

MIND YOUR P'S AND Q'S

One Theory is That the Old Saying Originated in the Printing Office.

Several explanations have been given of the origin of the phrase "Mind your P's and Q's." One is that it is derived from an old custom of hanging a slate up in an alehouse on which was written P or Q—that is, pint or quart—against the name of each customer according to the quantity which he had drunk; to be paid when the wages were given on Saturday night.

Another explanation given in the Dietetic and Hygienic Gazette is that the sentence originally was "Mind your toupees and queues." The toupee was an artificial lock of hair and the queue the pigtail of olden time.

A riddle used to be in vogue as follows: "Who is the best person to keep the alphabet in order?" Answer: A barber, because he ties up the queues and puts toupees in iron.

Charles Knight gives the most plausible explanation, as follows:

"I have always thought that the phrase 'Mind your P's and Q's' was derived from the schoolroom or the printing office. The forms of the small p's and q's in the Roman type have already been puzzling to the child and the printer's apprentice. In the one the downward stroke is on the left of the oval; in the other, on the right.

Now, when the types are reversed, as they are when in process of distribution they are returned by the compositor to his case, the mind of the young printer is puzzled to distinguish the p from the q. In sorting p's or a mixed heap of letters, where the p and the q are not in connection with any other letter forming a word, I think it would be almost impossible for an inexperienced person to distinguish which is which upon the instant."

WOMEN DOCTORS NOT NEW

In the Eighteenth Century There Was a Lady Student at Hospital in Florence.

Women as doctors is not, a Paris contemporary observes, a product of modern "feminism." It seems that in the eighteenth century there was a lady student at Florence. She came from Malta under the patronage of the Knights of the Malta. The administrator of the Major hospital was somewhat embarrassed with his new pupil, but he found a means out of the difficulty.

The chief of the Order of the Knights of Malta in introducing his lady protegee to the professors of the Florence School of Medicine wrote: "It seems to me that the matter could be arranged without any great inconvenience if the young lady were boarded during the period she was studying at your medical school with the nuns in a neighboring convent, for which we would pay five crowns a week. In regard to her instruction she should assist in operations at the women's hospital, notably those performed by Professor Mannoni. He should also give her some private lessons at the convent, for it appears to me that she should not be present in classes with young men."

The council of the hospital, being well disposed to the Knights, adopted the suggestion. More than a century elapsed before another lady was enrolled in the schools of Florence. She was a Russian and was admitted to the schools of Santa Maria Nuova.

Appreciated the "Poise." A pathetic incident occurred in the Waifs school in Pittsburg. One of the teachers brought a beautiful red rose to school, which, holding up before the scholars, she asked, "Now, children, how many of you know what this is?" Nearly every little one shook his head to indicate ignorance. One small boy and a couple of little girls piped out, with great importance, "It's a poise, please, ma'am." But no one had ever heard of a rose. Most of the children had never seen one before. The teacher put it in a glass of water to preserve it, and when school was dismissed each child was rendered supremely blissful by the gift of a tiny petal. As they fled out of the door, each little waif clutched his treasure tightly in his small hand, while he murmured softly to himself the name, "Pitty wose, pitt-y wose."

Silent Wireless Now. Men along the water front have had a chance to see an unusual form of wireless apparatus. This outfit, with three sets of antennas instead of the usual two, is aboard the United States cable boat Joseph Henry.

The Henry has on board immense rolls of steel covered cable to be laid between the various harbor forts. The wireless of the Henry is of a variety recently adopted, in which three sets of antennas are used, the third set being placed about midway on the mainmast. This form of wireless is so arranged that the usual noisy crackling sound is absent, and the only sounds to be heard while the apparatus is working are those that come from the condenser and receiver, so that the machine is practically noiseless.—Boston Globe.

Chinese Turn to Cigarettes. While the Chinese native is being gradually driven from the use of opium he is being educated in the consumption of cigarettes, the imports of which are rapidly increasing.

DECIDES TO KEEP A DIARY

Woman Wins It at Bridge Party and Tells Her Hubby All About It.

