

CHIT-CHAT AND CHUCKLES.

If an untruth is only a day old it is called a lie; if it is a year old it is called a falsehood; but if it is a century old it is called a legend.

"What is home without a mother?" It's a place where the girls sit up with their fellows until they hear the old man coming in the gate about midnight."

The dog corps in the French army is being carefully trained at Belfort. Large dogs are chosen. Every day they are shown soldiers in German uniforms and taught to fly at them on sight.

When baseball pitchers get \$5,000 a season and sluggers capture that much in 30 minutes, what encouragement is there for a man spending half a dozen years wrestling with the classics?

Misprints on occasions are of a very painful nature. The editor of a Temperance paper who wrote, "Getting drunk is folly," was horrified to read in his sheet next day that "Getting drunk is jolly."

It was a typical Parisienne who once said to a friend in a burst of confidence: "Oh, ma chere, there is, believe me, nothing so aggravating as a jealous husband; but then, you know, I cannot imagine anything so humiliating as a husband who is not so!"

Some baseball pitchers get \$3,000 a season. Some pitchers only get \$1 a day and found, but the latter pitch hay instead of a ball. A young man who pitches hay may be as valuable a citizen as the man who pitches a ball, but he doesn't get his portrait printed in the papers.

An eye-witness writes that a funeral at Venice is very curious. A gondola in black and silver comes for the body at the house of mourning. The coffin is put in the open boat, and the family and the priests then get in and sit around it. The gondoliers are dressed in black and silver and they row towards the cemetery, which stands in the middle of a broad lagoon.

WHY HE DID NOT WASH THEM.—"Oh, no ma'am," pleaded the tramp, "you may think my life all sunshine, but it ain't. Wherever I go I am beset with dangers. In short, ma'am, I carry my life in my hands."

"Ah, I see!" exclaimed his temporary hostess, "that accounts for your not washing your hands. You don't dare to do it for fear you'll drown yourself."

HE HAD ATTENDED TO THAT.—Omaha man—Jump-up quick, the house is on fire.

Wife—But I've no clothes on.

"Tell folks you've just come from a party."

"And John my hair isn't—"

"That's safe; I just threw it out of the window."

AN ENGLISH STORY FROM PARIS.—Another of those Englishmen, how they are bizarre! Sir William Dragg hailed a cab at Brighton about a year ago, and told the driver to take him to the pier, off which Sir Dragg had his yacht. He told the cabman to wait for him, meaning to cruise about off Brighton for an hour or two; but, changing his mind, he determined to go around the world. This cabman waited and waited, and finding that his "fare" did not come back, he obtained leave from the municipality to erect a shelter for himself and horse. Here he waited for more than a twelvemonth, when the other day Sir Dragg returned with his yacht, and was not at all surprised to find the cabman waiting for him. "How much do I owe you?" he said, and upon the cabman handing him a bill for £600 he tore a cheque out of his book filled it up for the amount, and told the man to drive to his hotel. To illustrate the extortionate character of the cabman, the man asked Sir Dragg for his fare from the pier to the hotel.—*Paris Gaulois*.

The Popular Science Monthly for February says:—

Sirius' mass is fully 20 times the sun's, and since the character of Sirius' spectrum indicates that its intrinsic brightness, surface for surface, is much superior to the sun's, it is probable that our estimate of the star's actual brilliancy, as compared with what the sun would possess at the same distance, viz., 73 times, is near the truth. It is evident that life would be insupportable upon the earth if it were placed as near to Sirius as it is to the sun. If the earth were a planet belonging to the system of Sirius, in order to enjoy the same amount of heat and light it now receives, it would have to be removed to a distance of nearly 800,000,000 miles, or about 8½ times its distance from the sun. Its time of revolution around Sirius would then be nearly 5½ years; in other words, the year would be lengthened 5½ times.

But Sirius is probably not the greatest sun of the visible universe. There is little doubt that Canopus, in the Southern hemisphere, is a grander sun than Sirius. To our eyes Canopus is only about half as bright as Sirius, and it ranks as the second star in the heavens in the order of brightness. But while Sirius' distance is measurable, that of Canopus is so unthinkably immense that astronomers can get no grip upon it. If it were only twice as remote as Sirius it would be equal to two of the latter, but the probability is its distance is much greater than that. And possibly even Canopus is not the greatest gem in the coronet of creation.

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