

PSYCHOLOGY OF DRESSING UP

Fancy Dress Balls Supply Cravings of Ignored Nature, According to Observer.

The extraordinary vogue of the fancy dress ball of late years—especially when it is one of monster dimensions—is one of the straws which show which way the wind of national character is blowing.

For it is not only the young and curly who through these gay scenes, but serious people of middle age, of exalted position, and even of advanced years.

I fancy this rage for "dressing up" appeals to something profound and instinctive in human nature. If you look with observant eyes at the travestied figures around you, you will discover that the dress chosen is symbolic of a secret aspiration, a thwarted desire, an unacknowledged ambition.

Thus, the young man who must s'en aller on an office stool year in, year out, will brash it as a pirate, or in the earliest of cavalry uniforms.

The British matron will put on the Wounees and languors of the Travata, or the striped stockings and mob-cap of a soubrette.

So, also, you shall see ladies of high degree scantily attired as Bacchantes, and leading Dionysian dances, while the soldier or lawyer will impersonate Pierrot, and girls of flighty manners in private life appear, with downcast lids, as Puritans or nuns.

Perhaps some such outlet for poor human nature, which is squeezed into grooves for which it is often ill fitted, is a kind of safety valve which ought to be encouraged.

Nature is said to take terrible revenge on those who steadily ignore her. The putting on of motley is an innocent form of occasionally obeying her behests.—London Sketch.

ACT NOT ON THE PROGRAM

Dog's Instinct True, Even Though Scene He Witnessed Was of Make-Believe Order.

"Hereafter," said a New York commentator, "when I attend a moving picture show, I will take pains to see that my collie Jack is securely fastened at home."

The other evening Jack contrived to get past the ticket-taker and followed me to my seat. He was quiet and interested with the various scenes until a highway robbery was thrown upon the screen. Then he became restless and began to whine.

"When the actors were seen creeping near their intended victim he growled. I clutched his collar, but when the man was actually attacked Jack barked and, breaking away from me, dashed up the aisle, bounded over the orchestra railing and did his best to spring upon the pictured robbers. He wanted to tear them to pieces. I don't know what he would have succeeded in doing if there had been no interference. Somebody had presence of mind to turn on the lights. That made the pictures fade and Jack, still growling, rejoined me where I was sitting. Jack has no use for robbers, and a pictured one is just as bad to him as the reality."

Without the Stork.

There are no storks in the dense forests of Dutch Guiana, where live simple, harmless Indians. The poor Indian mother goes out of her home, a simple shelter from rain raised on a few sticks, and broods in the forest. She soon comes back, not alone as she went out, but with a little baby boy or girl, sometimes twins. Old Mr. Indian smiles quietly when he first sees the little one and from some superstition he believes he must not work and kill game for several weeks. So he lies in his hammock and sometimes holds the little one as the other Indians come up and tell him how happy he ought to be as the father of the fine baby. In two or three days the little one is swung in a hammock and carried at its mother's breast while she works the cassava fields. Baby seldom or never cries and is not one tenth as much trouble as an American baby.

Interest in Collections.

It is quite the fad among smart folk to go to the sales of rare books, furniture or pictures, even when they have no intention of buying. For each of these collections is the result of a lifetime of study, and the opportunity to see them as a whole cannot recur again, while individually the pieces, passing into private hands, may be lost to the public for years. For this reason young girls are sent with their governesses to see the treasures that will soon be scattered far and wide, and even whole classes from fashionable schools are taken for morning views. Such visits, naturally, do more for the artistic education of these fortunate young folk than weeks of lecturing and photographs.

Modern Miracle.

The patient was a man 77 years old, with a cataract of eight years' standing. While at work in his garden one day the patient had occasion to rub his right eye several times on account of sweat which had trickled into it. He awoke next morning to find that the sight of his right eye was restored. His wife and neighbors also remarked that his eye no longer looked gray. On examination by a doctor five days later nothing was to be seen of the lens till the patient looked down, when it was seen as a gray, shining body floating in the vitreous humor at the bottom of the eye, where it moved with the movements of the eye.—The Lancet.