"George, dear, I've got a diary and made up my mind to keep it." "All right, my love. It's a habit that never becomes chronic. The diary is slit-edged, I suspect?" "Yes, dear, and with a lovely limp morocco cover."

"And it matches your new walking suit, of course?" "Why, how did you know that? And it has a sweet little pencil in a cunning groove."

"Charming. There's a calendar inside, no doubt?" "Yes, dear. And there's a page about foreign postage and things."

"Great! And a list of the wedding anniversaries, from 'soothing sirup' to 'diamond'?" "Yes, George. And the language of flowers and birthstones."

"Fine. And the code of handkerchief flirtations, no doubt?" "Certainly not. Now you're making fun of me. It's really a dear little book. Of course I could exchange it."

"Exchange it. Exchange a diary?" "Why, yes. You see, I won it at bridge whist at Mrs. Dummiegh's, and it's so nice I think I'll keep it."

"But don't you intend to write in it?" "Write in it! Why, I never thought of that!"

HOW WILLIE WON THE PRIZE

He Got the \$5, Even Though His Ideas Differed From the Teacher's.

Little Willie, having only one eye, did not like to attend school, says Mack's National Monthly. One afternoon he stayed home, and his mother sent him to the store for a loaf of bread. On the way back he stopped at the school. The examiners were there to award a prize of five dollars in gold to the smartest boy or girl in the class. Just as Willie entered the teacher held up one finger. Then Willie held up two fingers. This time she held up three fingers, and Willie held up his fist. She held up an apple, and Willie held up the loaf of bread she called him to the desk and gave him the five dollars.

The examiners inquired of the teacher why she had awarded the prize to Willie. She replied, "I gave it to Willie because he held up one finger, meaning there is one Supreme Being. He held up two, meaning the starting of the race, Adam and Eve. I held up three fingers, meaning Faith, Hope and Charity. He held up his fist, meaning in unity there is strength. I held up an apple, meaning the downfall of man. He held up the bread, meaning the staff of life. Thus I give him the prize."

An Arithmetic Snake.

An Englishman had one day told an editor several snake stories which made the newspaper man laugh, and then he said as a wind-up:

"I can't call any more to mind just at present. My wife knows a lot of snake stories, but I've got a regular living curiosity down on my place. One day my eldest boy was sitting on the back step doing his sums, and he couldn't get 'em right. He felt something against his face, and there was a little snake curled up on his shoulder and looking at the slate. In four minutes he had done all those sums. We've tamed him, so he keeps all our accounts, and he is the quickest head at figures you ever saw. He'll run up a column eight feet long in three seconds. I wouldn't take a prize cow for him."

"What kind of a snake is he?" inquired the editor, curiously.

"The neighbors call him an adder." "Oh, yes, yes!" said the editor, a little disconcerted. "I've heard of the species."

"The Club."

An exclusive dining society is "The Club," which since its foundation has been limited to thirty-five members. Johnson, Burke, Reynolds and Goldsmith were among the original members. Garrick and Boswell joined in 1773, and Gibbon and Fox in 1774. Of the eighteen premiers in the nineteenth century nine were members of the club. Fox, Liverpool, Canning, Russell, Aberdeen, Gladstone, Salisbury, Lord Rosebery and Mr. Balfour.—London Chronicle.

Reed's Sarcasm.

Senator Lodge, in the Century Magazine, says: "In 1884 I recall coming across Thomas B. Reed one day in State street just after the nomination of Mr. Blaine. The break in the Republican party had begun, and I asked Mr. Reed what he thought of the outlook. 'Well,' he said, 'it is a great comfort to think that the wicked politicians were not allowed to pick the candidates, and that the nomination was made by the people. The politicians would have been guided only by a base desire to win.'"

She Straightened Them. Mrs. Clark sent the new maid to her room to fetch a pair of scissors. When she returned, which she did after an unaccountably long absence, her mistress asked if she had any trouble in finding them.

"No, ma'am," replied the girl, "but when I got them, they was that bint, no wa could use them, so I took them to the kitchen and straightened them out wid a flatiron. Here they are, ma'am," and she handed Mrs. Clark her much injured manure scissors.

