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Poetry.

A SONG.

'Tis not the murmuring voice of Spring
That stirs my heart and makes me sing;
'Tis not the blue sky's building o'er
With sunshine spilling down earth's floor;
Nor yet the flush of blossoming rose,
Nor bloom of any flower that grows.

It is that long, long years ago,
When all the world was blushing so—
It is that then my cheek blushed too,
My heart beat fast for love and you;
There was a music in the air,
I fail to find now anywhere.

And so, when Spring comes wandering by,
I lose the thread of memory;
Trusting the promise of her days,
I tune my voice to sing her praise,
And cheat myself with the sweet pain
That in the Spring Love brings again.

Miscellany.

THE MUSCULAR FORCE OF THE HUMAN HEART.—A curious investigation of the muscular force of the human heart, and the comparative amount of work it performs, has recently been made and published by Mr. H. H. Sill, an eminent English mathematician. Starting with the postulate—that, three ounces of blood are driven from each ventricle at each stroke of the heart, second, that the hydrostatic pressure in the left ventricle and aorta against which the blood is forced out amounts to a column of blood nearly two feet in vertical height, third, that the muscular force of the left ventricle in contracting bears to that of the right ventricle in proportion of thirteen to five—he proceeds to show that the daily work of the left ventricle is equivalent to over eighty nine tons lifted one foot, and that of the right to over thirty four tons; or, for both together, to over one hundred and twenty three tons lifted through one foot. The enormous amount of force denoted by the preceding result our author goes on to illustrate by showing, first, that if the daily work of ten hours by a laboring man be equivalent to three hundred and fifty four tons lifted through one foot, the heart does over one third as much in twenty four hours; therefore three old women doing nothing whatever, actually accomplish more work in one day than the strongest average laboring man; second, that the laboring force of the heart is greater than that expended in propelling an eight pound ball through the water during the shortest boat race; third, that if the heart expended its entire force in lifting its own weight vertically it would raise its weight nearly 20,000 feet in one hour, or twenty times as far as an active pedestrian can climb in vertical altitude in the same time; fourth, that the greatest distance through which a locomotive has been able to lift its load up an incline has been 2700 feet in an hour, and that this is equal to only one eight part of the energy of the human heart. In fine, our author thinks he has succeeded in proving that the human heart is the most wonderful piece of mechanism known, since he has shown that its energy is equal to one third of the total daily force of all the muscles of a strong man; that it exceeds by one third the labor of the muscles in a boat race, estimated by equal weights of muscle; that it is equivalent to twenty times the force used in climbing vertically; and finally, that it has eight times the force of the most powerful engine invented by the art of man.—Scientific Record, in Harper's Magazine for May.

ANECDOTE OF A DOG.—A favorite hound belonging to an old hunter, came to his master one morning when he was engaged in chopping wood in the forest, and by various intelligible signs persuaded his owner to follow him to a thicket, some little distance off in the woods. The hunter on following his dog found there a small and very feeble fawn, entangled in some vines and brambles, so that it was impossible for it to extricate itself. The unfortunate fawn was carried to the house, and fed on milk; but the hound, who was ever ready to hunt and pull down the wild deer in the forest, seemed to understand that he had saved this little animal's life. He made it share his bed at night, and through the day was ever on the look out to defend or aid it, till the rest of the pack of hounds learned to know it, and to understand that they were not to molest their companion's pet.—German Anecdotes.

A celebrated wit was asked if knew Theodor Hook. Yes, he replied. Hook and eye are old associates.

Always turn your toes outward, and your thoughts inward; the first will keep you from falling into the gutter, and the last from falling into iniquity.

SHUT YOUR MOUTH.

This piece of advice is sometimes given in abrupt and insulting manner, and occasions an outburst of temper that produces the opposite effect from the one intended; but when given kindly and on scientific grounds, it ought to be attended to and followed by all persons. Professor Tyndall has just told us of the dust particles, the spores, life germs, fevers, and miasms, that float in the air, and has said in tones of warning "Shut your mouth!"

The Board of Health, of this city, through one of its accomplished officers, Dr. R. C. Stiles, has published a most important report upon the dangers that lurk in closed rooms and crowded halls, and have also said to us "Shut your mouth!"

Finally, Mr. Catlin, author of "Notes of Travels among the North American Indians," has given us a book called "The Breath of Life," in which the same advice is freely given, sustained by ample facts and startling illustrations, for the benefit of all mankind—"Shut your mouth!"

We cannot do better than to refer to those various publications for the purpose of calling the attention of our readers to the importance of securing proper ventilation in their dwellings, and of acquiring the habit of breathing through the nostrils rather than through the mouth.