SCRAWL NO ONE COULD READ

Valuable Manuscript Left by Colonel Burnaby Defied the Efforts of Experts.

It was stated at the time of Colonel Burnaby's death that he had left behind him the manuscript of a novel, for which there was considerable competition among the publishers.

This is quite true. The manuscript, a bulky parcel, was handed to me with discretionary power either to publish it myself or to use it in connection with the proposed biography. Here a singular and, as it finally proved, a fatal obstacle presented itself. Familiar for many years with Burnaby's handwriting, I could not after diligent endeavor make out more than a sentence here and there on the crowded page of manuscript.

Burnaby's writing was, possibly with the exception of Dean Stanley's, the worst I ever saw. It looked as if before sitting down to write a letter he had pulled a twig out of the hedge, mixed a little blacking and then gone ahead.

He wrote the whole of his "Ride to Khiva" and his "Ride on Horseback Through Asia Minor" with his own hand. But before they reached the printer they were fairly written out by a copist.

The hapless man used to make out as much as he could, then leave blanks, for filling up which he had to seek the assistance of the author. Sometimes there were more blanks in a page than words.

Despairing of making anything of the manuscript of the novel, it was submitted to a publisher, who turned upon it his most skillful decipherist. Neither hand nor tail could be made of the manuscript and the intention of publishing the novel was consequently abandoned.—Sir H. W. Lacey, in Cornhill Magazine.

SEEK EVER TO KEEP FRIEND

Worth Careful Nurturing, Since Nothing on Earth Can Be More Beautiful.

In an article in the Woman's Home Companion on the compensations that come to those who live away from great centers of population there appeared the following sound advice:

"We are idly inclined to think that a real friendship, once begun, ought to survive of its own vitality; but, alas! all beauty in this world, from a rose-slip to a human soul, needs nurture. Nietzsche speaks very scornfully of those who fancy they dare show themselves as they are to their friends. 'For your friends,' he advised, 'wear every adornment.' It is well worth while to save the highest cheer, the brightest thoughts, the gentlest attentions, for the friends. One should always keep some impersonal topics of conversation ready, so that your thoughts together should not huddle down to the sordid atmosphere of narrow spaces. Be not only the sunshine to your friend, but be a broad outlook and a wide view! Love must have space and air to thrive in."

"Human life offers us nothing else so beautiful as real friendship; not love, not prosperity, not fame, are so fair, so precious. So foster it! Let no distrust, no absence, no difference of environment, dim its luster. Let death itself be powerless to rob you of its sweetness! Never break it; never lose it; it is the sweetest touch of mortal life."

Sense of Smell.

The tenth part of a grain of musk will continue for years to fill a room with its odoriferous particles, and at the end of that time it will not be appreciably diminished in weight.

A cubic inch of air arising from the flame of a Bunsen burner has been found to contain no fewer than four hundred and eighty-nine million dust particles.

A drop of blood that might be suspended from the point of a needle contains about a million of red corpuscles.

Yet, although matter is so marvelously divisible, the olfactory nerves are infinitely more sensitive. Much yet remains to be investigated with reference to these nerves which discriminate with such apparently miraculous accuracy.—Harper's Weekly.

Cheese, and the Game of Life.

An Indian philosopher thus describes chess: "It is a representative contest, a bloodless combat, an image not only of actual military operation, but of that greater warfare, which every son of the earth, from the cradle to the grave, is continually waging—the battle of life." One sees clearly that, even going back to its birth, the parallelism between chess and men exists, for does anybody know just when, where and how the first man appeared on earth? Also, is it not a fact that man's attributes and nature have remained unchanged throughout centuries, and that chess was played much in the same way, each chessman moving in its allotted manner even five thousand years ago?

He'd Have to Pay.

A story was told the other day in Washington, apropos of a very artificial and self-conducted boom:

"Blank, you know, was to visit his state last week. Well, a friend said to him, just before he set off:

"I suppose they will give you a magnificent ovation, Mr. Blank?" "Blank frowned, twisted his mustache, and answered in a nervous absent-minded way:

"Well, I don't know. My bank account has sunk terribly low of late."