TO AID TEETHING BABIES

Limewater Supplies Child With Just What It Needs at Critical Time.

Statistics prove that a large proportion of all the babies born die while teething. It becomes a serious question to the anxious mother how she can aid nature at this critical time. When the tooth is almost ready to appear, a judicious rubbing, or allowing the child to bite hard, safe substances, is often healthful and beneficial.

Have you never been alarmed at some sudden attack of sickness, and, when your good doctor was summoned, had him affirm the cause to be teething, when nothing in the appearance of the mouth would indicate the coming of a new tooth? We think any mother who has taken careful observation will say that often, when the tooth is first forming, the whole organization is more disturbed than when the tooth is about ready to make its appearance.

Now, how can we help matters more than by supplying a child with its little system most needs in tooth-making? If we take the trouble to look into the matter we shall find that every tooth is composed largely of lime.

As soon as your baby has reached a suitable age for cutting teeth, put a few drops of limewater in his milk at each meal. By thus supplying your child with just what he needs at this critical time, you will aid nature in her work and prevent many troublesome, if not fatal, results.

RISE UP AGAINST MOTORS

British Women Declare They Make Life Miserable and Endanger Children.

The village women of the United Kingdom have just petitioned the queen to help them to get some relief from the motor cars, "which have made our lives a misery." "Our children," they continue, "are always in danger, our things are ruined by the dust, we cannot open our windows, our rest is spoiled by the noise at night."

"We are only poor people, and the great majority of those who use motor cars take no account of us." Could anything be more pathetic than this, especially coming from a class whose lives are hard at the best of times, and to whom a gleam of human sympathy must be a veritable angel's visit?

The irony of the situation was to be seen a day or two after the petition was sent in, when a report of the Women's Imperial Health association appeared in the newspapers, setting forth how by means of caravan lectures country people were being urged to keep their windows open, and otherwise to adopt the simple means open to them to improve their own health and that of their families and dependents.—London Nation.

Memorial to Famous Women.

The lady chapel of the new Liverpool cathedral, which is to be open next summer, has a scheme of beautiful stained glass windows commemorative of the noble deeds of good women. Besides the famous women of the Bible the following are commemorated: Dr. Alicia Marryal and all who have laid down their lives for their sisters; Grace Darling and all courageous maidens; Josephine Butler and all brave champions of purity; Mary Collet and all prayerful women; Louise Stewart and all the noble army of saints; Christina Rossetti and all sweet singers; Catherine Gladstone and all loyal-hearted wives; Elizabeth Barrett Browning and all women who have seen the infinite in things; Angela Burdett-Coutts and all women almoners of the king of heaven; Mother Cecile and all women loving and large hearted in counsel.

New Zealand "Tattooed Rocks."

Mr. Clement Wragge who has inspected what are known as the "tattooed rocks," on the coast near Raglan, New Zealand, is distinctly of opinion that they are the work of neither Tamil nor Maori, but are the inscriptions of a very ancient race of sun worship people, antedating the advent of the Maori by untold centuries. The spiral circles, ovals, crosses, and squares, he says, are most significant, and confirm his opinion that New Zealand has been inhabited by early man. He considers the inscriptions are probably connected with those at Easter Island and Central and South America, and are Atlantean or Lemurian in origin; further, that the Maori copied the spiral from the relics of ancient people, and did not initiate it.

Women on School Boards.

Former Mayor Josiah Quincy said at a meeting the other day in Boston that the law should require that at least two women be members of the school board. As it is, while women have the privilege of voting for school committees, they are practically shut out from membership, as the number of women voting are few. He says that when the terms of the present members expire it should be so arranged that two women be elected and recommended a law to that effect.

Another Gift of Mrs. Sage.

Mrs. Russell Sage has given \$25,000 for a new rotunda of the city hall, which has been accepted by the municipal art commission. Resolutions were adopted thanking Mrs. Sage. An architect has been appointed to draw up plans and the work will soon begin.

THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME

Dog Walks 140 Miles to Reach Favorite Spot Behind Butcher Shop Stove.

If you've ever felt the pangs of homesickness and have longed for the quiet of a small town in contrast to the hustle and bustle of a big city your sympathy will go out to Dewey, a white bulldog who, pining for his personal soft spot behind a meat market stove in La Crosse, Wis., walked the entire distance from St. Paul to that city.

A letter from La Crosse tells of the arrival there of the dog, which is the property of Oscar Baum, a St. Paul meatcutter, who formerly lived in the Wisconsin city.

Dewey is now sleeping behind the store in the meat market in La Crosse, which his master formerly owned. Although Mr. Baum brought the dog to St. Paul in the express car of a fast limited train and offered him all kinds of inducements and delicacies not to be had in a small town, Dewey was not happy.

He ran away and appeared unexpectedly at his old home. Wagging his short tail furiously, he scratched and whined for admittance.

The 140 miles he had tramped had made him footsore and weary. His tongue was hanging far out of his mouth and he was panting. Dewey's eyes were bright, however, and he was not too tired to yawn in a friendly manner at his old trusted friend, the market cat.

When his master telephoned from St. Paul that he would go to La Crosse to get him the gaunt little fighting pet was sleeping the peaceful sleep of the weary. Between his paws was a discarded bone, and the satisfied grin on his battle-scarred face told more plainly than words that he preferred a meager bone in La Crosse to porterhouse steak in St. Paul.

DRUGGIST, THE MEANEST MAN

Woman Shopper Finds Many Things to Complain of in Drug Store.

"Give me a two-cent stamp, please. Here's a ten-dollar bill—it's the smallest I have—what haven't you any more convenient change than all that silver? I can't carry that about with me. Well, the idea! Are you supposed to be running a drug store, or what? Let me use your telephone. No free phone? Well, this is the jumping off place, I must say. If I have to drop a nickel in I'll have to have change—please give me change for this five-dollar bill."

"Well, they don't answer. Of all the service! Is there a city directory here? Where? For goodness sake, this is last year's directory—haven't you a new one? Huh! Give me a little piece of licorice root for the baby to bite on. Why, this seems wormy—haven't you a smooth piece? How do you sell your magazines? No, I don't want to buy one—we subscribe for all the good ones, and you don't seem to have those. I'll just read this one while I'm waiting for a friend. O, and please give me a wide-mouthed bottle, holding about so much. What—five cents? You don't mean to tell me that you charge for empty bottles? I know, but when a store has been shopping all over your store, it seems to me you might be a little accommodating about little things like—Baby! Put that thermometer down—throw it down at once! It might poison you. There—I'm glad it was only a cheap thing, or you might have wanted me to pay for it because she smashed it. Thank goodness, there's my car! Will you please hold the door open till we get out?"

Deserving No Mercy.

"Here," said the policeman after he had hurriedly entered the dentist's reception room, "what's goin' on? You've had a man in there hollerin' bloody murder for nearly half an hour. Why don't you give him something to stop his pain?"

"Give him something to stop his pain? My dear sir, you don't understand. I had occasion to take a lady to lunch one day last week—oh, it was a business matter, nothing more—and this chap saw me. Well, the next day he happened to meet my wife, whom he knew before she was married, and he mentioned he had seen me and wanted to know what the other lady's name was. Of course,—" "Oh, never mind. Go ahead and kill him."—Chicago Record-Herald.

The Absurdity of Overwork.

Dr. C. Hutchinson Eely, the brain expert of Duluth, was discussing the new tuberculin cure for progressive paralysis, a malady common to brain workers.

"Tuberculin has cured a third of the cases it has been tried on," he said. "Hence it may be called a pretty good cure. But a better cure for the disease is due to overwork is rest."

Dr. Hutchinson Eely thumped the table vigorously.

"When a professional man tells me he is too busy to take a rest," he cried, "I tell him he is like a workman who is too busy to sharpen his tools."

Designs Grand Staircase.

