

CONDUCTING A MODERN OPERATION.



In an operation such as is here portrayed in a Paris operating theater, the most elaborate precautions are taken lest any infective germ should be conveyed by the surgeon to the wound. The surgical instruments are passed through a flame to burn germicidal dust. All surgeons and students in the theater wear blouses and overalls, which are sterilized, and which completely cover them. The faces of the operators are masked in sterilized gauze, lest their breath should convey germs; their heads are covered in the same way, and their hands are further gloved with thin sterilized India rubber. Every appendage of the operating chamber is cleaned to sterility. The room has no corners but is constructed with rounded angles and gutters, so that it may be completely washed down with disinfectant after an operation.

CAN TALK TO MARS

PROF. PICKERING SAYS IT WOULD COST ONLY \$10,000,000.

Harvard Astronomer Believes Communication with Planet by Flashing Messages Would Be Comparatively Easy.

Boston.—It mankind cares enough about it to put out about \$10,000,000, there is no very good reason why the human race should not be able to talk with Mars, according to Prof. William Henry Pickering, Harvard university's celebrated astronomer. Communication with the Martians will be made possible, Prof. Pickering declares, by adopting his method of flashing messages. When Mars approaches the earth to within 35,000,000 miles, or about 5,000,000 miles nearer than ever before.

Ten millions of dollars is a large amount, he admits, but he predicts that, once this means of celestial communication is established, the messages will be easily recognized and undoubtedly answered if there is intelligent life on Mars, and that in such a case, the hitherto hidden mysteries concerning Mars will become an open book to the people of the earth. Prof. Pickering describes his system in these words:

"My plan of communicating with Mars would necessitate the use of a series of mirrors so arranged as to present a single reflecting surface toward the planet. These mirrors would have to be attached to one great axis, parallel to that of the earth, run by motors and so timed as to make a complete revolution every 24 hours. It would be necessary to have these mirrors occupy an area of more than a quarter of a mile in order to reflect a sufficient quantity of light to reach the Martians. Even with such powerful apparatus as is proposed, the reflected light would not be apparent to the naked eye, but by the use of powerful telescopes the signal from the earth could be discernible.

"Looking down from Mars this reflection would appear like a small point of light upon the surface of the earth. Supposing, with such a signal in operation, we began a series of flashes, cutting off the sun's rays for an instant and then throwing on the reflection again, repeating this at irregular intervals, following, say, the telegraphers' code of dots and dashes, I have no doubt that, providing there were intelligent people on Mars, the light would at once attract attention and would lead eventually to an answering signal. Once we received such an answer, the rest would be the comparatively easy matter of establishing a code and transmitting messages."

Fever Favors Whites. Bridgetown, Barbados, B. W. I.—Sir Robert Boyce, the expert sent here by the British colonial office at the request of the authorities here to study the outbreak of a peculiar disease, after examining a number of cases, diagnosed some of them as yellow fever.

His opinion of the disease is that it is remarkable for its difference to the known type of yellow fever by the mildness of its attack, its non-infectious nature and by the fact that its attack has been confined to the negro population. Sir Robert has assured those interested that the epidemic is very limited in extent and mild and in no way alarming to visitors. He expressed himself as remarkably surprised at the good sanitary condition of Bridgetown.

