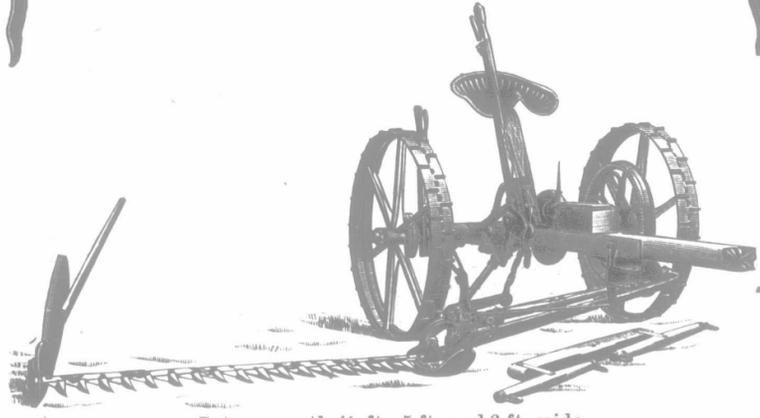


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THE SPICE OF LIFE.

"If I understand this measles business right," says the punster, "the German measles come from a germ, the French measles from a Parisite, the Irish measles from a Mike-crobe, and the black measles from Africa."

A rather rich story is told of a woman who was suffering with chapped lips and face and was using a salve put up in a tin box, which she put under her pillow at night to use whenever she awakened. One night after she had made an application or two, she complained that the salve felt awful funny on her face, and had her husband get up and strike a light. Her husband hasn't got over laughing at the sight that appeared before his vision—the lady, by mistake, had taken a box of blacking to bed with her.

BRAINS NOT NEEDED.

Sir Conan Doyle once told a story of an English officer who was badly wounded in South Africa, and the military surgeon had to shave off that portion of his brain which protruded from his skull. The officer got well, and later on in London the surgeon asked whether he knew that a portion of his brain was in a glass bottle in a laboratory. "Oh, that does not matter now," replied the soldier; "I've got a permanent position in the war office."

The Makaroff memorial just issued recalls the visit to Washington paid by the stalwart Admiral immediately before the outbreak of the war in the East. The part of Washington which pleased him best was the National Museum, where he was under the guidance of one of the best informed anthropologists in America, the acting dean, Professor Otis T. Mason.

Professor Mason is as small as he is mighty, but straight as an arrow, in spite of his white hair; and every inch of him a man. He looked like a picturesque pocket edition beside the magnificent Makaroff, with his broad shoulders and massive chest and huge beard.

They were standing before the incomplete Russian exhibit. Professor Mason explained several reasons why the collector had failed to do his duty, ending, according to his invariable kindness, with the remark: "I suppose we must consider them as adequate excuse."

Instantly Admiral Makaroff replied: "There are plenty of reasons, but there is never an excuse for any failure."

His deep voice was like velvet thunder. It made whatever he said seem momentous. And he came by the principle honestly. It ran in the family. His grandfather once received an order from the Czar direct, which was so difficult of execution that the Czar closed with the unusual words:

"Can it be done?"
"Sire," the General replied, "if it is possible it will be done. If it is impossible—it shall be done."

Israel Zangwill, the author, at the Franklin Inn, a literary club in Philadelphia, told a story of a crafty political boss.

"This boss," he said, "desired votes for his candidate and stopped at nothing to get them. He sent for a poor man one day, and asked for his vote.

"Oh, no," the poor man said, firmly. "I can't do that. I am already promised to the Opposition."

"You are, eh?" said the boss. "And how much is the Opposition paying you?"

"Twenty dollars," the poor man answered.

"The boss assumed an expression of disgust.

"That was a low price, my friend, an unfairly low price," he said, "to give you for your vote. We'd have done better by you. We'd have given you twenty-five dollars."

"It was not too late. The election was two days off. The poor man wavered.

"Would you?" he said. "Would you?"

"To be sure we would," said the boss. "Here, it isn't too late yet. Give me the other party's twenty, and I'll give you our twenty-five now."

"The poor man made the exchange joyfully, and thus the crafty boss had the satisfaction of causing his opponents to pay four-fifths of one of his own bribes."

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