Miss Fay Kellogg is a New York girl who has great skill as an architect. She designed the scheme for the grand staircase of the Hall of Records in New York, which is regarded as a very good example of architectural beauty.

HANDLING LONDON'S LETTERS

Some Idea of the Big Force Required in the Great Post Office.

Sir Henry Tanner, principal architect in his majesty's office of works, gave an address before the Royal Institute of British Architects in London recently, describing in detail the new general post office to be known as King Edward's building.

As giving some idea of the magnitude of the work there, he mentioned that the removal of provincial mails and of the parcels of Mount Pleasant railroad to the main building required 700 of the force of 2,850 men, leaving only 2,150 in the old building, but there were at the date of removal to King Edward's building 3,750 of all ranks, including 1,400 postmen. Meanwhile the force at Mount Pleasant had increased from 2,850 to 4,550. These numbers were exclusive of the temporary force employed at Christmas.

The work dealt with per week was as follows: Five and a half millions of letters, etc., delivered in E. C. district, and 3,500,000 to other districts of London and by certain provincial mails, and 3,500,000 dispatched to foreign countries and the colonies; in all, 12,500,000, weighing about 366 tons.

With regard to the cost of the new building he found that if built in the ordinary way with steel construction the approximate cost, exclusive of fittings, etc., would be £355,000, but if in reinforced concrete £295,000 would probably suffice. The latter figure had proved to be correct, so that there had been an approximate saving of £60,000, and apart from this, considerable space had been gained by the great reduction in wall thicknesses.

The general post office has furnished statistics of the Yuletide traffic, showing that all records were exceeded in the huge 1910 Christmas "post bag." The great office is equipped with the very latest appliances, and all were working up to their fullest capacity during Christmas week. To suit the great length of the building electric conveyers have been installed. A new and ingenious system for setting newspapers was also successfully tried.

MUST WEAR DARK CLOTHES

An Absolute Requirement in Factories Where Work is Done With Gold.

Light suits of clothes are not favored in factories where work is done on gold. In fact, in many such factories a dark suit of clothes is absolutely required and even a light waistcoat may lose a man a job. The reason for this is that any stray grains of gold that may get on the clothing can easily be caught on a dark suit, while they might get away from the establishment if light clothes were worn.

That such a rule was enforced among gold workers one man learned recently when a Bohemian gold beater applied to him for a helping hand. The Bohemian said that he had only recently come to this country, that he had had a chance to obtain a good job at his trade, but that the place had been refused him because he turned up with a light coat and waistcoat on, and they were the only clothes he had.

The man whom he approached was struck by the story and offered to help him out if it proved true. He went to a down town factory with him and found out that the man could have the job if he presented himself within an hour with the proper clothes on. Two dollars enabled the man to rig himself out in the dark coat and waistcoat to go with his dark trousers, and sure enough he got the job.

"You may think this strange," said the man at the factory, "but it means quite a little to us. Every man's clothing is carefully examined when he leaves here at night, and the gold brushed off whenever we see any on his clothing."

"It is impossible to hide even tiny grains on a dark background, but take a mixed or a light suit, and we might easily lose quite an amount of gold, and gold isn't anything you want to lose, even in small quantities."

Chicken Bones for Children.

Monday morning marketers learned through a sign in the delicatessen store window that the proprietor had choice chicken bones for sale.

"For soup?" some one asked.

"No; babies," he said. "It is not easy to find a nutritious bone for the baby to gnaw. What he wants is a drumstick of a young, juicy fowl. It must be fresh and free from tang. Even the family that prides itself on setting a good table may buy a chicken whose drumstick is too old for the child. Every Saturday I cook wholesome calf-ryed roasters. Their bones, when stripped, make excellent tooth sharpeners for the babies, and any mother of a fretful brood can have them for next to nothing."

Our Doctors.

"The late Count Tolstol loathed physicians," said, at a dinner in Washington, a Russian diplomat.

"You remember how Tolstol ridiculed physicians in 'War and Peace'? Well, I heard him ridicule three of them to their faces over a vegetarian dinner at Yasnaya Polyana."

