

NOTES AND COMMENTS

The old question, Why do we laugh? has again been receiving attention from psychologists and physiologists.

At the meeting of the British Association at Birmingham an Oxford professor advanced what is described as a new theory of laughter.

From this point of view it is not wrong to laugh at the misfortunes of our fellows. When we see a pompous old gentleman in the act of sprawling on a slippery sidewalk it is our duty to laugh instead of restraining our mirth.

Parents and others who have had occasion this fall to read the educational prospectuses must have come across a new word—"Eurythmics."

Eurythmics originated a few years ago in Switzerland, where a Genevese professor of harmony began to put his theories into practice.

Great things are reported from the pupils of the new science in its German headquarters—at least the younger ones. They "realize physically the music as they hear it."

This promotion of harmony between the mind and body, with its double bestowal of blessings, cannot but be heartily welcomed—as long as its votaries actively participate for their own individual good.

Domestic Economy.

Father was of an economical turn of mind, and hated extravagance with all his heart.

His grief was terrible to see when one day he came upon the budding economist stuffing himself with a slice of bread generously covered with a layer of butter which was surmounted by a young mountain of jam.

"My boy," said he, sadly though severely, "surely you do not realize what you are doing; yet you ought, by now, to comprehend the wicked extravagance of eating butter and jam together."

"Why, I'm being most economical, father," replied the young hopeful. "Don't you see that I'm making the same slice of bread do for both?"

"I was a fool ever to marry you!" sobbed Mrs. Winks. "Now, my dear," said Winks nobly, "I can't permit you to take the blame for that. It was I who was the fool for ever asking you. The mistake was not yours, but mine."

HEALTH

Varicose Veins.

A varicose vein is an enlarged and twisted vein, generally in the leg; it is caused by stagnation of the blood. Often the patient has an hereditary predisposition to varicose veins or he has a weak heart, with a consequent tendency to sluggish venous circulation.

In mild cases of varicose, especially in young and otherwise healthy people, the symptoms are very slight. There is a feeling of weight in the leg and a dull ache toward the end of the day.

More serious complications are thrombosis (or the clotting of the blood in the vein) and phlebitis (or inflammation of a vein).

Fitting Glasses.

Since people have learned that many physical troubles depend on some fault of the vision, they are more willing than formerly to have their eyes examined, and to wear glasses if the oculist prescribes them.

Unfortunately, eyes cannot always be fitted with perfect accuracy at the first trial. The operation is extremely delicate. The counting is done in minute fractions, and the error may cause serious discomfort.

Some persons have very bad vision, which is, nevertheless, very easy to correct; others have eyes to which all the skill in the world can give only an approximate fit, and consequently a partial relief.

When you ask a responsible doctor to fit your eyes with spectacles, remember that you ought to work with him, and remember also that it is his interest to make you comfortable as quickly as possible.

Some people find it hard to "break in" glasses—or rather to "break in" themselves. They are petulant and fussy, and sometimes they actually refuse to wear the glasses.

Following His Trade.

Speechless with wrath, a little man was ushered into the dock. An ornament of the police force had found him loitering about and had arrested him as a suspicious character.

"What were you doing at the time of your arrest?" asked the weary magistrate.

"Simply waiting!" sputtered the prisoner.

"What were you waiting for?" "My money."

"Did you ever hear the story of the dirty window?" "No, I don't think I did."

"JIM" LARKIN, LEADER OF DUBLIN STRIKES.



As He Is Now and Before He Shaved His Moustache.

The most distressful country is at the present moment living up to its reputation in a very terrible way, and widespread distress in Dublin's fair city is bringing ruin and starvation to a thousand homes.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDY

INTERNATIONAL LESSON, NOVEMBER 30.

Lesson IX.—Crossing the Jordan. Josh. 3. 1-17. Golden Text, Isa. 41. 10.

Verse 7. Magnify thee—Honor thee by special recognition of thy office and leadership among the people.

8. The priests that bear the ark—the law especially provided that no other persons should carry or even touch this sacred emblem of Jehovah's presence.

