POINTED PARAGRAPHS.

What can't be cured should be well insured.

Learn to say "No." It's better than "Nit."

It's harder to save a penny than it is to earn it.

A man's unreliability very often exceeds his assets.

As the twig is bent the limb is inclined to go broke later.

A dude often turns feminine heads—but in the wrong direction.

An ignorant wise man is less dangerous than an educated fool.

Time is caught by the tail more frequently than by the forelock.

Some women speak little to a man's heart and but little to his mind.

But few wives who drive their husbands to drink have to use whips.

Poets are born—therefore their ancestors should be held responsible.

A good dinner often transforms a bitter memory into a pleasant forgetory.

Every man knows how a wife should be managed, but few are able to do it.

All the world's a prize ring, and all the men and women merely scrappers.

A wise man baits his hook with inquiry, but a fool baits his with impertinence.

Some men are too stubborn to acknowledge the corn until you step on their toes.

Beer is said to be fattening, but too much of it will make a man lean—against something.

Actors always like to tread the boards, but it's a deadly insult to ask them how the walking is.

Some men's idea of making a night of it is their inability to remember anything the next morning.

It sometimes happens that it takes a speaker longer to clear his throat than it does to clear the hall.

Whenever some husbands and wives agree it is to the effect that they made a serious mistake in marrying.

There are but few female lawyers. A woman would rather lay down the law to one man than practice it in court.

It is said that men who never drink, smoke or stay out late at night live to a ripe old age. Perhaps that's their punishment.

HARNESS REINS.

Made From the Stoutest of Leather—A Word About Handholds.

The reins of a set of single harness are each about 13 feet in length; those of a double harness about fifteen feet. For business, harness reins are made of leather, tanned black; the reins of carriage harness are made of russet-colored leather.

Reins require to be very stout, and they are almost always of steer hide, the leather of which traces are made, these, however, being of more than one thickness. Occasionally lines for light or for cheap harness are made of cowhide, but not often; as a rule the best of leather is used for the reins, even in cheap harness. There can be obtained from hides of leather suitable for rein strips from seven to nine feet in length, so that reins are always of necessity made in two pieces.

The loops, or handholds, often seen on the reins of track or road horses are commonly made of lighter leather stitched together and then sometimes stitched to the reins, but more often secured to them in such a manner that they can be shifted on the reins to suit the convenience of the driver. The three-loop hold, is commonly used for track driving; the single loop is the one used by most drivers on the road. There are patent handholds made of metal. The wooden buttons sometimes seen on reins, used as handholds, are made in pairs, one button on each pair having a stem with a thread cut on it which goes through the rein and is screwed into the other button of the pair on the opposite side.

HOOK SWINGING IN BENGAL.

The people of Gangutia, in Bengal, have a barbarous practice called hook swinging. They deck themselves out with garlands, and then assemble together to undergo the most horrible torture. A wire about a quarter of an inch in diameter and seven feet long is pierced through the tongue, and then the wretched being will dance for over half an hour with the wire still hanging through the tongue. Some of them form themselves into a row, and are then sewn together by a wire needle threaded with cord. They are sewn by the arms and look like herrings on a wire when ready for the hook. It is thought that the victims are drugged considerably beforehand, owing to the sullen, dazed expression they wear throughout, but sometimes one or two faint, and are with great difficulty brought round again.

TESTING A TRANSPORT.

A good story is told of the First Battalion Grenadier Guards, while en route to Egypt in the transport Jelunga. "Man overboard," was the cry. Immediately, says our Gibraltar correspondent, life-buoys were cast over, the ship was stopped, and boats lowered, but nothing could be seen of the man. The captain said, "I don't believe there is any one overboard," whereupon the stolid little colonel replied, "Oh, no; I only wanted to see if you had your appliances all ready." The captain of the transport's reply is not given.

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THE BRITISH ARMY BANDS

HOW MUSICIANS ARE TRAINED FOR THE MILITARY SERVICE.

All Bandmasters Must Be Thoroughly Schooled—Bandsmen Are Under the Command of the Regimental Officers.

Music has always played an important part in the arts of war as in the arts of peace. It is indeed, probable that while lutes, and stringed instruments were originally used in the service of religion, instruments of brass were used only in martial music. The trumpets of the Roman infantry, and the bent clarions of their cavalry are frequently mentioned, but no record has been discovered leading to the belief that these instruments were used for any other purposes.

In England, although military music is almost as old as the army itself, the regimental band as now understood is an organization of comparatively recent growth. The first bands were regarded as ornamental appendages to the fashionable regiments. Their expenses were defrayed by the officers, and the uniforms of the musicians were entirely different from those of the regiments. Of course, the more wealthy the officers and the more fashionable the regiment, the more gorgeous were the uniforms of the band, and Pepys describes the musicians of the Life Guards as "rich with embroidery, velvet, cloth of gold and silver."

