

AN alderman once called on Dr. Francis, when the following dialogue took place:—"Doctor, I have a strong tendency to gout, what shall I do to arrest it?" "Take a bucket of water and a ton of anthracite three times a week." "How?" "Drink the former, and carry the latter up three pair of stairs."

A scholar in a country school was asked, "How do you parse, Mary milked the cow?" The last word was disposed of as follows: "Cow, a noun, feminine gender, third person, and stands for Mary." "Stands for Mary! How do you make that out?" "Because," added the intelligent pupil, "if the cow didn't stand for Mary, how could she milk her?"

THE following notice once appeared on an Irish church door:—"This is to give notice that no person is to be buried in this churchyard but those living in the parish. Those who wish to be buried are desired to apply to me, Ephriam Grub, parish clerk." Here is another kindred specimen:—"Notice—The churchwardens will hold their quarterly meetings once in six weeks instead of half-yearly as formerly."

THE Princess Louise will be accompanied on her return to Canada by two newly-appointed ladies-in-waiting. Lady Sophia Macnamara remains in England. The Princess will pay another visit to England in the autumn.

THE Duke of Argyll was once giving evidence before a committee of the House of Commons on the temperance question. "But," said a member inquiringly, "one Bailie Macpherson, apparently a person of authority, deposes that he never saw any one drunk in his district?" "Very likely," replied His Grace, "Scotchmen will hardly allow a man to be drunk so long as he can lie still on the floor."

WHEN the Princess Louise (Marchioness of Lorne) came to Inverary Castle the Duke of Argyll made his tenants a great feast, and himself called on them to give "Three cheers for the Princess, my daughter."

WHOEVER finds a four-leaved clover is generally a liar. It is so much easier to detach one leaf from a five-leaved stalk than to hunt for one with four that the temptation to mendacity is too much for average clay.

MR. BOHM, the sculptor, has for some time been engaged on a bust of Mr. Gladstone, but finds it difficult to get sittings. Lord Rosebery asked Mr. Bohm to stay at Dalmeny during that memorable week of ovations and orations to meet Mr. Gladstone. When Mr. Gladstone heard Mr. Bohm was going he said: "Ah, that is a good thing, for I shall have plenty of leisure that week and can give you some sittings."

THE oldest newspaper in Ireland has just passed out of existence—*Saunders' News Letter and Daily Advertiser*. It counted its volumes from 1688, and for many years it was a familiar and flourishing "institution" in Ireland. In the days of our grandfathers no breakfast table was complete in Ireland that hadn't *Saunders* on it with the tea and toast. Several fortunes were made by it. Like many other ancient "institutions," it experienced severe reverses of fortune within the last twenty years. Ultimately it found itself in the Bankrupt Court, where it was purchased by its last owner for a trifle. He failed to work it up, and it was subsequently offered for sale by auction. There wasn't a single offer for it, and now the shutters are up in the old house in Dame street, Dublin, and the old paper is dead.

A BOY apparently very much agitated, rushed into the house and said to the lady:—"I don't want ter alarm yer, but I've got big news. The man sent me up from the livery stable to tell yer." "Good heavens! what is it?" "Why, you know your little boy Aleck, what the man can't keep out'n the livery stable around the corner?" "Yes—well?" "I told Aleck just now not to go inter the stable among the horses, but he wouldn't mind me." "Oh dear! what has happened?" "He said he wanted to see what a mule 'd do when yer tickled its heels with a straw." "Oh heavens!" gasped the lady, and clung to the mantel piece for support. "Well, sir, yer boy Aleck got a straw, snuck up behin' a sorrel mule, tickled him on the heels, an'—" The lady started for the door. "An the critter never lifted a hoof," called the boy. "Never so much as switched his tail. It's a mighty good thing for Aleck that it didn't, too; an' I thought I'd come up and tell yer." And he dodged out at the side entrance.