9. And Joshua said—Verses 9-13 contain the substance of a solemn address to the assembled people, in which Joshua explained more fully what has already been said concisely in verses 7 and 8.

10. The living God—A title applied to Jehovah to indicate the outstanding difference between him and the idols of the heathen round about (compare Deut. 5. 26).

11. Hittite—Compare Lesson Text Studies for October 19 and November 23.

12. Hivite—A people sometimes omitted in the enumeration of the nations originally inhabiting Palestine. They are mentioned, however, in connection with Joseph's return to Canaan (Gen. 34. 2). They seem to have been a peaceful and commercial people, dwelling at the foot of Mount Hermon, in the land of Mizpah (Josh. 11. 3), and in the valleys of Lebanon (Judg. 3. 3; 2 Sam. 24. 7).

13. Perizzite—A people of central Palestine; or more probably, as some think, simply the peasants or laboring people of the land—from perazi, meaning "country-folk" or "rustics."

14. Girgashite—Supposed to have been a larger family or subdivision of the Hivites, since omitted in nine out of ten places in which the original nations of Canaan are enumerated, while in the tenth enumeration they are mentioned and the Hivites omitted. Their home seems to have been that part of Palestine lying just east of the Sea of Galilee.

15. Amorite—Meaning, literally, "mountaineer." The Amorites, according to Gen. 14. 7, occupied the barren hill country west of the Dead Sea. They seem later to have crossed the Jordan to the eastward, and to have occupied the country "beyond Jordan" from Arnon to the Jabbok.

16. Jebusite—A powerful mountain tribe occupying the strong fortress of Jebus (Jerusalem). They are uniformly mentioned last in the

enumerations of the original inhabitants of Palestine.

17. The Lord of all the earth—A significant title of the Most High at a time when the conquest of the land was about to be undertaken.

18. Twelve men—One from each tribe.

19. The waters of the Jordan shall be cut off... they shall stand in one heap—Compare note on verse 16 below.

20. When the people removed from their tents, to pass over the Jordan—On the tenth day of Nisan (or Abib) corresponding to our month April-May.

21. This brink of the water—At this time far back from the usual channel of the stream.

22. For the Jordan overfloweth all its banks all the time of harvest—In the low semitropical valley of the Jordan the harvest comes earlier than on the higher plains to the east and west of the valley.

23. The first ingathering of the harvest season had already begun, while at the same season the melting of the snow on Hermon and Lebanon caused the narrow channel of the river to be filled to overflowing, transforming the stream into a muddy, swollen, and turbid flood.

24. The waters which came down from above stood, and rose up in one heap, a great way off—The wording of our narrative strongly suggests a landslide, which temporarily obstructed the narrow channel and dammed the waters of the river until these again broke away the barrier and came rushing down with even greater force than before (compare Josh. 4. 18).

25. At Adam—The name signifies, literally, red earth, and has been thought to lend support to the suggestion of a landslide as the explanation of the unusual phenomenon which clearly took place higher up in the Jordan valley where the clay banks almost overhang the river.

26. Beside Zarethan—A city supposed by some to have been near the mouth of the Jabbok, near Succoth (1 Kings, 5. 46). It has been identified by others with an ancient site some seventeen miles north of Jericho, where steep cliffs connect the stream within its narrow limits, almost as if by a wall, throwing a barrier across its path.

27. Wholly cut off—Flooded away entirely, leaving the channel empty.

Payment in Kind.

He was a poor man, but had been obliged, at last, to call in the doctor to attend his little girl.

Now, however, she was well again, and her father stood in the doctor's room, waiting for the bill to be made out.

When, at last, the account was presented to him, he was almost paralyzed to see the huge amount he owed.

Young Folks

Knitting and Knitting.

"Grandma, make John give me back my knitting-needle!" cried Dorothy Holtham.

"But I can knit, grandma. See!" cried John. "I put those strong brads into the pool in place of slender pins."