WHY THEY LEAVE THE FARM

Story Indicates That the Remuneration Some Agriculturists Allow Their Sons Is Not Adequate.

"Just the other day I met a stalwart young fellow whose every appearance would indicate he was a 'son of the soil,'" says a writer in Farm and Fireside. "Six years ago he left the old home. At that time he had very little education, but by steady, industrious labor he has 'won out,' and today is a promising young lawyer. He told me that the first year he left the farm he obtained employment in a machine shop at what seemed to his mind a large sum of money, \$12 a week. He worked hard for nearly three months, when one day he received a telegram from his father, asking him to return at once.

"Having left a delicate little mother, he rushed home with all haste, fearing to find some great trouble at the end of his journey. His father met him at the station and calmly explained that his hired man had left and he could not get his hay in alone. My young hero, not daunted in the least, informed his father that he had given up his job to return home and asked what pay he was to receive for his work. The father promised a certain small sum. After two months' hard work the son asked for money to buy a suit of clothes and received it. At the end of the season, when the young man wanted a final settlement he was put off from time to time, and at last went away to the city with an empty pocket and a heartful of resentment."

FOOD VALUE OF BUTTERMILK

According to Bulletin of Department of Agriculture It is Extremely High.

An ordinary glass of buttermilk contains about as much nutriment as two ounces of bread, a good sized potato or a half pint of oysters, says a recent bulletin of the United States department of agriculture. It thus contains about the same food constituents as skim milk, but it has an added hygienic value because the protein is more easily digested than the protein in skim milk, and therefore is often prescribed by physicians for children and invalids, especially those suffering from intestinal trouble.

Protein, being the most costly or food ingredients, is the one most likely to be lacking in inexpensive meals, and this is the nutrient which both skim milk and buttermilk supply in a cheap and useful form, and when taken with bread or used in cooking they form a very nutritious addition to the diet. Two and one-half quarts of skim milk or buttermilk contains about the same amount of protein as one pound of round steak, and costs about one-quarter as much. Two quarts of milk has a greater nutrient value than one quart of oysters. The nutriment in the form of oysters would cost 30 to 50 cents, while the skim milk or buttermilk would have a value on the farm of from two to four cents.

Circumstantial Evidence.

There was considerable chaff in the air, and Sniffley didn't know whether it would be wise to begin a conversation with Mrs. Sniffley or not. Finally, however, the silence became too arctic for comfort, and he decided to risk it.

"Beautiful morning, my dear," he observed, as he lathered his chin. "Don't you talk to me, Mr. Sniffley," retorted the lady. "I am disgusted with you. You needn't fool yourself into thinking I don't know in what condition you and Mr. Bagley came home last night. I overheard your conversation."

"Conversation?" said Sniffley. "What did I say?" "You said you didn't know, when Mr. Bagley asked you which keyhole was the right one, and there's only one on the door!" said Mrs. Sniffley.

Hardy's Story of His Grandfather.

Mr. Thomas Hardy attended a meeting of the Natural History society at Dorchester, at which Mr. Alfred Pope related a story communicated to him by the novelist. The story concerned Mr. Hardy's grandfather, and told how one night he outwitted two men who were bent on robbing him.

He sat down on a furze faggot, placed his hat (on which he had previously put a number of glow worms) on his knees, stuck two fern fronds on his head to represent horns, pulled from his pocket a letter he chanced to have with him, and began reading it by the light of the glow worms. In a few days there was a rumor in the neighborhood that the devil had been seen at midnight reading a list of his victims by glow worm light.—London Evening Standard.

Famous Pearls in History.

We read of pearls—oyster pearls, as they were called—in Chinese records dating back nearly 3,000 years, and Persian history and Persian poetry abound in mention of the pearl as a symbol of purity, and this association of ideas has persisted until the present day. But it is a curious fact that though we have read so much about famous pearls which have played great parts in history, there is hardly an authentic instance of any pearl being still in existence which has any antiquity of its own or made history of any importance. This is partly due to the fact that valuable pearls were nearly always stolen in the brave days of yore, and their unlawful owners had good reason for concealing their historical identity.

