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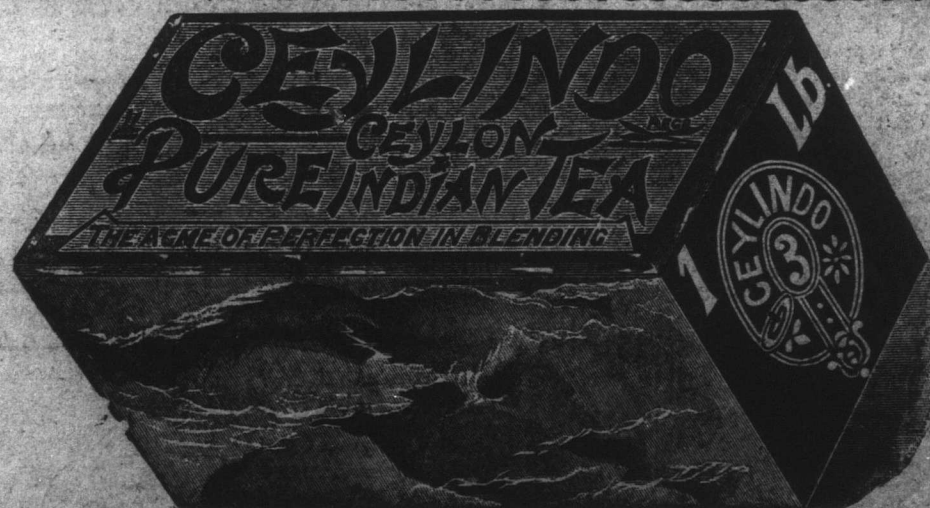
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SIDE TALKS.

By Ruth Cameron.

PERSONALITY IN INSECTS.

Did it ever occur to you that there is a vast difference in the personality of insects? Before you laugh at that, stop and think what a different feeling one has toward the different insects that intrude themselves upon our attention.

The ant is the insect which started this train of thought with me. I love to kill flies. I hate to kill ants. Even when I find them crawling hopelessly up the sides of my sugar bowl I am apt to warn them off and give them a chance for their lives. With a fly it is different; one has a feeling of positive virtue when one succeeds in swatting one. Perhaps this is purely because the fly has a chance to get away and is therefore fair game, while an ant is so helpless that it doesn't seem sportsmanlike to kill it.

The Difference.

But I think it is also because the ant is a cleaner, more amiable insect. There is a thrift, a business-likeness about him that makes one respect him. The fly, on the other hand, has been widely press-agented as unclean, and on top of that he is just plain pestiferous. He walks in unspeakable places and then wipes his feet on your food. There is something unspeakably offensive in his buzzing. It is fairly insulting. He reminds me of the people of whom George Elliott says that "their very good morning is charged with offense." There may be something more maddening than a fly buzzing about one's head at five in the morning, but I do not know what it is.

Bees buzz, but there is something entirely different about their buzzing. It may harp but it does not annoy. I cannot bear to kill a bee. If one comes into my house I always conduct him carefully out with the aid of a bottle and a piece of paper slipped over its nozzle, a trick left over from childhood when I used to catch them that way.

I suppose our respect for the bee proceeds partly from the feeling that he is a useful member of society, that he is doing something worth while and should be encouraged. One certainly does not seem to have the same kindly feeling for the hornet.

Varying Antipathies.

Antipathies to members of the insect world vary with different people and seem to be rather subjective than objective. For instance, I have a sister who has a mortal terror of a June bug. Personally, I don't mind any kind of beetle (except the great big ones with pinchers). I keep all my antipathy for worms and things that squash. Beetles have such nice, hard, unquashable shells; I think they are quite respectable. But anything that squashes fills me with horror. I really think I mind a large, fat, fuzzy caterpillar more than a snake.

To think that I was about to close this paper without mentioning the one creature about whom most people feel the most strongly, especially just about this time of the year! I don't suppose I need to name him. Other insects may have friends, but I cannot believe this one has a friend in the world. It is the fashion these days to praise the ugly and defend the defenceless. Truly a fit task for the ultra radical's pen would be an essay "In Praise of the Mosquito."

on out of condition, "kipper" is now associated with a herring cured in a particular way.

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Just Folks.

By EDGAR A. GUEST.

TELLING IT TO KITTY O'GRADY. So you'd play the lady, Miss Kitty O'Grady?

You'd sit in the parlor as nice as you please. An' wear your silk dresses, an' fuss with your tresses. An' let your white fingers run over the keys. With your elegant manner, you'd strum the piano, An' merrily warble a ballad or two. Though work may be painful, don't act so disdainful. Come out in the kitchen, there's dishes to do!

Come out to your duty, my proud, hang-dog beauty. Those hands would look finer now holding a broom. I know it's a pity, but you can look pretty. An' powder your nose when you've dusted the room. The parlor is cosy, but you're not a posy. You're no pink geranium stuck in a vase. Come out here, I need you! Don't think that I feed you. Just for the smirk on your beautiful face.