The names of the instruments used in the old days make quaint reading to-day. There were, besides the fifes, bugles and drums used at the present time, zinks, pommers, horns, brass horns, cremornes, jingling johnnies, bassoons, cymbals and tambourines. In

THE FANTASTIC COSTUMES.

which the bandsmen wore in the time of Pepys, and the queer instruments which they played, a soldier of to-day could hardly find anything but the ridiculous. And yet it must be remembered that these bands more than once did much to bring victory to British arms, and that the music which would seem uncouth and ridiculous at the present day, was just as inspiring to the armies of Marlborough and Wolfe as the cultured performances under trained bandmasters of the present time.

The year 1857 marks the dividing line between the new and the old in British military bands. In that year a bill was passed providing that bandsmen should be recruited as soldiers, should be enlisted on the same terms, should be regularly drilled, and serve in the ranks on emergency. In 1857 also the Royal Military School of Music was founded by the Duke of Cambridge, the commander-in-chief of the British army. This establishment is unique and deserves to be described in some detail.

When it was decided to organize the regimental bands of the British army, and to train the musicians who were to serve in them, one of the first objects desired was to do away with the foreign bandmasters (and bandsmen who were in the majority in nearly every regiment." Kneller Hall, near the famous town of Hounslow, Middlesex, was chosen as suitable for the school. The latter was not designated as a first training-school for musicians, but to give thorough instruction to such members of regimental bands as showed special capacity. At the present time no man is eligible for the important place of bandmaster unless he has studied at the

SCHOOL OF MUSIC,

and has gained the necessary diploma.

At the present time the band of a British infantry regiment consists of a bandmaster, one sergeant, one corporal or lance sergeant, twenty privates and eight boys. In the cavalry regiments the number of privates is fifteen. The boys and privates are recruited in various ways. Men who have some knowledge of music are enlisted as bandsmen, and are immediately taken by the band. Most of the members of the band, however, consist of privates who have exhibited some musical talent, and who, in their spare time, have learned to play on some instrument. Many of the boys are taken from the Duke of York's school for sons of soldiers, the Exmouth training ship, and similar institutions. The majority of them have not been trained to play on any instrument when they join the band. They are, therefore, taught by the bandmaster, who also instructs the newly-joined privates, besides conducting continual practice by the whole band. It will be seen that the duties of a bandmaster are no sinecure.

Now, as to the part which the Royal Military School of Music plays in the formation of the complete band. Such privates and non-commissioned officers as have joined the band are encouraged to join voluntary classes, in addition to receiving the instruction given by the bandmaster. After they have attended these classes for some time they can go up for the preliminary examination for the School of Music. Should a man pass this examination he must in addition be recommended by the colonel of the regiment, and prove himself possessed of a fair general education. He must also agree to serve in the army for twelve years. It will be seen that it is no easy thing to secure admission to Kneller Hall, but the reward, if the aspirant is successful, is proportionate. When he enters the School of Music as a student he is on the direct road to appointment as a bandmaster, with all the glory and increased emoluments which the place gives, and possibly a commission in after years to

CROWN HIS CAREER.

The musical training at Kneller Hall is one of the most thorough kind. The staff consists of a commandant, a quartermaster and an adjutant, a director of music, chaplains of the Church of England and the Roman Catholic church, two schoolmasters and ten professors, besides numerous minor officers. The students are instructed in all instruments used in military bands, harmony, counterpoint orchestration, conducting, and, in short, everything necessary for a fully equipped bandmaster to know. From two to three years is the ordinary course, and at the end of his term the student is thoroughly examined, and if found efficient earns a diploma and usually remains at Kneller Hall as a teacher until there is a vacancy for a bandmaster.

When he reaches this position his work is, as has been said by no means light, but he is generally able to make a great deal more money than the average commissioned officer. The members of the band rise at 6 o'clock, and generally are obliged to attend morning drill at 7 o'clock. Breakfast is at 8 o'clock; from 9 o'clock to 10 o'clock there is individual practice, and from 10 o'clock until noon, full, concerted practice. After dinner there is practice again, and once or twice in the week the band is expected to play at the officers' mess. Of course, on any special occasion elaborate music is provided, and in great reviews and parades the bandmasters of the various regiments join in friendly rivalry to supply the most difficult selections.