"But who ever heard of a boy's knitting?" said Dorothy.

"No one knows just who was the first to loop a single thread so that it would make a web. It takes two sets of threads for weaving, you know," said their grandmother.

"Oh, I know," interrupted John. "A sailor showed me how to make some."

"Probably the very same knots that the Phoenicians and the Egyptians made in their fish-nets were are using in our hammocks to-day. But knitting is different from knotting or netting, because we simply slip a row of loops made of a single thread, so, through another set of loops. See, here on these big needles I have looped together enough for a shoulder shawl."

"But it is all full of little holes," said Johnny.

"Just so," said grandma, "but the rubbing of one thread of silk or wool upon another makes a sort of electric warmth. It was the people of Scotland who were first known as knitters, just about the time that Columbus discovered America—"

"1492!" cried John, proudly.

"And about one hundred years after that the first stocking-frame was made on which the stitches were set up."

"Soon a man invented a second row of needles on a machine for ribbed knitting. Then came the circular knitting-machine. You've seen me knit round stockings on a triangle made of three needles. Well, this knitted a round stocking, only the loops were set up on a circle of needles. The most wonderful help of all, however, was what is called a latch-needle, which holds the thread tight one second, and lets it go the next. Then came power. If your children lived in a factory town, you would know all these things as well as you know your history lesson, for there is a wonderful peace history as well as war history."

"But we don't," said Dorothy, dolefully.

"Never mind. Some day your father will take you to see a factory where this wonderful knitting is done on hundreds of machines that are nothing more than a giant improvement of the spool in Johnny's hand, with hundreds of pins or latch-needles spinning a circular tube of web, and dropping it down through a hole in the bottom."

"I shouldn't wonder," continued grandma, "if, long ago, somebody took a child's knitting-needle and thought about it, and thought about it, and tried tacks and pins and crochet-needles, and other things. And perhaps they did not succeed at first any more than Johnny did. But they kept on trying. Year after year they thought and worked, until they made of knitting one of the greatest industries of the world."

YOUTH'S COMPANION.

Clearly Unjust.

Ever since they came to school that morning two of the boys had been persistently naughty. At last, therefore, the teacher, now thoroughly exasperated, turned to them angrily, and said that they must stay in during playtime until each had written his name one thousand times.

Playtime duly came, and, as the rest of the class rose and hastened from the room to enjoy a spell of freedom, the two miscreants settled down to their irksome imposition.

Five minutes later the teacher returned to see how they were getting on, and found a heated argument in progress.

"Come, come!" she asked. "What's the matter now?"

"Wherrupon one of the boys burst into tears."

"Tain't fair, mum!" he gasped. "His name's Tim Bust, and mine's Alexander O'Shaughnessy!"

Stone Blind.

Proudly he walked up to his betrothed, and drew from his pocket a small morocco case. Opening it, he took out a ring—a single diamond—and placed it on her tapering finger.

"It's very small," she said, and paused. Then "And not very brilliant, either!"

"Poor fellow! His smile vanished, but, quickly recovering himself, he laughed, and said: "Ah, sweetheart, but love is blind!"

GOD BELONGS TO ALL AGES

If We Do Not Hear His Voice It Is We Who Are Blind and Deaf

"The living God."—Psalm, lxxxiv., 2.

He knows not the half of religion—nor indeed, perhaps, any religion at all in the true sense of the word—who has not a burning sense of God as a living God—a God living to-day just as much as He has ever lived in the past and working to-day, as always, for the redemption of the world.

The Blood and Sweat and Tears of even the humblest of living men—by so much is God's presence here and now with us of more significance than His reported presence at any time or in any place with the patriarchs, prophets and apostles of the ages gone.

What primarily concerns us, or should concern us in our time, is not that God was, but that He is; not what He said and did yesterday

in far away Judea, but to-day He is trying to say and do to-day right here; not that He walked with Enoch or talked with Moses or revealed Himself in Christ, but that He is walking and talking with us and revealing Himself in every true and pure and self-forgetting life. To try to confine God to any age or any country or any people or any person is blasphemy of the first order. God belongs to all ages, all countries, all peoples, all persons; which means, for us at least, this age, this country, this people, and these persons which are ourselves! "God is not dumb," as Lowell has well said, "that He should speak no more;" and certainly He is not dead that He should reveal His glory and His power unto men no longer!