There is no doubt that "man's own breath" is his greatest enemy, and every precaution should be taken to prevent its inspiration after it has once passed from the lungs. The report of Dr. Stiles contains the result of much original research, and displays a zeal in the service of good health, and an amount of exhaustive labor that is worthy of the highest commendation, and his remarks and statistics ought to be published in permanent form for the consultation and warning of all classes of society. The amount of carbonic acid produced by respiration has been variously estimated, but Dr. Stiles puts it at the rate of 1,632 cubic inches, or three fifths of a cubic foot per hour. From this the ratio of ventilation of the air in a given space can easily be computed.—"Every hundred persons would vitiate in three hours 4,200 cubic feet of air to the extent of 43 per cent of carbonic acid, or 18,000 cubic feet, the injurious proportion of one per cent of carbonic acid."

The products of respiration are more dangerous than pure carbonic acid. It has been found that while two per cent of carbonic acid evolved in a chemical way could be endured, one per cent produced from the lungs rendered the air insupportable. The volatile organic products of respiration concentrate the poison. The report of Dr. Stiles discusses the amount of carbonic acid produced by the combustion of illuminating gas, and shows by actual experiment that a single five foot burner can produce 245 cubic feet of carbonic acid in one hour.

The danger from leakage in heating apparatus, the subtle nature of carbonic oxide gas, and from coal fires in open braziers, is clearly presented.—"The poison attacks the red particles of the blood, and its prostrating effect is experienced long after the occurrence of exposure."

The methods employed in the determination of the amount of carbonic acid in the air are generally of too bulky or refined a nature to admit of easy transportation, and Dr. Stiles invented a neat portable apparatus that is worthy of notice. It consists of a wide mouthed glass flask holding a hundred and fifty cubic centimeters and graduated so that each division of its descending portion holds one ten thousandth part of the capacity of the apparatus. A delicate glass bulb, holding a cubic centimeter of a solution of caustic potash is introduced into the graduated flask after the air to be analyzed has been transferred to it, the mouth of the flask is immersed in water—the potash bulb is broken by a smart blow against the side of the flask—the water rises in the apparatus in proportion to the vacuum produced by the absorption of the carbonic acid by the potash, and the amount in 10,000 volumes can at once be read off. Fifteen minutes are all that are necessary to perform the analysis, and the accuracy of the results was found to be sufficient for all practical purposes by comparative tests according to other methods. With this simple contrivance, Dr. Stiles collected a large number of samples of air from churches, theaters, school houses, private dwellings, and tenement houses, which he has analyzed and tabulated along with similar results obtained by Pettenkofer, Roscoe, and others.

To avoid breathing all of this dust, Professor Tyndall recommends the use of a mouth piece of tulle of cotton, but such an arrangement, besides being unsightly, would soon become very wet and uncomfortable. Mr. Catlin's idea of keeping the mouth shut and breathing through the nostrils, is easy of execution, and more in accordance with scientific principles. Mr. Catlin states that the Indian mother presses the lips of her infant together as it falls asleep in the open air, and thus teaches the habit of breathing through the nostrils, while the careful, tender mothers of civilized life,

cover the faces of their infants in over heated rooms with their little mouths open, gasping for breath; and he traces the increased mortality among infants to this cause.

The accumulation of evidence goes to show that we cannot be too careful, not only in the quality of the air we breathe but also in the manner in which we draw it into our lungs. The nostrils are provided with a natural sieve and filter, and it is possible, on the principle of dialysis and the laws of the passage of gases through membranes, that the nitrogen and carbonic acid are excluded while the oxygen is permitted freely to pass. The warning of such authorities as Professor Tyndall and Dr. Stiles ought not to be disregarded, and we are disposed to concur in the sentiments expressed by Mr. Catlin, where he says: "If I were to endeavor to bequeath to posterity the most important motto which human language can convey it should be in these words:

SHUT YOUR MOUTH."

Sergeant Davy.

Sergeant Davy was the originator of one expression that has been attributed to many a clever lawyer in this as in the Old Country. Lord Mansfield was not attached to religious holidays. He even ordered the doors of his court to be thrown open on Ash Wednesday. The disregard of Lent was by no means pleasing to many. But, emboldened by success, it is said that the Chief Justice proceeded to suggest business on Good Friday. He announced this very eccentric intention in court, probably on Thursday. But Sergeant Davy upon this addressed the peer on the instant, and told him if it were so, his lordship would be the first judge that had done it since Pontius Pilate. That was due to him, therefore, one hundred and ten years old. In further Davy was quite a match for the Chief Justice, who was by no means kind in the higher places of law. He once broke out against the Sergeant with this gibber: "If this be law, I must turn all my books, I see." "Your lordship had better read them first," rejoined Davy. He once had a very large brief with a fee of two guineas only at the back of it. (His client asked him if he had read his brief.) He pointed with his finger to the fee, and replied,—"As far as that I have read, and for the life of me I can read no farther." He was engaged at the Old Bailey, and a very strong man having been made out, Judge Gould asked who was concerned for the prisoner; upon which Sergeant Davy said, "My Lord, I am concerned for him, and very much concerned after what I have heard."