It is on the evenings when the band is not expected to play for the officers that the opportunities of the bandmaster and his men are found. Some of the crack regiments, such as the Grenadier Guards, possess bands which are famous all over the United Kingdom, and

EARN LARGE SUMS

for performing at public and private entertainments. The British bands are parts of the regular regiments, and the bandmaster and his men are absolutely at the orders of the commanding officer. There was a case about two years ago in which one of the celebrated regimental bands was guilty of some slight infraction of discipline. It was only by the most abject apologies that the bandmaster and musicians were not all court-martialed.

The bandmaster receives five shillings a day as a warrant officer, with seventy pounds a year added from the band funds. Besides this he takes his proportion of the earnings from private engagements, which are divided among the members of the band according to their rank. The governor provides for the instruments, but the other expenses, which are heavy, come out of the pockets of the officers. Very few of the bandmasters have ever been made commissioned officers. Lieut. Dan Godfrey, of the Coldstream Guards, recently received this honor, and there is a movement on foot to give all the bandmasters commissions. Whether the officers of the British army, which is about the most conservative organization in the world, would consent to receive these additional companions at their mess without protest cannot be said.

Everyone must remember Kipling's story, "The Rout of the White Hussars." In it he speaks of the great veneration felt by every man in the regiment for the old drum horse which the colonel wanted shot. The drum horse plays an important part in the bands of many regiments. It is usually some veteran of many wars and occupies somewhat the same place in the affections of the men as the mascot of the American regiment.

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FRENCH ARMY MORTALITY.

A return relating to mortality in the French army, in time of peace, of course, has just been published by the Journal Officiel. It covers the period between 1872 and 1897 inclusive. It appears that the annual percentage of deaths for the first three years was 8.88 per thousand, in the next two 10.30 per thousand. Between 1877 and 1897 the average has varied between 4.46 in 1880, and 7.84 in 1881 and 1882, while last year it was 4.56. The mortality from typhoid since 1888 has greatly decreased, while smallpox has been virtually stamped out by vaccination.

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NO REST IN THE GRAVE.

The Body of Columbus Continually on the go—Not Much of It Left.

The Spaniards have been wringing their hands at the idea of the ashes of Columbus falling into the hands of the detested Yankees. The remains of the great discoverer lie buried in the choir of the Cathedral of Havana. The dead body of Columbus has been as restless as that of St. Bede. It has never been able to find a quiet resting place. The great sailor died at Valladolid, in Spain, on Ascension Day, 1506. He expressed a wish to be buried in the island of San Domingo. Joannes, his wife, took incessant care of the dead body of her husband. She carried it about with her when she travelled. For three years the body was deposited in the church of San Francisco in Valladolid; where it found its first resting place. In 1513 it was removed to Seville. There it remained for 23 years. The body was again disinterred and carried across the Atlantic. It found its next resting place in San Domingo as Columbus had wished. When the island was ceded to France, the bones were taken to Havana and solemnly buried in the Cathedral in January, 1796. What remained of the body was placed in an urn in a niche in the left wall of the chancel, and covered with a marble slab. Recently the inhabitants of San Domingo have claimed that the bones of the discoverer of the New World still rest in their soil. It appears that when the bones were removed to Cuba the priest of San Domingo kept back half and hid them in the south of the sacristy of their Cathedral. Here they were discovered in 1877. If the Spanish Government again claims the ashes of Columbus, the restless spirit of the explorer will have to return to Spain, for every inch of the territory which he presented to his adopted country will have passed from her rule.

ENCOURAGEMENT.

He—No, I can't afford to marry.

She—Why? I'm sure the tailor would trust you for a dress suit if you mentioned papa's name.

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THE HORRID MAN'S VIEW.

Do you think your wife's vacation benefitted her very much?

Yes; she recovered from the fatigue that was due to her preparation of going away, and is now in comparatively good condition to start on her fall dressmaking.

ALBRAY'S THOMAS PHOSPHATE POWDER

IN APPLE TIME.

When the red is on the apple.
And the apple's on the tree,
When Myrtilla with her basket
Flings a saucy glance at me,
All the joys of all the seasons
Ripen in a rosy glee,
When the red is on the apple
And the apple's on the tree.

There is more Catarrh in this section of the country than all other diseases put together, and until the last few years was supposed to be incurable. For a great many years doctors pronounced it a local disease, and prescribed local remedies, and by constantly failing to cure with local treatment, pronounced it incurable. Science has proven catarrh to be a constitutional disease and therefore requires constitutional treatment. Hall's Catarrh Cure, manufactured by F. J. Cheney & Co., Toledo, Ohio, is the only constitutional cure on the market. It is taken internally in doses from 10 drops to a teaspoonful. It acts directly on the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. They offer one hundred dollars for any case it fails to cure. Send for circulars and testimonials. Address,

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