

tates the breaking up of these vessels in England, several third-class powers were robbed of the opportunity of picking up a navy at bargain prices.

The flounder is an industrious fish, and lays seven million eggs in a year.

There are in the world, as nearly as can be computed, 1,480,000,000 people.

Remains of irrigation systems 4,000 years old have been excavated in South Africa.

Food valued at \$2,175 is brought into Great Britain every minute of the day and night.

Greece is said to be the poorest country of Europe. Her total wealth amounts to \$1,000,000,000, or about half that of Switzerland.

Austria's great salt mine at Wieliczka has 600 miles of galleries and employs 9,000 miners. It has been worked for over sixteen centuries.

Brain Leaks.

Sin has no sex.

A man is never alone with a good book.

The pasture is always richer on the far side of the fence.

A son always feels younger after visiting with the "old folks."

How annoying it is to have anybody else's child cry at the theatre.

It is never difficult to find an excuse for those we really love.

A man wastes time if he gives all of it to watching his enemies.

The "unwritten law" is merely the safety valve of human nature.

The richest men are those who make the most of what they can get.

Lawyers never quarrel over the estate of a man who leaves nothing but a good name.

A home that has cost nothing in the way of sacrifice is usually only a mere stopping place.

Speaking of "brain storms," is your wife showing symptoms of the fall house-cleaning fever.

Some men practice so long after a good start that they are utterly exhausted when the pistol cracks.

Just because they cannot make a silk purse out of a sow's ear a lot of men never try to make anything.

If the "innocent purchaser" law were repealed it would suddenly educate a lot of men who now profess ignorance.

When a man fails everybody is ready to give the reason for it. When a man succeeds everybody is ready to express surprise.

Some men chloroform their consciences and then claim immunity because they had no intimation they were doing wrong.

Women usually have a hard time with parliamentary practice because it is so hard for them to keep track of the previous question.

We are going to write a scathing article about the outlandish shapes of women's hats just as soon as we learn why a man buys a high crowned soft hat and then punches it full of dents.

A lot of people doubt the efficacy of prayer because they only try it when they feel like asking for something they want. Those who ask for what they need seldom express any doubts.

Catching Sturgeon in Russia.

The Cossacks of the Ural have a singular way of catching sturgeon, and it is a method unknown in any part of Europe. At certain times in winter the men assemble in large numbers by the side of the river and, dismounting from the horses, cut a deep trench across the stream from one of its banks to the other. They lower the nets into the water and arrange them so as to block up the entire channel. Then getting on their horses, they ride for seven or eight miles along the banks. They form a line of

horsemen reaching from shore to shore and gallop down in the direction of the nets.

The fish, hearing the clatter of hundreds of hoofs, swim away from the sound and dart like lightning in the opposite direction. Here the course is at once arrested and they become entangled in the trammels. The quantity of sturgeon is at times so large that the sheer weight of the fish is sufficient to force a passage through the nets, a blank day being the result of the fishermen. In England the sturgeon is looked upon as being rather poor eating and as unfit for the table, but in Russia it is highly appreciated. When served up in cold slices, with jelly and horseradish sauce, it is by no means to be despised. The part of the sturgeon most liked by the Russians is the roe (the famous caviare). A Russian will take this out while the fish is almost alive and devour it with the greatest relish, for the fresher the roe the better it is liked. In order to give an idea of the abundance of the eggs of this great fish, it is stated that the weight of the roe will equal nearly one-third of the weight of the whole animal.

There are three kinds of caviare in Russia, the quite fresh, when no salt has been added, then the slightly salted, which is the kind generally exported to England and other parts of Europe, and, finally, the pressed caviare, which is the second quality pressed into cakes. This is used for sandwiches and other relishes. A little caviare and a glass or so of Russian vodka taken a minute before sitting down at the dinner table gives a wonderful stimulus to the appetite.

Another Use for X Rays.

"In the state archives at Rome," says Electricity, "it has been found that the X-rays may successfully exhibit the writing on manuscripts concealed in old book covers whenever this writing is done in red lead, ultramarine blue, or cinnabar. They are being used also in attempts to detect forgeries of paintings and in efforts to discover signatures of old masters in paintings alleged to have been produced by them."

The same paper also reports that Professor Ottolenghi, of the University of Siena, has discovered that while it is easy to apply the rays to the lungs of a person who is alive or in a trance, it is extremely difficult, indeed impossible, to apply them to the lungs of a person actually dead. The reason was that some intervening obstacle prevented the rays from penetrating into the body. Over and over again he made a test of this kind, and in each case the result was the same. He suggests that as this test can easily be made by any physician, it should in future be used in all cases where doubt exists of death.

Wise and Otherwise.

Clothes are washed in electricity under the patent of a Hungarian, which throws a stream of electrified water, removing all spots and dirt.

The Japanese have started to build observatories and are buying telescopes in Boston.

During the past twelve months over 100,000,000 gallons of coal oil have been shipped from the United States to foreign countries.

Forest fires have swept through British Columbia, the Yukon territory and Alaska the past summer, destroying many millions of feet of timber.

This year \$36,000,000 worth of coal, petroleum, natural gas, stone, clay and cement were dug out of Indiana.

A year or two ago a well-known American, who was visiting China, was treated with great courtesy by a certain viceroy. When the American was about to leave he wished to convey to the viceroy some token of his appreciation. So he sent the dignitary an uncommonly fine bull pup he had brought from America. In a few days came the viceroy's acknowledgment of the gift. "I myself am not in the habit of eating that species of dog, but I may say that my suite had it served for breakfast, and accord it unqualified praise."

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