

His Own.

A rather amusing story is told of a certain so-called "popular preacher," the Rev. Dr. D——, whose marvellous powers of eloquence invariably gathered him large audiences. People wondered at his sermons, and proclaimed him an intellectual genius. Now the doctor was a plagiarist, who patched up his exceedingly poor sermons by introducing here and there passages from the sermons of celebrated divines; but the ingenious way in which he accomplished this prevented discovery. Then, too, his audiences, he calculated, were not students of theology and therefore not likely to detect his appropriations. But in this he made his mistake, and his exposure took place as follows:

One day an elderly gentleman entered the church and took a seat in the first row. As the doctor proceeded with his sermon the gentleman broke in now and then with such remarks as, "That's Sherlock," "Ah! from Tillotson," "Now it's Blair," etc.

The doctor stood it for a little while, but, at last, full of wrath, he said, "My dear sir, if you do not restrain your impatient remarks and hold your tongue, I'll have you ejected."

The elderly gentleman, looking the doctor calmly in the face, said, "That's his own."—Harpers Round Table.

Chinese Business Methods.

It is well known that in matters of business the Chinese are, in general, entirely honest. Mr. Cameron, now at the head of the Hong Kong and Shanghai banking corporation in London, was for many years the head of the branch of that bank at Shanghai. Before he left Shanghai a few years ago he was given a banquet at which he made a speech, and therein stated that the bank had had dealings of hundreds of millions of pounds sterling with the Chinese, and it had never lost a penny. This honesty, however, may be said to be a matter which is enforced by law, because in China they have a family responsibility for the debts of all the members of the family—the parents, brothers and sisters, uncles and aunts are responsible, and their property is sequestered to pay the debts of any member of the family. Three times a year the Chinese settle their debts. The chief settlement occurs in their New Year; and it is the height of dishonor to allow the New Year to pass without settling all scores.—Hon. Charles Denby, in Collier's Weekly.

Solitude.

The need of solitude is beginning to be recognized by those who note the frightful waste of force that results from incessant companionship, and wise was the woman who, when addressing a graduating class of girls lately, recommended that each of the young women who pursued the calling of teacher should have a room to herself. All women and girls—and for that matter men also—who are engaged in occupations that tax the mental powers, should be able to command solitude and quiet for the leisure hours, and herein

lies a sharp contrast between the possibilities of the comfortably circumstanced and the rich, on one side, and the poor on the other—the attainment of privacy. To shut not only the world, but one's friends and one's family, out for a time every day, is to save much foolish wear and tear of the nervous system, and to stave off growing old.—Philadelphia Ledger.

The Fears of Children.

A little girl frequently fancied she saw bears and tigers whenever she happened to wake in the night. Presumably she dreamed of some danger, maybe on account of having eaten too much for supper or having eaten the wrong kind of food. At any rate, she frequently awoke crying in the night, and in her fear interpreted the dim outlines of a dress or a

curtain as a fearful beast that was about to attack her. The best thing to do is to deal tenderly with such fancies, and remove the child as far as possible from the object that has caused her excitement. Then, if you do so without disturbing the other children, light the lamp and let it fall full on the thing that has given rise to her fear. Be slow, and express your opinion first as a kind of a preliminary assumption that the bear may after all be mamma's skirt or the curtain moving in the draft, and when this comforting probability is understood, follow up your advantage, and declare it to be a good joke that a harmless piece of cloth should look like a fearful animal. Make the child smile at the incongruity of her fancy and her laugh will cure the horror of the dream and dispel the nightmare as sunshine dissolves the mist.—The Arena.

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