As Surely as God is God so surely is He a living God, and this means, if it means anything, that He is as much with us to-day in spirit and in truth as ever. He was with Moses upon Sinai, with John on Patmos or with Jesus upon the Mount. As James Martineau has so wonderfully expressed it:—"If we cannot find God in your house and mine, upon the roadside or the margin of the sea, in the bursting seed or opening flower, in the day duty and the night music, in the genial laugh and secret grief, in the procession of life, ever entering afresh and solemnly passing on and dropping off, I do not think we should discern Him any more on the grass of Eden or beneath the moonlight of Gethsemane."

To know God as the living God, to serve Him as a real presence, to commune with Him as did the prophets of old—this is religion!—Rev. John Haynes Holmes.

Doings in Europe.

Poincaré Visits Naturalist and Poet. President Poincaré, of France, returning from Spain, visited Henri Fabre at Segignan. The aged naturalist sat in his garden. The President, standing, called him beloved and great master, and said:

"You have given so passionate attention to the study of the humblest creatures that in the smallest insects you have shown us very great ones, and at every page of your work we feel a sensation of looking into the looking glass."

Fabre was so moved that he could not reply. His nephew thanked the President for him.

M. Poincaré also visited Frederic Mistral, the famous poet of Provence, living at the village of Maillane. The poet read an address to the President, who in reply quoted Mistral's words: "I have seen you, M. le Président, and your wife, and when the President finished Mistral threw himself into M. Poincaré's arms and embraced him."

Portuguese Royalist Killed. A grim incident of the rising in Portugal was narrated by a French sculptor to a Paris paper.

A peasant's cart filled with straw drew up at the Spanish-Portuguese frontier. The officials glanced into it; one, to satisfy himself, thrust his hand into the hay among the bundles. "Pass on," he said carelessly. An instant later a bullet whizzed into the man's chest. Blood was trickling from the straw.

The driver sprang from the cart and fled, followed by revolver shots from the customs officials. Overturning the cart, the officials found beneath the straw a dead man. The crowd had passed through his heart as he lay hidden. He was a Royalist leader, trying to smuggle himself into Portugal for the rising.

You Live Longer in Bulgaria. Official statistics just issued show that despite her small population Bulgaria possesses by far the greatest number of centenarians of all the countries of Europe.

Among her 4,500,000 people there are 5,863 persons of at least 100 years of age. Other countries return the following figures: Romania, 1,674 centenarians; Serbia, 2,715; Spain, 410; France, 215; Italy, 1,797; England, 97; Russia, 87; Germany, 57; Norway, 21; Belgium, 6; Denmark, 2; and Switzerland, 0.

The longevity of the Bulgarians is supposed to be associated with the eating of "jaurt," a sort of solidified sour milk curd, obtained by fermentation.

Test for Farm Machinery. M. Clement, the French minister of Agriculture, has decided to institute a monetary agricultural machinery testing machine, which is to determine the merits of the various French agricultural machines run by steam, oil, or electric engines.

The competition will take place at the agricultural school at Paris and will be judged by a jury of agricultural experts from the French agricultural societies. A detailed report will be drawn up from the point of view of economy, as well as results, which is likely to give impetus to the movement in favor of agricultural machinery in France.

The use of motor machines is especially marked in the neighborhood of Meaux and Soissons, where fourteen sections of the district are using motor machines on the co-operative system.

Losing Weight by Science. Mme. Emmy Destinn, the opera singer, by the potato cure, has lost more weight in three years, which is to determine the merits of the various French agricultural machines run by steam, oil, or electric engines.