NO FIELD FOR THEIR WORK

How The Good Young Man From California Set the Card Sharpers Right.

There are good men in California, very good men, and shrewd men, too (according to Eli Perkins). One day a real good young man, who used to teach a Bible class in San Francisco, boarded the Union Pacific train at Ogden. He was going home to Boston as a delegate from California to the Massachusetts Sunday-School association. He was neatly and sweetly dressed, and spent most of his time reading the Christian at Work. After a while he got introduced to a colonel, a professor, and a doctor, who said they lived in Boston, and they invited him to take a quiet game of euchre. During an animated religious conversation, three aces were thrown on his side of the table, after which one of the Bostonians gayly remarked, with the greatest coolness, "I wish that we were playing poker. I don't know that I have been favored with such a hand for years." Our religious young man from San Francisco immediately saw the game of the sharpers, looked up innocently, and remarked: "I have been favored also. I have a pretty good poker hand myself." The three looked at each other significantly. "They call you professor?" asked the young man from San Francisco. "Yes." "And they call you colonel?" "Yes." "You are from the East, I believe?" "Yes, from Boston." "Well, gentlemen," he continued, rising, "you had better take the next train back. We meet it just the other side of the Grand Canon. You can't make a cent at this. They have been teaching it in the Sunday-schools in California for years."

NO MORE SPREES FOR HIM

Changing the Letter on Stenographer's Typewriter Cured Him of the Drink Habit.

In a certain railroad office in the West Bottoms is a stenographer, upon whom his employer places considerable confidence, for he is one of the best in the business. Only one shortcoming has ever been found against him, but this was a grievous one, the kind that was increased 100 per cent when the bi-monthly pay law went into effect. Long and faithful service kept him from being discharged, and his employer was very lenient. From month to month, however, it could be noticed that he was slipping a little more with each payday. Finally one last plan was decided upon to keep him in the service and prevent his falls from the wagon.

During an absence following a payday a typewriter mechanic was pressed into service, to change the letters on the machine around. The next morning the stenographer reported for work, with evidences of a "hangover." His employer started on him good and early, with a message which was to be rushed.

The stenographer started work. The result was something of an "x-51" affair. Finally he decided "it was no use."

"I guess I have been cutting up a little," he said. "I expect I better take a day off and sober up."

It was agreed thus, and during the day of sobering up, the letters on the machine were set back into place. The plan worked and though the incident occurred six months ago, the stenographer hasn't missed a day.—Kansas City Journal.

Novel Use for Aviation.

Probably Darius Green never had a dream that his flying machine would be used in a scheme to prove to wild hunters in the Philippine islands that they were inferior to white men. This political project, however, was tried by Aviator L. Hammond, who at the request of the governor of the islands, gave to the chief of a tribe of Igorotte hunters his first aerial ascension. The tribesmen were very apprehensive regarding the result, and even the chief himself took his seat in the car with ill-concealed trepidation, but after making a lofty flight over the leper colony and the surrounding country, he was brought back safely to the starting point, fully convinced of the absolute supremacy of the paleface.

Varied Uses of Pearls.

During the palmy days of the Roman empire pearls were greatly esteemed as ornaments by the women of fashion, though after its downfall they were again chiefly used for the decoration of inanimate objects, and it was not until medieval days that they again served the purpose of personal decoration. In England they were not really appreciated for the latter purpose until the fourteenth century. Yet throughout every country and in every country from comparatively early times we see pearls depicted by contemporary artists in such of their works as survive.

His New Job.

A colored shoe shiner at a hotel barber shop here had been after Representative Steenerson of Minnesota, one of his customers, to get him some kind of a government job. He said he had a brother in Pittsburgh who held a political job that paid him well. His impression was that his brother made something like \$1,500 a year. "What does your brother do?" asked Steenerson.

"Don't know just exactly what his duties are," replied the boy, "but he's been appointed what they call a ware heater."

DICTIONARY MAKERS AT FAULT

Some Notable Blunders, With Elephantine Efforts at Wit, Have Been Put on Record.

