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AN INFANT PHENOMENON.

OTTO POEHLER, THE MARVEL OF GERMAN SCIENTISTS.

At Two Years of Age He Could Read Well - Now, at Four Years, He Devours Histories and Biographies - Something About Other Famous Prodiges.

The little German child, Otto Poehler, who, when he was two years old, astounded people by his marvellous faculty for reading printed matter and manuscript, still continues to excite the wonder of the many scientists in Europe who have visited him and verified for themselves the actuality of his peculiar gift.

Carl Stumpf, professor of philosophy at the University of Berlin and member of the Academy of Sciences, Berlin, has contributed to the Revue Scientifique, of Paris, a very interesting paper, about the child, in which he tries to analyze the nature of his remarkable mental endowment as the result of a series of experiments he made with the little fellow during a number of visits.

The history of the boy is very simple. He is the child of a fairly well-to-do butcher in Brunswick, Germany, and is now four years old. It was when he was still a mere baby in arms that his extraordinary powers began to manifest themselves.

His vocabulary of printed words grew with rapidity. He learned the letters of the alphabet almost intuitively. By the time he was two years old he was reading glibly from every newspaper and book that came into his hands. Every inscription on a monument he passed he read and remembered. Now at the age of four years he devours histories and biographies, and can tell the dates and places of birth of scores of Germany's worthies and great men.

Other famous prodiges. The popular belief is that such infant prodiges as this wonderful German child generally blaze with their dazzling light for but a short time and then go out in utter darkness. There have been brilliant exceptions to this, however, as, for instance, Pope, Macaulay and Helbert Spencer, each of whom was an infant prodigy in the wider and more varied reading when they were fifteen years of age than most men afterwards noted for their scholarship when they were twenty-five.

But of course the boy prodigy who overtopped all others, was the unhappy Chatterton. Chatterton was a freak even among prodiges. When he was five years of age he was sent to a charity school, whence, after a year and a half of unavailing effort to beat something into his head, he was sent home as a hopeless dunce. When he was seven he went to another school, where the master happened to be a poet in poetry. Chatterton was the only boy in the school who appeared to be utterly incapable of any poetic enthusiasm. Three years later he was writing poetry, and when he was eleven years old he had completed "Elzour and Inga," a poem of merit. Then came his wonderful literary forgeries which deceived nearly all the world of England for a time, the antiquarians of distinction stoutly maintaining that they were the genuine literary antiquities of the mere child who had written them said they were. He went to London, wrote for reviews and magazines, ground out sermons for preachers, political letters and songs for music halls. Then he deliberately swallowed a dose of poison and killed himself; and all this before he had completed his eighteenth year.

Most of the boy prodiges who have come to the front of late years have been musicians. Hirschman was born in Warsaw in 1883, and after a few lessons from a local teachers was placed under the tuition of Joachim. He seemed to learn both the technique and the forms of composition by instinct. Joachim declared he could teach him nothing, and when Goldmark heard him play he said that hereafter he would believe in miracles. At the age of thirteen, he was one of the finest professional players on the violin in the world.

Little Josef Hoffman was a professional pianist as well as a composer when he was seven years old. He was born in 1877. He was compared with Mozart, who at the age of four was a good player and at five years was attempting composition. When Mendelssohn was twelve years old he had composed five symphonies, two operas and part of a third, besides a great number of fugitive pieces.

When that boy grows up he will be safe in any insane Criminal Court. "Yes, Johnnie is considered a vicious boy, but he isn't responsible for that." "Why not?" "Because he is peculiar." "In what way?" "In a great many ways. One day his father told him to go to the store and come right back. He didn't come, and when his father looked for him he was playing ball with some boys in the back lot." "Indeed!" "Yes, and that isn't the worst of it."

AN ENGINEER'S STORY.

LIFE ON A RAILROAD CONDUCTIVE TO DISEASE.

Mr. Wm. Taylor, of Kentville, Afflicted With Kidney Trouble - So-Called Cures Proved Useless, But Dr. Williams' Pink Pills Restored His Health.

There are very few employments more trying to the health than that of a railway engineer. The hours of labor are frequently long, meals irregular, and rest and sleep hurriedly snatched between runs. One of the troubles which very frequently attack railway trainway is kidney disease, which up to a late period has been looked upon as a disease difficult, if not impossible, to totally cure, although there exist numerous remedies claimed to be cures, the truth is that nothing had been found to successfully cope with this terrible disease until the advent of the new world-famous Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. Chancing to hear one day that Mr. Wm. Taylor, a resident of this town, had been cured of kidney trouble through the agency of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, a reporter called upon him at his home to hear from him personally what he thought of his cure.