TOUCHED HEART OF MARSHAL

New York Server of Eviction Papers Moved by Tragedy of Which He Was Chief

Thirty little children sat on cheap wooden benches in the second-story room at 11 Suffolk street the other day. Every one of them was ragged. Most looked as though they had not had enough to eat. But they were bright-eyed and alert and not for a moment did their attention stray from the white-bearded old rabbi who was teaching them Jewish prayers, although the squalid little pictures on the walls and the myriad of noises of the roaring East side street must have been a constant temptation. And then the door opened and City Marshal Lazarus stepped in, disposes warrant in hand, says the New York correspondent of the Cincinnati Times-Star. The struggling little congregation of the synagogue hadn't been able to pay the rent. Their few pennies were needed to keep their own roof trees and give their little ones a meager fare. The old teacher stood silent, with bowed head, as the poor furnishings were ripped from the place and stacked in the street below. Tears trickled down his beard. The children carried the tidings through the squalid neighborhood and in a moment the street was choked with shrieking, gesticulating, weeping men and women. They begged the marshal's men for mercy. As each bit of the poor furnishings appeared they redoubled their outcries. The rabbi, no longer erect and venerable, but a poor, old, grief-stricken man, his eyes red with tears, his hands shaking, moved among them, trying to repress their emotion. Marshal Lazarus was moved by the agony of this, perhaps the most poverty-stricken congregation in all New York. He went to the old rabbi and handed him a little money. "That's to keep you going for a few days," he said kindly.

The old man accepted it. "But it is for my people," he said proudly. "Myself, I can starve. But who will watch my little children here?"

WRONG SYSTEM IN PORTUGAL

Land Cut Up into Portions on Which Comfortable Living Cannot Be Made.

The Portuguese are an extremely conservative people. Every man follows rigidly the methods employed by his father and forefathers. In very many parts of the country the old wooden plows are still used.

When a man dies instead of one of the heirs taking the whole property and paying the remaining heirs for their parts the whole property is divided into as many parts as there are heirs. More than this, each separate part of the property is thus divided.

Thus if a property consisted of ten acres of pasture land, 30 of vineyard and ten of grain land, and there were ten heirs, each heir would receive one acre each of grain and pasture land and eight acres of vineyard. This process has been going on for a very long time, so that now in the most fertile part of Portugal the land is divided into incredibly small portions.

The immediate result of this, according to the United States consular reports, is that the product of the land is barely sufficient at best to sustain its owners. South of the river Tagus, on the other hand, there are enormous tracts of excellent land lying unused, but it has been found impossible to induce the farmers of the north to move into this region and take up large holdings.

For Nose Bleed. For obstinate and persistent nose bleeding either put an ice pack or a cloth wrung out of ice water at the back of the neck just at the base of the brain, or drop cold water from a sponge held well above the head so that it will strike the crown of the head with considerable force.

The head should be kept well elevated; even in cases of extreme weakness do not allow the patient to lie down, and small swards of absorbent cotton wet with a weak solution of carbolic acid should be used to plug the nostrils.

If the arms are held above the head five or ten minutes the bleeding, if not severe, will usually stop.

His Business Ability. In the Adirondacks lives a man too lazy to work but evidently of great business ability. One winter, when he was sitting around smoking, his family came so near starving that some of his neighbors, who could ill afford to help him, took up a collection and bought for the suffering family a barrel of flour, a barrel of pork and a load of wood. They were not considerate enough to cut the wood, but the business man knew how to manage. He hired some of his neighbors, who had not contributed to his donation, to cut the wood, and paid them with half the pork and half the flour.—Lippincott's.

Shingles from a Tree 1,100 Years Old. A lumber company at Buckley, Wash., recently sent out a number of souvenir shingles that were cut from a tree 1,100 years old. The tree from which the shingles were cut had 350 rings, which fact denotes that it was 350 years old when it fell. The stump of a tree which grew over it has 750 rings, and as this could not have started to grow until some time after the first fell, it is practically certain that the original tree was thriving in A. D. 900, which was 700 years before the discovery of America.—Popular Mechanics.

A NIGHT WITH A NIGHTMARE.

May Be Warning to Those Who Seek Escape from Tortures of Insomnia.

Recently a friend who had heard that I sometimes suffer from insomnia told me of a sure cure. "Eat a pint of peanuts and drink two or three glasses of milk before going to bed," said he, "and I'll warrant you'll be asleep within half an hour." I did as he suggested, and now for the benefit of others who may be afflicted with insomnia I feel it my duty to report what happened, so far as I am able to recall the details.

