

**"The Little Cup-Bearer."**

The little cup-bearer entered the room,  
After the banquet was done,  
His eyes were like the skies of May,  
A glow with a cloudless sun,  
Knocking beside his master's feet,  
The feet of the noble king,  
He raised the goblet. "Drink, my bege,  
The offering that I bring."

"Nay, nay," the good king smiling, said,  
"But, first a faithful sign  
That thou bringest me no poison draught  
Taste thou, my page, the wine."  
Then gently, firmly spoke the lad,  
"My dearest master, no,  
Though at thy lightest wish my feet  
Shall gladly come and go."

"Rise up my little cup-bearer,"  
The king, astonished cried;  
"Rise up and tell me straightway, why  
Is my request denied?"  
The young page rose up slowly,  
With sudden paling cheek,  
While courtly lords and ladies  
Await to hear him speak.

"My father sat in princely halls,  
And tasted wine with you,  
He died a wretched drunkard, sire"—  
The brave voice tearful grew.  
"I vowed to my dear mother,  
Beside her dying-bed,  
That for her sake I would not taste  
The tempting poison red."

"Away with this young upstart!"  
The lords, impatient cry;  
But, spilling slow the purple wine,  
The good king made reply:  
"Thou shalt be my cup-bearer,  
And honoured well," he said,  
"But see thou bring not wine to me,  
But water pure instead."

**Newton's Childhood.**

SIR ISAAC NEWTON is the greatest of modern philosophers and mechanics. When he was born, December 25, 1642, three months after his father's death, he was so small and feeble that no one supposed he would live a day; but the weak infant grew to be a healthy, robust man, who lived until he was eighty-four years old. He began to invent or contrive machines and to show his taste for mechanics in early childhood. He inherited some property from his father; and his mother, who had married a second time, sent him to the best schools, and to the University of Cambridge. At school he soon showed his natural taste; he amused himself with little saws, hatchets, hammers, and different tools, and when his companions were at play, spent his time in making machines and toys. He made a wooden clock when he was twelve years old, and the model of a windmill, and in his mill he put a mouse, which turned the wheels by running around its cage. He made a water clock four feet high, and a cart with four wheels, not unlike a velocipede, in which he could drive himself by turning a windlass.

His love of mechanics often interrupted his studies at school, and he was sometimes making clocks and carriages when he ought to have been construing Latin and Greek. But his mind was so active that he easily caught up again with his fellow-scholars, and was always fond of every kind of knowledge. He taught the school-boys how to make paper kites; he made paper lanterns by which to go to school on dark winter mornings; and sometimes at night he would rouse the whole country round by raising his kites in the air with a paper lantern attached to the tail; they would shine like meteors in the distance, and the country people, then very ignorant,

would fancy them omens of evil, and celestial lights.

He was never idle for a moment. He learned to draw and sketch; he made little tables and sideboards for the children to play with; he watched the motions of the sun by means of pegs he had fixed in the wall of the house where he lived, and marked every hour.

At last, when he was about sixteen, his mother placed him in charge of a farm, and every Saturday he went with a servant to Grantham market to sell his corn and vegetables. But the affairs of the farm did not prosper; the young philosopher hid himself away in a room in a garret which he hired, studying mechanics, and inventing a water-wheel on a new model, while the sheep wandered away in the field, and the cattle devoured his corn.

Next he went to Cambridge University, and became a famous scholar. At the age of twenty-four he began his study of the spectrum, as philosophers call that brilliant picture of the colours of the rainbow, which is shown by the sun's rays shining through a three-sided piece of glass, called a prism. It is one of the most beautiful objects in science or nature, and Newton's study of its splendid colours led to his greatest discoveries of optics, or the science of the sight. In our time the use of the prism and its spectrum has shown us of what the sun and moon are composed.

One day, as Newton sat musing in his garden at his retired country home, an apple fell from a tree to the ground. A great idea at once rose in his mind, and he conceived the plan of the universe and of the law of gravitation, as it is called. He was the first to discover that famous law. He showed that the heavier body always attracts the lighter; that as the apple falls to the earth, so the earth is drawn toward the sun; that all the planets feel the law of gravitation, and that all the universe seems to obey one will. Newton soon became the most famous of living philosophers. But at the same time he was the most modest of men; he never knew that he had done anything more than others, nor felt that he was any more studious or busy. Yet he never ceased to show, even in late old age, the same love for mechanical pursuits and the study of nature he had shown when a boy. His most famous work, the Principia, proving the law of gravitation and the motion of the planets, appeared in 1687. He made beautiful prisms of glass and other substances, and fine, reflecting telescopes, the best that were yet known. He wrote valuable histories and works. He was always a devout Christian and scholar. He died in 1727, and was buried in Westminster Abbey.