"Twere better, my lady, to be an O'Grady. Plain Kitty O'Grady who works when she must. Than your time to spendin' with sham and pro-adin'. An' know that your dreams will all vanish in dust. 'The truth that I'm statin' the work that your batta' will fall to you some day in spite of your prayers. Though your smile is bewitchin', there's always the kitchen. The kitchen of life with its duties an' care.

The parlor can never be sat in forever. With a home of your own you will learn that is true. An' the finest of places gets all of its grace. From the dustin' and sweepin' the women folk do. So don't be ashamed of the work you do. Don't think it beneath you an' turn up your nose. For a lady's a lady, Miss Kitty O'Grady. Even when into the kitchen she goes.

Why is a Kipper so Called

"Kipper" comes originally from the Dutch word meaning "to spawn" or hatch, and was first applied to salmon, which during the spawning season become unpalatable. The male salmon in particular grows a sort of beak with which to fight his rivals and this "kip" as it was called, by preventing him from feeding properly, makes him lean and out of condition.

So that the flesh of these fish should not be wasted, the practice was adopted of splitting the fish open, removing the organs, and then taking away some of the unpleasant taste by salt smoking the rest.

Later on the same plan was adopted for other fish, especially herring, which sometimes were caught in too great numbers to allow of their being eaten fresh, and the word "kipper" was also given to them.

So that from meaning a male salmon

Tunnel-Making Marvels.

Water is the Tunnel Engineer's Greatest Enemy.

All sorts of unexpected difficulties crop up in the course of tunnel-construction work.

When the London Metropolitan Railway line was being extended in an easterly direction, it was found necessary to underpin a church near Aldgate which threatened to collapse as a result of the disturbance of its foundations.

Another City church became the site of boring operations during the construction of an underground railway. All the pews were removed from the church and a shaft was sunk through the floor. Through this shaft thousands of tons of earth were thrown up and as many thousands of tons of material taken down.

The engineers responsible for the construction of the Central London Railway had the greatest difficulty in completing their scheme, owing to the presence of an underground river near Westbourne Grove. Similar trouble was experienced in making the great Dove Holes Tunnel, between Manchester and Derby.

Fish in a Tunnel. Water springs, gushing from the rocks, caused a delay of three years in the building of this tunnel, as well as the expenditure of much additional capital. The tunnel is unique in that it shelters a stream which, incidentally, is still inhabited by fish.

Until recently the Oxted tunnel, a few miles south of Croydon, baffled the most expert engineers in the kingdom. The tunnel burrows deeply into the North Downs, and at intervals great cracks appeared through which water poured in considerable quantities.

Examining the tunnel alone occupied several months, while the task of repairing it took two years. But most tunnelling undertakings in this country pale before those of other parts of the world. The recent completion of the second tunnel through the Simplon Pass, in the Alps, for example, marked the end of a long series of big fights with Nature, in which man was very heavily defeated on several occasions.—Pearson's Weekly.

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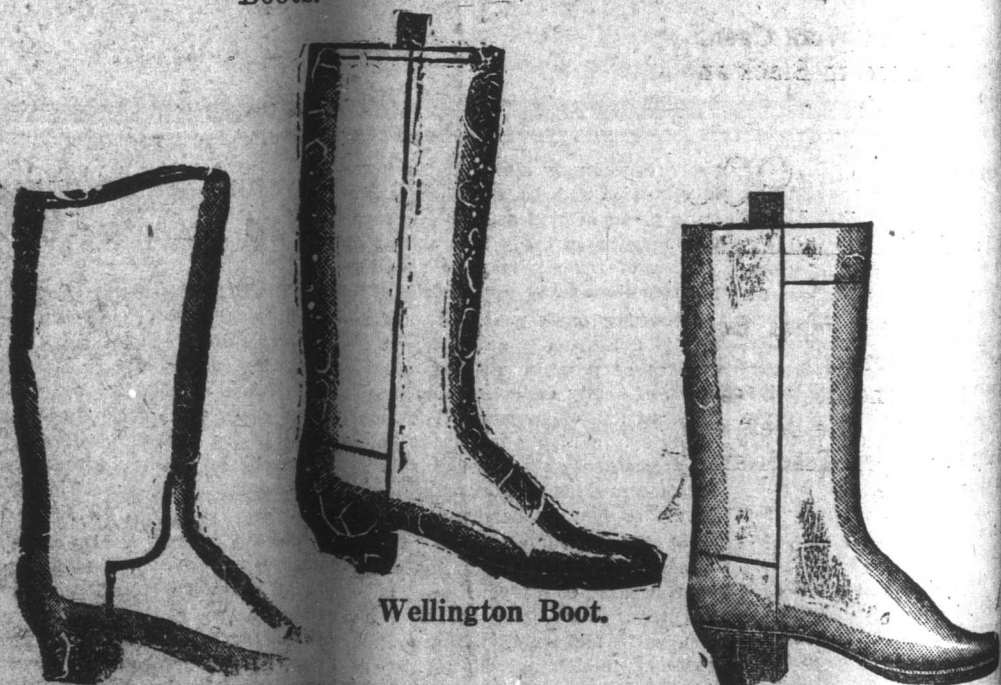
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