First, let me say my friend was right. I did go to sleep very soon after my retirement. Then a friend with his head under his arm came along and asked me if I wanted to buy his feet. I was negotiating with him when the dragon on which I was riding slipped out of his skin and left me floating in midair. While I was considering how I should get down, a bull with two heads peered over the edge of the wall and said he would haul me up if I would first climb up and rig a windlass for him. So as I was sliding down the mountainside the brakeman came in, and I asked him when the train would reach my station.

"We are passed your station 400 years ago," he said, calmly, folding the train-up and slipping it into his vest pocket.

At this juncture the clown bounded into the ring and pulled the centerpole out of the ground, lifting the tent and all the people in it up, while I stood on the earth below watching myself go out of sight among the clouds above. Then I awoke, and found I had been asleep almost ten minutes.—Good Health Clinic.

VALUE IN WELL-TRAINED MIND

Has Effect Too Frequently Unappreciated in Social and Domestic Relations.

Men often realize that a well-trained mind is a great asset in business; yet seldom do we see comment upon the fact that it is also invaluable in social and domestic relations. The mind, after a certain stage is passed, works automatically in kindness as in calculation.

This is noticeable in the study of pronounced characters. Men are enabled to act quickly in emergency only by intuition; and it follows that when a man is habitually kind, or merciful, or considerate, or all three, he will be so in the crisis of his life.

Character is a matter of slow formation. In a pronounced form it is rare. The average is a mixture of many lines of training; hence, vacillation. The more pronounced, the more forceful for certain effects.

It is in babyhood that the formation begins, and in the earlier years are laid bases which after effort may never be able to remove. Environment, of course, is one factor. The child brought up in an atmosphere of kindness, courtesy, mercy, generosity, etc., is likely, although not certain, to remain so.

In any event, the main thought is that we too frequently forget that trained minds have possibilities beyond money-making. The mind is ever a tyrant. The money-grubber cannot reform after a certain period; and he who has reached 40 generous will find difficulty in becoming a miser, even if so minded, when past that period.

Rigid Rules for Childhood.

Childhood must have been a dreary time when Lady Burton was a little girl. "The only times we were allowed down stairs," she says in her reminiscences, "were at two o'clock luncheon (our dinner), and to dessert for about a quarter of an hour if our parents were dining alone or had very intimate friends. On these occasions I was dressed in white muslin and blue ribbons, and Theodore, my stepbrother, in green velvet, with turnover lace collar, after the fashion of that time. We were not allowed to speak unless spoken to; we were not allowed to ask for anything unless it was given to us. We kissed our father's and mother's hands and asked their blessing before going upstairs, and we stood upright by the side of them all the time we were in the room. In those days there was no lolling about, no Tommy-keeping-fingers-out-of-the-jam, no Dick-crawling-under-the-table-pinchng-people's-legs, as nowadays."

Needed to Begin at Home.

Two young women were scheduled to read papers on the rearing of children in connection with a mothers' meeting, their husbands being left at home to put the two children to bed. They lived in adjoining apartments. The young women attended the meeting, read the papers and after the discussion on the care of infants adjourned to the home of a friend for refreshments. When they reached home at 11:30 the two husbands had joined forces and were frantically pacing the floor, each carrying a shrieking baby.

Stevenson Had Speller.

One of the most polished and palatable of English authors regarded correct spelling as a totally unnecessary accomplishment. In his introduction to R. L. Stevenson's letters, Sidney Colvin writes: "I have not held myself bound to reproduce all the author's minor eccentricities of spelling and the like. As all his friends are aware, to spell in a quite accurate and grown-up manner was a thing which this master of English letters was never able to learn."

PULPIT SERMONS ON WOMEN.

Few Things Said by Ancient and Modern Divines on Momentous Subject.

Why Eve was made from the rib of Adam has been explained by a witty sage of old. If she had been created from his mouth, she would have talked too much; if from his feet, she would have gone about too much; if from his ears, she would have listened too readily; but she was made from a rib, which is near the heart, to show that she must always be dear to man.

