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NUMBER 18



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Antimony.
That terrible poison, antimony, known most familiarly in the compound called tartar emetic, has a very interesting history. It was introduced into medicine some centuries ago by Paracelsus. Its name signifies that it is "against monks," as some on whom it was tried displayed the now familiar symptoms. Its use in modern medicine has been reduced to the vanishing point with other depressing measures, such as bleeding. In the table which arranges the elements in series and shows their connections—so that all are probably modifications of one universal substance—there is a sequence, nitrogen, phosphorus, arsenic, antimony, bismuth. Sir Lauder Brunton has shown that these possess many common properties in their action upon man and that these properties vary in relation to the place of each in the scale. In the days before chloroform antimony and tobacco were used to produce the partial unconsciousness which attends their action.

How to Warm Gold Plates.
Various departments of "household hints" have unaccountably neglected to tell how solid gold plates may be warmed for the meat courses at dinner.

This may be done in the right or the wrong way. The right way is exemplified at Castle Kilkenny. This is one of the oldest inhabited dwellings in the world, some of the rooms being 800 years old. Among its ancient treasures is a service of gold plate.

Besides the ordinary plate service, Castle Kilkenny has the whole series of gold cups used at coronation banquets down to the time of George IV. The gold of the service plates is almost without alloy, consequently very soft and easily marred. Hence the plates are warmed and presumably also washed after use by being dipped into hot water held by a pair of tongs whose tips have been muffled in chambray leather.

Tickling the Debtors.
John Barrett was only twenty-seven years old when President Cleveland appointed him minister to Siam. The first important task which confronted the youthful envoy was to press a claim against the Siamese government for \$1,000,000. Experienced ambassadors warned him against using threats in obtaining the money. "Be cunning; avoid arrogance," they said.

"That is," responded Mr. Barrett, "you favor tickling with a straw to pricking with a bayonet." The statesmen nodded assent. When the young minister had finally succeeded in collecting the claim the ambassadors asked in astonishment, "How did you accomplish it?"

"By tickling," explained Barrett. "I had to tickle them almost to death, though, before they agreed to pay it."

Coffee for the Inebriate.
A traveler has made the observation that coffee drinking people are very seldom given to drunkenness. In Brazil, for instance, where coffee is grown extensively and all the inhabitants drink it many times a day, intoxication is rarely seen. The effect is not only noticeable among the natives, but the foreigner who settles there, though possessed of ever such a passion for strong drink, gradually loses his liking for alcohol as he acquires the coffee drinking habit of the Brazilian.

Found a Parallel.
An English country vicar discovered not long ago that one of his male servants was in the habit of stealing his potatoes. He mentioned the fact to his curate and asked advice. "Well," replied the curate, "of course you must remember what the Bible says, 'If any man take away thy coat let him have thy cloak also.'"

Animals in Alcohol.
M. Grobaut, professor of physiology in Paris, in describing the effect of alcohol upon animals says that the successive stages of intoxication through which they pass are gaudy, sadness, solemnity and a supreme intoxication which ends in death. Rabbits are very curious when under the influence of liquor, and a drunken kangaroo is brutally aggressive.

Averting the Evil.
Mildred (very superstitious)—Oh, dear, I would never have accepted you, Jack, if I had remembered it was Friday evening!
Jack—There's only one way to avert the evil omen, darling. We must very carefully kiss each other seven times at least every seven minutes during the first seventy minutes of our engagement.

Jenkins Was Ignored.
William Pitt's last words are said to have been, "My country, oh, how I love my country!" Pitt's butler afterward said that the statesman's dying words were, "I hope the country will do something for Jenkins." The butler was Jenkins, but nobody accepted his testimony and the country certainly did nothing for Jenkins.

Not an Authority.
There are some persons who can't take a joke, but Fogg is not one of them. One of the boys, acquainted with Fogg's frequent changes of abode, asked him which he thought was the cheaper, to move or to pay rent.
"I can't tell you, my dear boy," replied Fogg. "I have always moved."

Economical.
Friend (to amateur artist)—I suppose you'll give up painting when you marry?
Amateur—Oh, no! I'll be so convenient and economical when we have to make wedding presents.

Good Listening.
Good talking is largely dependent on "good hearing." The fact that a man is able to do his mental powers the justice of brilliant expression may be due to the presence of some receptive mind ready to invite and appreciate. Wits may clash to the point of deafening themselves. The sympathetic and silent listener is the buffer between.

Ruskin is said to have been excellent company. He spoke in a tone of "gentle and playful earnestness." He had floods of thought and knowledge to pour forth, if only he could get the right hearers. But there were the barren occasions when listeners were absent.

One day a friend gave a little dinner for him, Dr. Jowett and Dean Stanley. But no sooner had the dinner begun than the host realized his mistake. He had provided no setting for his jewels, no junior men as hearers. "They wanted to meet one another," he said. "It should have gone off brilliantly, but the soup came and the fish followed and they simply would not talk. At last I said some stupid thing to Stanley about the architecture of Westminster abbey, and that drew Ruskin and started us all off. Then all went well. But I shall never make the same mistake again." — Youth's Companion.