Once when he was called to account for taking silver from a client, and so disgracing the profession, he replied, "I took silver because I could not get gold; but I took every farthing the fellow had in the world, and I hope you don't call THAT disgracing the profession." This anecdote has since been appropriated by many a good man, but it is Davy's.

It once fell to his lot to question a man closely who offered himself a bail. "Sir said the Sergeant, how do you make out that you are worth £3000?" The gentleman stated the particulars of his property up to £2940. "That's all very good, but you want £60 more to be worth £3000."—"For that sum, replied the gentleman, by no means disconnected, I have a note of hand of Mr. Sergeant Davy, and I hope he will have the honesty soon to settle it." The laughter at this extended to the bench, the Sergeant looked abashed, and Lord Mansfield observed in his usual urbane tone, "Well, brother Davy, I think we may accept the bail."—"From Old English Lawyers," by W. A. Scavay, in Harper's Magazine for May.

Physical Constitution of the Sun.

To sum up the case in respect to the physical constitution of the sun, we find that the seeming regularity and smoothness of the orb, and its homogeneous and quiescent condition, are mere illusions, arising from the immensity of the distance from which we view it. Its surface is, in fact, furrowed by enormous incandescent billows, and is in a state of incessant and violent commotion. Enormous flame like convulsions, in masses larger than this globe, rise, and glow, and wave, and then melt away and disappear. Some of these blazing radiations appear to project themselves forty or fifty thousand miles into the surrounding space, though on account of the immense magnitude of the sun, and his vast distance from us, they do not perceptibly affect the smoothness of the contour of his disk, as it appears from the earth, to our unaided vision; but the real violence and rapidity of the action thus taking place are inconceivable. On the one hand cavities of absolute darkness, and on the other vast protuberances of extraordinary and special brightness, form and fluctuate over the surface, increasing and diminishing at the rate of thousands of miles in extent in very brief periods of time.

It is absolutely, though felt relatively, as if the whole continent of America were to rise from the sea, in the midst of the most violent

commotion, in the night, and then as suddenly melt away and disappear in the morning.

Thus the sun, instead of existing in the calm, placid, and unchanging condition which it appears to assume, is in reality a mass of seething and surging incandescence, deformed by incessant and tempestuous agitations of surface, produced by contests among forces the nature of which elude our research as completely as the effects surpass our powers of conception.—"From 'Spots in the Sun,' by Joseph Abbott, in Harper's Magazine for May.

IRELAND.

The Irish Corrupt Bill, recently passed by the British Parliament and now producing such wide spread alarm throughout Ireland, provides among other things, that

1. No person in Ireland shall be allowed to carry arms unless he has a license, on pain of two years imprisonment. The effect of this will be that any Magistrate may grant licenses to his own party go armed with guns or revolvers, and may disarm everybody else in the district, sending whoever may be guilty of having a gun or a pistol, to the penitentiary for two years.

2. It shall be lawful for any persons to whom any warrant is given to search for and seize arms, to act on this warrant three months from the time it is issued, and at such times and as often as they may think fit, to enter into any house or place in order to execute it, and if entrance be refused to force their way in.

3. To sell gunpowder to, or repair a pistol or a gun, for any person not having a license, is a criminal offence.

4. When a felony or misdemeanour has been committed in any district, although no person may be charged with such offence, any Justice of the Peace may summon before him any person whom he may believe to know something about it, and if this person refuses to answer such questions as may be put to him, the magistrate may send him to jail for six months.

5. Any constable, peace officer, or other person, may arrest and bring before a magistrate any one who, under suspicious circumstances, shall be found in the fields, streets, highways, or elsewhere out of his dwelling, from one hour after sunset until sunrise; the person thus arrested must be sent to jail until he can be brought before the Justices at the Petty Sessions; and then, unless he can prove to their satisfaction that he was out of house upon lawful occasion or business, he may be sent to jail for six months.

6. Any stranger may be arrested by any constable or other person, brought before a magistrate and questioned concerning his residence, means of livelihood, object in visiting the neighborhood, and unless he shall answer to the satisfaction of such Justice, he shall be sent to jail there to remain until he can find bail or until the Justice shall see fit to release him.

7. Jury trial is abolished for all the offences named on the bill. The Justices of the Peace appointed by the Government, are to sit as jurors as well as judges and may find the accused guilty and sentence him to six months imprisonment.

8. Every newspaper which shall print anything which the Lord Lieutenant may regard as seditious, is to be suppressed and the entire material of the office forfeited to Her Majesty.

9. When it shall appear that any person has been murdered, maimed, or otherwise injured, and that the crime was of an aggravated character, the grand jury of the county shall order a sum of money to the person injured, or to his family if he be killed having regard to the rank, degree, situation and circumstances of the individual; and this sum shall be raised by a general tax on the county, barony, or township.