Rapid progress is being made with the gigantic Apulian aqueduct which will carry the water from the springs of the River Sele in the province of Avellino right through the Apennines to the southern end of Italy, distributing it over a territory of nearly 15,000 square miles, with about 2,500,000 inhabitants.

The quantity of water available at the springs is stated to be about 1,200 gallons per second, or over 10,000,000 gallons every twenty-four hours. The cost of the work is estimated at \$25,000,000. The length of the main pipe line will be 135 miles, in addition to which there will be several hundred miles of side lines.

Saw Army of Napoleon. The Frankfurter Zeitung, of Berlin, has unearthed at the village of Dormovo, in the district of Meocrita, Prussian Poland, an old woman who can prove by undeniable official papers that she was 120 years old on October 15. She is doubtless the only living person in Germany who really saw Napoleon marching across the Rusa through on his way to Moscow. Later she saw the Russian Cossack cross the frontier chasing the French back. Her husband was born at Pleschen, on the Russian frontier, on October 15, 1764. She remembers, therefore, the passing of Jerome's right wing of the Grand Army, she says the troops behaved very well, but the beggars wouldn't eat black bread, and her mother killed geese and chickens for them. On the other hand, she remembers with terror the passing of Cossacks. Her father fled with all his cattle, and neighboring forest to escape them, and

for days Hedwig carried food to her father there.

Use of Alcohol in France. The French ministry of finance has just published some interesting statistics concerning the production and use of alcohol in France. The total production in 1912 was \$2,440,200, as compared with \$1,797,165 gallons in 1911. In spite of this enormous production, France received from foreign countries 4,812,217 gallons of pure alcohol and liqueurs. On the other hand, there was a total export trade of \$22,370,300 gallons.

Wedding Gifts in Miniature. A pretty custom has been introduced at recent weddings in Paris. Miniature reproductions of the presents that are too big to be shown at the reception are placed among the other gifts. Thus at a recent reception there was a tiny motor car, an accurate model of a villa which had been presented to the bride and bridegroom, and a delicate reproduction of a grand piano.

Timely Hints. A beautiful rest robe made of white crepe de chine has a girde, a jacket and a boudoir cap made of cherry silk, embroidered in blue and gray and gold. The jacket, shaped much like a bolero in front, is cut with a deep, hollowed point in the back. There are elbow sleeves to the jacket, but it is collarless.

Fashion Hints

The girde is wide and laid in folds, and ends in long, folded cash ends at the back. The cap is gathered, in mob shape, and a band of small gray and blue and gold roses, made of chiffon and gold tissue, encircles it.

French Heel Still Popular. There are not many startling changes in footwear. There are flat-heeled shoes, to be sure, but they are not popular as yet. They are too odd to take the popular taste. The high French heel remains the popular sort.

Some charming tango slippers of gilt cloth show ribbons of gold slides, each decorated with two or three rhinestones. The ribbons fasten neatly on the ankle with a small gilt buckle. This sort of fastening is, perhaps, trimmer than that by means of a bow and ends. But there are plenty of slippers that are laced over the instep with ribbons that do end in a bow.

Velvet Rose for Corsage. A new corsage flower is the huge velvet rose, in pink or purple or in some fiery shade of red, with leaves of black velvet. The leaves are edged with a narrow line of vivid green. Their blackness brings out the depth of the color of the rose.

New Calling Bag. An attractive black silk handbag of small proportions costs \$5.25. The flap is embroidered with tiny roses in pink and green. The bag is large enough to hold change, a handkerchief and cards, and would be a very suitable bag for afternoon calling.

Ring to Safeguard Bags. Gold mesh bags have handles formed of gold chain, which end in amber rings big enough to slip over the finger. The amber and the gold mesh look well together, and the ring is really a safeguard and a convenience.

Fur Head Ornaments. Tiny black or brown fur heads are used to ornament the fronts of net used to ornament the fronts of net or chiffon blouses. They are applied, like buttons, in a row along the edges of the closing. They are very small, and their heads point toward the edge of the closing.

The schools of Winnipeg are costing that city \$2,000,000 a year.