"Physicians," he said, bitterly, looking up from a plate of lentils, "may be divided into two classes—the radicals, who kill you, and the conservatives, who let you die."

TONES TO SUPPLANT WORDS

Head of Musical Department of Los Angeles High School Has New Method of Harmony.

Los Angeles, Cal.—Los Angeles eventually will be a paradise of perfect linguistics if the plans of those at the head of the music department of the public schools can carry out their modern ideas of voice using. The system lately introduced aims to make conversation a continuous harmony delight and to free it from many of the everyday defects of enunciation.

Children are to be taught to form words and sentences as they would the phrases of a song and to have a mellifluous effect always in mind in speaking.

Mrs. Katherine D. Stone, head of the musical department of the public schools here, has started on a tour of all the principal cities in the country with the purpose of giving and accepting suggestions as to the successful working out of the new method of voice culture.

Each voice has a different dominant note, that is, a note upon which all the speaking sounds are based. From this note every modulation and inflection of the voice should be regulated.

Usually in an ordinary sentence, unless the emotion is violent, the dominant note is used at the commencement and different tones are afterward employed through the different colors of a sentence.

Grief, hatred and enmity all have distinct and varied rules for correct intoning. Grief and deep emotion are expressed in the minor key entirely, just as a song of sorrowful cast is written in a minor strain. In the exclamation, "Oh, my," said sadly, the whole chromatic scale is employed for a complete octave.

On the other hand, joy and conviction are shown by the major key and an exclamation such as "Hurrah!" will in complicated order cover all but one major octave from the low note to a high one.

In a question the high note should come at the point in the sentence when the query is most pronounced; thus, in "Where are you going?" the high note would come in "where," but if a person asked the question to single out a certain individual, thus, "Where are you going?" the upper tone would be upon the "you."

Miss Truslow states that the Americans as a rule speak with a closed throat, which is not only very inharmonious, but is deadening to the voice and causes a person of thirty to speak like one of fifty.

The old Italian method of singing emphasized the importance of the open throat. Other methods have come and gone, but this has survived as the true method of "bel canto."

All the words are formed on the lips and as far to the front of the teeth as possible. In this way a correct speaker can often be understood by the movement of his lips alone.

Nasal, throaty and harsh voices are all caused by the tone being produced in either the nose, throat or chest. A child who is shown how to place each tone correctly will always do so through force of habit.

The children are reported as taking readily to the new order of things in the schools and lectures have been given on the subject before various clubs in the city.

RETURN OF 17-YEAR LOCUST

New Yorkers Fear Appearance of Injurious Insects—Chinamen Use Them for Salads.

New York.—The seventeen-year locusts, which are due to return this summer, have made their appearance in this vicinity. Curator Ditmars of the New York Zoological society has discovered the first grubs, several thousand in number, in an excavation near Nyack, N. Y.

During the last previous visitation the locusts covered suburban New York, stripping trees, bushes, hedges, lawns and truck farms of everything green. The individual locusts lived only a few days, but each female laid 500 eggs on the branches of denuded trees. When the larvae hatched they fell to the ground and burrowed straight down for more than a foot.

There it is said they have reared for 17 years, and as soon as the frost leaves the ground they will dig their way to the surface.

Chinatown will welcome the visitation. The Chinese cook makes them into pies, roasts them, eats them as a salad and dresses them in many mysterious ways.

To Kill Prairie Dogs.

Farwell, Tex.—The commissioners of Potter county have contracted with Norman Wilson to exterminate all the prairie dogs within the county during the year for \$2,515, the lowest bid offered.

If these rodents were called squirrels instead of dogs, say those who have eaten them, their meat would be on a par with rabbits. Like the Indian, buffalo, antelope and deer, the prairie dog will soon be a thing of the past. Where there were millions a few years ago there is now not even a habitation.

Wireless Phones on Trains.

New York.—That the Union Pacific plans to equip its entire system with wireless telephone apparatus for sending messages from moving trains to stations along the line, is the announcement of Dr. Frederick Millner of Omaha, an electrical expert in the employ of the railroad, before the New York Railroad club's annual meeting here the other day.