SCOTTISH PROVERBS.—He that drinks an is not dry, still shall want as well as I. He that bath with butter may butter his bread on both sides. He that bath and winna keep it, he that winna an' winna seek it. He that lives on hope has slim diet. He that lends his pat, may see the nail in his hoof. He that wad eat the kernal mair crack the nut.

Hot soup hot swallow. He wees fur cake an' puddin'. His purse an' his palate are ill met. His wame thinks his wizen's (throat) cut. Hunger is hard in a hale man.

A REASON.—A man was charged with highway robbery. In the course of the trial the prisoner roared out from the dock that he was guilty, but the jury pronounced him by their verdict "Not Guilty." The astonished judge exclaimed:—"Good heavens, gentlemen, did you not hear the declare himself that was guilty?" The foreman said:—"We did, my lord, and that was the very reason we acquitted him, for we knew the fellow to be so notorious a liar, that he never told a word of truth in his life."

Two infants in Nashville lately loved each other. They were about the average of Paul and Virginia, the girl 14 and the boy a year or two older. He was a beautiful youth, well equal to the pretty speeches which win the heart of budding womanhood. The girl's mother was the only job-tack in the way of happiness, and the youth could not face this fiend in his path, the before an elopement was agreed upon. The mother and daughter were about to start for the distant wide of Omaha. The youth was, in an underhand way, on hand at the depot, and as the train started off the maiden merely left the mother's mirror and stopped off into the arms of her lover, as it were. But also the course of true love is apt to run rough, as the poet did not quite say—though he might with much propriety have said so. The mother took the next train back at the next station, and search was instituted for the couple who eloped by staying at home. They were found anxiously awaiting the arrival of a clergyman, a license, and a bond, but misery and the mother came first. The girl was given to her mother and the boy to the police, and early next morning a new start was made for Omaha by the mother and daughter while the lover snored dionally in the "lock up." An opportunity is now afforded them to pine away and die, if so disposed.

"Bonnie Annie Laurie."

Almost every one is familiar with the sweet song of Annie Laurie, though it may not be generally known that the fair-faced maiden was not a creature of imagination, but as actual verity, of whose ancestry honorable mention is made in Scottish history.

Stephen Laurie was a flourishing Dumfries merchant before James VI became king. Prior to 1611, he married Marion, daughter of Provost Currie—getting with her a handsome marriage portion. His wealth enabled him to purchase of Sir Robert Gordon of Lochmaber, Birlough, Shallescote and Maxwellton whose "larks are bonnie." Stephen Laurie, then a man of many acres, took the designation of Maxwellton, leaving at his death, his lands and titles to his eldest son John.

The next head of the house was Robert, a baron. He was twice married and had, by his second, three sons and four daughters. The birth of one of the latter's sons entered in the family register by her father: "At the pleasure of Almighty God my daughter, Annie Laurie, was born upon the 16th day of December, 1628, about six o'clock in the morning, and was baptized by Mr. Geo. Hunter," (minister of Glencliff).

This minute is worth quoting, as the little stranger, whose entry into life it announces, grew to be most beautiful Dumfriessian lady of the day, and the heroine of a song which has rendered her charms immortal:

"Her brow is like the moon drift,
Her throat is like the swan,
Her face it is the fairest
That ever the sun shone on—
That ever the sun shone on—
And dark blue is her eye,
And far loonie Annie Laurie
I'd lay me down and die."

The well known lyric of which these lines form a part, was composed by Mr. Douglas Finlay, an ardent admirer of "Bonnie Annie," who did not, however, return his affection, but married his rival, Alexander Fergusson.

PROBLEMS.—Supposing the river Ganges to be three cubits in breadth (which it isn't) what is the average height of the Alps, taking being at 914?

If in autumn apples cost 4d per pound in London, and potatoes a shilling a score in spring, when will green grapes be sold in Paris at 14d each, Spanish or ages being at a discount of 5 per cent?

If two men can kill two brace of partridges in going up the right side of a rectangular turp field, how many would be killed by five men and a terrier pup, in going down the other side?

If a milkmaid, four feet ten inches in height while sitting on a three legged stool, took four pints of milk out of every fifteen cows, what was the size of the field in which the animals grazed, and what the girl's name and age?

If thirty billions of human beings have lived since the beginning of the world, how many may we safely say will die before the end of it? N. R. This example is to be worked by simple subtraction, addition, and the rule of three. C. N. are true.

Love receives its death wound from indifference, and is buried by the fragments of broken faith.

A candidate for an office in Tennessee publishes a card six columns long in a Nashville paper:

You'd better ask for manners than money, said a man to a beggar. "Faith an' I asked for what I thought ye had the most of, was the curt reply.