Dr. Johnson perpetrated many jokes in his dictionary, but among his most famous blunders was his definition of "pastern" as "the knee of a horse."

The dictionary makers often took occasion to make their definitions hit their enemies. Wesley defined "Methodist" as "one that liveth according to the method laid down in the Bible." Dr. Johnson defined oats as "a grain which in England is generally given to horses, but in Scotland supports the people." He defined "penitence" as "a slave of state, hired by a stipend to obey his master," which definition was made much of by the doctor's enemies when he himself was awarded a pension.

Bailey's dictionary defined the Loriot or Golden Oriole as "a bird that, being looked upon by one who has the yellow jaundice, cures the person and dies himself." Fenning, who was the next dictionary maker, was afraid of this, and merely said "Loriot, a kind of bird." But one of the best bits of misinformation was given in the dictionary of Edward Phillips, who in one place declared that "a gallon is a measure containing two quarts" and in another place declared "a quaver is a measure of time in music, being the half of a croquet, as a croquet is the half of a quaver," which leaves the subject as clear as mud.

SALVAGE SHOT FROM THE SEA

Seamen on English Coast Earn Money by Selling Old Projectiles to the Admiralty.

Shot picking is the "art" of retrieving shot and shell from the bottom of the sea. In order to practice this profession nowadays a man must be in possession of a boat, plenty of courage and a license.

Target practice is carried on almost every day at Portsmouth, England, and the admiralty are willing to pay a good price for shells which are recovered from sand banks and shallow water.

Shot pickers go out to sea in boats, watch the firing intently while it is in progress, and then, as soon as the last shot has settled in the water, disperse in various directions in order to discover the shells.

These are located by means of a long line weighted with lead, which has a small buoy fixed at one end. This end is thrown overboard, and the boat is rowed slowly in a semicircle. The weighted line drags over the sand beneath the water and catches against any shell that is projecting above the sand. A thin, firm pole is then lowered, so that it makes a clean line from the shot to the side of the boat, and, while this is held in place by one man, a pick is thrust down by another to draw the projecting shot from the sand beneath the water.

The Sliding Seat.

A sliding atoke was adopted by English oarsmen long before movable seats, but upon what the Americans called the "buckskin and butter" plan. Newcastle scullers used to slide on a long, highly polished thwart by the free use of grease or soap, their rowing trousers being strapped at the seat with wash leather. This device was introduced to the Thames by Robert Chambers when he sculled a match with Harry Kelly in 1866, and was used by the Tyne crew when they rowed St. John, New Brunswick, in 1870. In 1871 the Tyne crew, who had gained a knowledge of the movable seat during their visit to America, used sliding seats at Newcastle; and they were fitted to the coxswainless four in which the London Rowing club beat the Atlanta crew, of New York, in 1872. After the success of the new arrangement at Henley, sliding seats were adopted by both universities for the varsity boat race of 1873.

The Drunken Parliament.

There was a Scotch parliament once which would not have cast a second glance at the Temperance (Scotch) bill which has just made its third appearance in the house of commons. The first parliament which met in Scotland after the restoration of Charles II. had not the least hangings after temperance reform. It acquired the name of "the drunken parliament," in fact, and lived up to its reputation. Scott in his "Tales of a Grandfather" gives evidence: "When the Scottish parliament met the members were in many instances under the influence of wine, and they were more than once obliged to adjourn because the royal commissioner (Middleton) was too intoxicated to behave properly in the chair."

Milk Mills.

There is a tradition of a little slum boy from London who was very disappointed with the country, where he went for a short holiday, because he saw them "pump milk from a dirty old cow." The boy's idea of artificial milk is within realization, for, according to "L'Opinion," after manufactured butter we are to have artificial milk. It is already consumed extensively in China, and a mill is to be set up in France. The Chinese drop a few grains of powder into water, stir it, and it becomes milk. The powder is the soya bean crushed, and the French mill is to treat the bean so as to enable the milk powder to be sold in packets. It is said that an excellent cheese is obtained by the same process.—London Globe.