A Lost Island.
Of the various buildings which adorned the island of Philae there remain today above water only a portion of the colonnade, the top of the kiosk and a part of the temple of Isis. The traveler approaches the ruins in a small boat, in which he may pass down the colonnade and row about in the once sacred chambers. It is a novel and interesting experience, but to those who were familiar with the island in all its beauty it is full of sadness. Of the columns which formed the colonnade only the capitals remain above water. Upon these one sees, beautifully chiseled and ornamented with delicate coloring, Tiberius offering gifts to the gods or Nero presenting two eyes to Isis. A short distance to the right the roof of the kiosk is visible resting upon its exquisite columns, which are partly submerged. By it two unusually large palm trees rear their heads above the inundation.—Century.

A Wasp's Wisdom.
Naturalists have decided that many insects have senses which human beings lack. That of location, shown by the wasp, for instance, is remarkable. One species builds its nest in a sand bank that is only a part of several acres of such soil, and when it leaves in search of food it covers the nest so carefully that no ordinary eye could discover its location—that is to say, it is just like all the surrounding location, and yet the wasp flies back to it without hesitation and finds it without making a mistake. There is another wasp that unerringly locates the eggs of the mason bee under a thick layer of sun baked clay and deposits her own eggs in the same cells that her young may have food when they are hatched.

A Sure Way of Saving.
An ingenious method of putting his savings beyond his own reach has been adopted by a German writer who found from dire experience that all his profits melted away as soon as earned. Having made \$10,000 by a fortunate literary speculation, he placed the whole of the money, together with his will, in the Imperial Deposit bank at Berlin and on receiving the receipt from the cashier deliberately tore it up. The cashier thought he was mad and told him angrily that it would take fully three years before he could expect to obtain a duplicate receipt. "That is just why I have torn up the original," calmly remarked the depositor, "and now the money is safe for that time." — Golden Penny.

The Marriage Knot.
Few of those who talk about the "marriage knot" realize that the knot was ever anything more than a mere figure of speech. Among the Babylonians tying the knot was part of the marriage ceremony. There the priest took a thread of the garment of the bride and another from that of the bridegroom and tied them into a knot, which he gave to the bride, thus symbolizing the binding nature of the union.

Changing a Snake into a Rod.
In a volume on the snakes of Egypt Hippolyte Boussac states that the incident referred to in the Scriptures of changing a snake into a rod is still practiced by the snake charmers. They touch the snake at a certain place in the neck, when it falls into a cataleptic condition and becomes straight and stiff. It is then restored to its former condition by taking its tail between the hands and firmly rolling.

Egyptian Maxims.
An Egyptian papyrus which dates back to about 4000 B. C. has the following injunctions: "Calumnies should never be repeated." "Guard thy speech before all things, for a man's ruin lies in his tongue." The wise men of the race early learned good sense.

Toned Him Down.
"This photograph doesn't look a bit like me," said Snarley to the photographer.
"I know it," said the photographer. "I was afraid to make it exactly like you for fear you wouldn't take it."

Tested.
Cora—Are you sure you will be able to support me, dear?
Merritt—Why, yes. It's cheaper to be married than engaged.—Exchange.

Hungarian peasants have a superstition that fire kindled by lightning can only be extinguished by milk.

Corn Contest

A set of Rogers Bros.' Triple Plated Knives and Forks will be given as first prize; a beautiful Carving Set as second prize for the best 12 ears of field corn left at my store on or before October 30, 1903.

All corn to be securely tied in bundles of 12 ears each and delivered to my store on or before above date. You will be given a receipt for same, numbered to correspond with ticket attached to your corn. The corn will therefore be known to the judges by the number only. Contest to be decided and prizes given Saturday afternoon, Oct. 31. All corn entered to become my property.

F. L. McOmber

West Side Hardware.

W. McHenry.



Christmas Gifts

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Two pages devoted to the fashionable lace collar—designs for women and children—beautiful patterns for gift collars.

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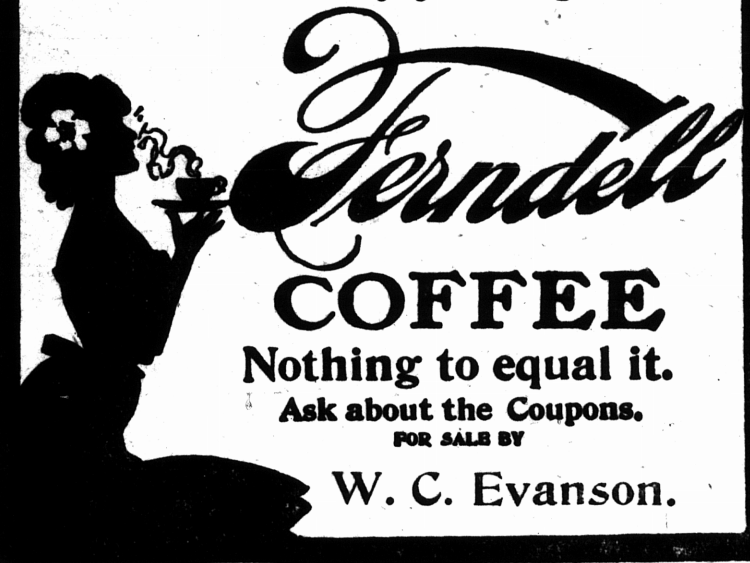
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