An English preacher in the seventeenth century spoke in similar fashion when he said, with the text, "To be or not to be," that woman should be like and unlike three things. She should be like a snail, always keep within her own house; but not like a snail, to carry all she had on her back. She should be like an echo, to speak when she was spoken to; but not, like an echo, always to have the last word. She should be like a town clock, always keep time and regularity; but not, like a town clock, to speak so loud that all the town might hear her.

A preacher in the reign of Charles II. was to receive £10 if in his sermon at the funeral of Madam Crewell he said nothing but well of her. She was rather a bad character and here he had dictated the clause in her will. So, after a general address on mortality, he thus concluded: "By the will of a deceased sister it is expected that I should mention her and say nothing but well of her; therefore this is: She was born well, she lived well and she died well; for she was born with the name Crewell, she lived in Clerkenwell and she died in Bridewell."—The Sunday Magazine.

LIGHT ON MEDICAL QUESTION

Scientific Analysis of the Ability of Individuals to Weep "Tears of Blood."

The belief that certain individuals are able to weep tears of blood is of such antiquity that the German equivalent for "bitter tears" is "blutige thrannen," "bloody tears." There seems, however, no authentic instance of blood being actually secreted by the lachrymal gland.

Wicas has published a very interesting article on real and false tears of blood. It is a clinical study on conjunctival hemorrhage. Some years ago the author was consulted about a boy aged 12 years who, from the slightest cause, such as laughing, or sometimes apparently for no cause whatever, wept tears of blood—an occurrence often repeated several times a day. The lad was pale and emaciated from constant hemorrhage.

The source of the bleeding was the tarsal conjunctiva, which was covered with fine papillae, and light cauterization with the galvano-cautery resulted in a cure.

This case led the author to study the literature of the subject. He found that in none of the cases cited is it certain that the blood did not come from the conjunctiva or from the lachrymal passages. He feels that it is unwise to deny the possibility of sanguineous secretion from the gland, but that examples in which other sources cannot be shown to be present must be exceedingly rare.

Borneo Inviting to Naturalists.

There is no country in the world more inviting to the naturalist than Borneo. Here are found the flying squirrels, flying foxes, flying lizards, flying frogs, and the natives report flying snakes. Among the most noted birds is the little swift Collocalis nidifera. Their nests are eaten by the Chinese, and are regarded as a great luxury. These birds build their nests in limestone caves of a glutinous saliva, which they produce from their glands, no sticks or any other foreign substances are used. The collection of these nests is an important industry with the natives, though they pay a tax on all they take to market. The value of those exported from British North Borneo in 1897 was \$15,924. They are served at the great feasts of the Chinese, especially at weddings.

Asthma Plant of Queensland.

The euphorbias are very numerous in the colony of Queensland, and among them is the euphorbia plant, which has a remarkable reputation for curing this troublesome complaint. Several pharmaceutical preparations of the plant are extensively sold in Australia. Analysis shows that a green plant contained 79 per cent. by weight of water and three per cent. of ash, leaving 18 per cent. of vegetable matter. A dried plant contained an alkaloidal substance equal to about 1 part in 1,000. It contained also a glucosidal substance to the amount of not more than 4 parts in 1,000. Possibly one or both of these was the active principle of the plant.

Schiama That Seem Small.

Two religious sects who hated one another bitterly were found by Sven Hedin in Tibet. Searching for the cause of this aversion he found that one of the sects believed that the prayer wheel should turn to the right, while the other was convinced that the wheel should turn to the left. In the region of the Bramaputra he found a mountain which is so sacred that whoever walks around it 13 times has all his sins forgiven. The result of this belief is that criminals from far and near insist on this rite. When Sven Hedin started to ride around this mountain on his horse the pilgrims informed him that that would do him no good.

HIS TALE TOLD IN A MOMENT.

But It Is Not Hard to Imagine That the Delay Was Fatal to the Flower Beds.

One morning not long ago there burst into the office of a physician in Tacoma, Pa., an excited individual, who, as he perceived the doctor just disappearing into his consulting room with a patient, exclaimed: "Doctor! Doctor! Just one moment!"

"I'll see you shortly," was the curt professional response.