DEFENDING THE GUILTY MAN

Frederick A. Brown's Story Illustrates the Conditions That Sometimes Confront the Lawyer.

Frederick A. Brown, a well known Chicago lawyer, told the following story at a recent dinner:

"Attorneys are frequently asked how they can defend men whom they know to be guilty. The reply is that we seldom if ever know that they are guilty. I once, however, became the unwilling attorney of a man whom I knew to be guilty.

"I was in Judge Brentano's court, waiting for a trial to be called, when a negro was brought in, charged with highway robbery. Judge Brentano, finding that he had no attorney, directed me, against my protest, to defend him.

"I took the colored man aside and said, 'Well, are you guilty?' and to my surprise he replied, 'Well, boss, they found the pocketbook on me and have twenty witnesses to prove it.' He then went on to tell me that he had snatched a woman's pocketbook on Thirty-ninth street and Cottage Grove avenue on a Saturday afternoon, ran west in Thirty-ninth street, turned up an alley, with a crowd after him, who caught him as he was getting over a six-foot board fence.

"In looking at the indictment I found that he was indicted under the habitual criminal act, under which he could be sent to the penitentiary for forty years. I returned to the courtroom and insisted that Judge Brentano should appoint some other lawyer, which he refused to do. I then made the proposition to the prosecutor that if he would waive the habitual criminal count I would have my man plead guilty and save the cost of a trial.

"This was agreed to, the darty was delighted, pleaded guilty, and received the minimum sentence. After it was all over the darty turned to me and said, 'Boss, that was so easy that I believed if you half tried you would have got me clean off.'"

NEW WAY OF SAVING MONEY

How a Number of Working Girls Are Accumulating a Fund for Vacation Trips.

Some girls working in a certain trust company have organized a most unusual method of saving money for their vacation trips. Two of the girls out of the thirty-five that have entered into the plan are appointed trustees, and the first Saturday in July (any month can be chosen) each girl pays just two cents. With thirty-five girls that makes seventy cents, which is duly deposited by the trustees in the bank.

Beginning with the week following, the assessment grows to four cents, then six cents the next week, and so on, increasing two cents each week, but the increase is so very gradual that it is no great effort to put the amount away.

The following June the money is drawn out and each girl receives the amount that she has paid in, which would be \$25.60, the saving beginning in July plus about \$1 interest. You will readily see that the amount saved will provide a girl with a nice two weeks' vacation and it is almost like finding money. Until Christmas, when they need money most, the assessments are nominal, the "big" ones coming in Lent, when one does not need so much spending money.

As the rule was made in the beginning that anyone who failed to pay would lose what she had already put in, everyone makes it a point to pay promptly. One good clause in the law stipulates that if any girl loses her position or marries she can withdraw the amount that she has put in.—Harper's Bazar.

German Court Balls.

In the German court balls not all those who are invited are permitted to take part in the dances which the Kaiser witnesses.

The Kaiser has no love for "the quick and slovenly." Many months before the ball the selected couples rehearse the dances under the direction of Fraulein Gaspard, mistress of the court ballet. The Kaiserin dresses freely the ladies and gentlemen who show any shortcomings. The ordinary rehearsals take place in one of the chambers of the palace, but the final rehearsal is held on the eve of the ball, at the residence of one of the invited.

The Princesses royal carry trains held by two pages, but the other ladies have to manage their own. For married ladies the length prescribed is about 11 feet 6 inches, the trains of the other ladies being rather more than half a yard less.

Peculiar Western Banks.

The difference between the American east and west so strongly emphasized by rhetoricians and meteorologists extends even to the banking system. In the west they lend money on reputation, in the east on security. On a day in June last, six little banks in Seattle had lent on individual or firm notes without any other security than the names \$8,597,000; while the whole national bank group in New York had lent on similar paper only a little more than \$9,000,000. On that same day, in San Francisco, the loans of this sort amounted to more than \$47,000,000.

The western system is one of credit based upon industry, and upon much closer and more accurate knowledge of the man himself than can ever be possible in the bigger eastern cities.—World's Work.