Thus the puny babe that was scarcely thought worth the care of his nurses, became an active and healthy boy and man, with the clearest mind of his time. He was stout, ruddy, healthy, and never, it is said, lost a tooth. But he preserved his health by avoiding all that was hurtful. He was a philosopher at twelve years old, and the world owes much of its progress to Newton's well-spent childhood.—*Harper's Young People.*

THAT cannot be good for the bee that is bad for the swarm.—*R. W. Emerson.*

**Boys' and Girls' Temperance Lessons.****LESSON VII.****Alcohol and the Human Brain.**

QUESTION. What is the distinctive office of the brain?

ANSWER. The brain is the organ of the mind.

Q. What is the mind?

A. The mind is that part of us which thinks, and reasons, and feels.

Q. How may the mind be further described?

A. The mind is the highest and noblest part of man, that which distinguishes us from, and elevates us above, the brutes, and in which is our special likeness to our Creator, God.

Q. What is the greatest calamity that can befall a human being?

A. The greatest calamity that can befall a human being is, to have the mind unbalanced, or impaired, or destroyed.

Q. What is the first effect of alcohol on the mind?

A. The first effect of alcohol on the mind is to unbalance it?

Q. How is the mind unbalanced by alcohol?

A. By irritation, and thus exciting some portions of the brain to great and unhealthy activity.

Q. What portions of the brain are thus, usually, first irritated and excited?

A. Those portions of the brain are first irritated and excited which lie in the lower part of the head, although the coverings of the brain become highly irritated also.

Q. Why are these portions soonest irritated and excited?

A. Because here the veins are largest and the blood finds its readiest and completest flow.

Q. What part of the mind has its seat in this lower part of the brain?

A. The appetites and passions, which need to be kept in perpetual restraint.

Q. What is the common effect of this unnatural excitement?

A. The common effect of this unnatural excitement is vicious excesses of all kinds—sensuality, bad temper, quarrelling, fighting, cruelty, murder.

Q. If drinking alcohol becomes a confirmed habit, what is its next effect upon the mind?

A. It impairs it, weakens it, makes it both unwilling and unfit for work, and takes from it the power to do its best.

Q. What is the final effect of the continued and increasing drinking of alcohol on the mind?

A. The continued and immoderate drinking of alcohol impairs the mind hopelessly and forever, and the poor drunkard often becomes a mindless animal.

Q. What, then, is the general effect of alcohol on the immortal and godlike part of man?

A. The general effect of alcohol on the mind, the immortal and godlike part of man, is injurious always when used at all; injurious greatly when used habitually; injurious to ruin when the drinking habit is fixed, the will paralyzed, and the insatiate appetite made supreme.

Q. And what does all this mean?

A. It means not only the loss of the life which ends here, but the loss of the life which never ends.

Q. Where is the only safety?

A. The only safety is, IN LETTING IT WHOLLY ALONE.

**Puzzledom.**

Answers to Puzzles in Last Number.

23.— U ru S  
N ot T  
I de A  
T an T  
E rk E  
D ia S

24.—Garfield.

25.—Gladiator.

26.—Peri, ripe.

Mien, mine.

Vase, save.

**NEW PUZZLES.****27.—CHARADES.**

A mat; a vowel; a low piece of land. A town in Mexico.

28.—Part of the body; to inclose; a sleeping-place; a well-known publisher.

**29.—DIAMOND.**

A consonant; block; an apostle; a number; a letter.

**30.—ENIGMA.**

10, 8, 12, 13, 11, 16, 5, mode of punishment; 15, 4, 5, 8, 12, a musical instrument; 14, 11, 15, a metal; 7, 11, 12, 1, part of a bird; 9, 3, 4, 2, an inflamed part; 14, 6, 16, a number.

A HEARTY MEAL.—A woman from Cape Girardeau, Mo., who had suffered from a husband's neglect, traced him to a bar-room, where he was playing cards with several companions. Setting a covered dish she held in her hands down upon the table, she said, "Presuming, husband, that you were too busy to come to dinner, I have brought you yours," and departed. With a forced laugh he invited his friends to dine with him, but on removing the cover from the dish found only a slip of paper, on which was written: "I hope you will enjoy your meal; it is the same your family have at home."

AN old Dutch dominie in the country, the Rev. Dr. —, was a shrewd man, and he once had a baulky horse, which always stopped at the foot of a certain hill, and took his own time for starting. One pleasant morning the dominie concluded he would try his way of curing the horse, so he put a day's provision and a day's reading into his carriage, and started for the hill. At the foot the horse baulked as usual. The doctor laid down the reins, and took out his book. After waiting some time the horse concluded he would go, but with rein and voice the doctor forbade it, so they stayed there all that day till it was too dark to read, when, hungry and thirsty and subdued, the horse went up the hill and never baulked again.

MR. Moody tells of a blind beggar sitting by the sidewalk on a dark night with a bright lantern by his side; whereat a passer-by was so puzzled that he had to turn back with: "What in the world do you keep a lantern for? You can't see!" "So't folks won't stumble over me," was the reply. Look out, teacher! Keep your light burning—yes, burning brightly—that none of those who are committed to your care stumble over you. What you are will tell upon them quite as much as what you say.