"Only a second, doctor! Only a second is what I want!" protested the perturbed one.

"I'll see you shortly," reiterated the physician, with increasing impatience. Whereupon, with a sigh, the man took a seat in the general reception hall, says Harper's Weekly. His excitement soon subsided, for he read the morning paper through, glanced through a number of magazines, and played awhile with the doctor's cat. Then, after a period of half an hour, the doctor reappeared, and, in an air of great condescension, said to the erstwhile excited person:

"Now, sir, I am at your service. Your turn has come. What can I do for you?"

"Oh, nothing special," was the reply. "I only dropped in to tell you that your neighbor's cows have escaped from the yard and are now having a fine time among your flower beds."

THE MAD RACE FOR WEALTH.

Stock Gamblers Misapply Funds That Are Theirs Only in Trust.

We once knew a professional gambler who habitually lost in front of other men's tables what he made behind his own. How do you account for that? He would sit behind his own tables night after night, claiming his sure percentage from the gamblers on the other side, and when he had thus accumulated \$20,000 or \$30,000, he would go and lose it all in one sitting on the wrong side of another man's table.

Most of the scandals affecting stock exchange members in Wall street come of their having got on the wrong side of the table. A house does not set out deliberately, in the first instance, to make away wrongfully with the customers' funds. The head of the house or one of its members becomes extravagant, lives beyond his resources, and needs money quickly. He turns to the stock market. He begins as a speculator, takes greater and greater risks, becomes a gambler, and ends by breaking his house and cheating his clients. Haven't you wondered why in these cases the man who misuses your funds in their private stock-market gambling always loses them? That is because they have been trying to do what you have been trying to do—make 500 or 1,000 per cent. on a given amount of capital—and it simply can't be done.—Everybody's.

Wise Idea of Matron.

The spirit of independence is driving men and women into apartments, where they can live as they please and be under obligations to nobody. Favors are returned, and so are slights, and a degree of harmony prevails. Such people are welcome guests in many places, for they have the good sense to limit visits. "Live with my son" repeated a handsome matron the other day to a friend who wondered why she was not an inmate of the pretty home she visited frequently. "Not I," she emphasized. "There is the deepest affection between us which I take precious care to preserve by this sensible arrangement. But if I am an important personage now, but if I was located in the best chamber of that house I would become a nuisance. I have seen something of the world, and I want to end my days in peace and comfort."

Flodden Field.

Scotland and England have agreed to forget all old unkindness and erect a monument of Flodden field commemorating of the courage of their ancestors of 1513. Both sides are right, for the Scotch lost the battle quite as much by King James' high-strung chivalry preventing him from using his strategic advantages as by the superiority of the English archery. Flodden was among the last of the great battles in which firearms counted for little or nothing. Probably the last appearance of the bow in war was in Russia a century ago. The Russians at Eylau, 1807, had a body of Bashkirs in chain armor who opposed arrows to French bullets, and during the retreat from Moscow in 1813 occasionally French soldiers found themselves targets for the same wild archers.

First Aid to Memory.

The Coming Poet was being entertained at an afternoon tea given in his honor by the leading society ladies of his native town. It was the poet's annual home-coming. And leave it to him if he wasn't playing up his transcendental mysticism, or mystic transcendentalism (take your choice) to the awe-inspiring point. Just a few. But, as usual, he was misunderstood. For instance, when he sprang his favorite bromide, "An indescribable something within me often whispers that I have a message to deliver," a dense dame shattered the solemn silence with: "What a labor-saving gift that must be! Why, when I want my husband to deliver a message I always have to tie a string to his finger to remind him of it!"—Illustrated Sunday Magazine.

L'ABEILLE DE LA NOUVELLE-ORLEANS

Publ. par la Societe des Ecrivains de la Nouvelle-Orleans. 1000 N. Poydras St. N. O. La Nouvelle-Orleans, La. Prix de l'abonnement en France 12 francs par an. En vente chez tous les Libraires de la Nouvelle-Orleans.