington with genial good nature and instinct.

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