Mr. Taylor is an engineer on the Dominion Atlantic Railway, his run being between Halifax and Kentville, and he is one of the most popular drivers on the road. When asked by the reporter concerning his illness he said: "It was in the spring of 1896 that I had a severe attack of kidney trouble, brought on by continuous riding on the road, and I suppose it is caused by the oscillation of the locomotive. It affected me but slightly at first, but gradually grew worse. I consulted a doctor and he tried two or three varieties of so-called cures. Some helped me for a time, but after stopping the use of them I grew worse than ever. I had pointed numerous testimonials in the papers concerning Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, and reading of one cure that was almost identical with my own I decided to give them a trial, and purchased a box at once. I was completely cured by the use of the pills and have not been troubled with my kidneys since. I can now ride on the road, and am as well as others similarly afflicted."

The experience of years has proved that there is absolutely no disease due to a vitiated condition of the blood or shattered nerves that Dr. Williams' Pink Pills will not promptly cure, and those who are suffering from such troubles would avoid needless resorting to this treatment. Get the genuine Pink Pills every time and do not be persuaded to take an imitation or some other remedy. Dr. Williams' Pink Pills are the extra profit to himself, may say is "just as good." (Dr. Williams' Pink Pills cure when other medicines fail.)

The King of Siam is to visit Queen Victoria next summer. He is 2,500 years old, and his name is Mitha Chakri, which was built for him in Scotland four years ago.

Dr. Scriber, Carpenter of Hastings, is a Great Sufferer from Kidney Disease - South American Kidney Cure Effect ed a Cured him. It is a Specific Remedy for a Specific Disease - It Dissolves and Eliminates All Solid Matter from the Urinary System and Permanently Restores Health.

For many years I have been troubled with kidney disease, necessitating the taking of much in the way of remedies. Two years ago I had a severe attack of kidney trouble, which I had to seek the aid of a physician. My urine was more like blood than anything else, and was very painful. Just at that time I saw an advertisement for South American Kidney Cure. It gave me immediate relief, and from that time till now I have had no difficulty in case of my kidneys. I can now ride on the road, and am as well as others similarly afflicted.

A medical paper claims that a dentist's fingers carry disease germs. Boil your dentures.

DR. JAKEWAY'S POEMS. Dr. Charles E. Jakeway, whose patriotic poetry has been widely quoted by the press and platform of Canada for many years, is issuing a volume of his verse, the writings of this author have elicited flattering tributes from high places in this country and in England.

MY PHILOSOPHY. I allus argy that a man! Who does about the best he can Is plenty good enough to suit This lower mundane institude - No matter his daily walk Is subject for his neighbor's talk And critic-minds of ev'ry whim Just all git up and go fer him!

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STRUCK AS BY LIGHTNING.

Exactly describes the condition of a hard or soft corn to which Putnam's Painless Corn Extract has been applied. So quickly does Putnam's Extract cure that its action seems magical. Try it.

King Oscar of Sweden is an interested student of mathematics.

HOW'S THIS? We offer One Hundred Dollars reward for any case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by Hall's Catarrh Cure. F. J. HENNEY & CO., Props. O. We the undersigned have known F. J. Cheney for the last 15 years, and believe him perfectly honorable in all business transactions and financially able to carry out any obligations made by him.

Common Pleas Court, No. 1, in Philadelphia is known as the "court of busy bees," because of its hard-working judges - Biddle, Breyer and Bettsler.

C. S. Wells, by placing to the credit of the Maitese Cross of the Bay City Wheelmen in the Club Cup race at the recent indoor tournament held in San Francisco has now gained the honor of being hailed as the "indoor king," which was formerly by Jay Eaton.

Friends of Francis Murphy claim that he closed his recent two-months' temperance campaign in Boston with a record of 13,000 total abstinence pledges.

THE KIDNEYS PURIFY THE BLOOD AND THEY ALONE. If diseased, however, they cannot, and the blood continually becomes more impure. Every drop of blood in the body goes through the kidneys, the sewers of the system, every three minutes, night and day, while life endures.

THE PATENT SLEEPER INSOLE. The heavy, dragged out feeling, the bilious attacks, headaches, nervous unrest, sickle appetite, all caused by poisoned blood, will disappear when the kidneys properly perform their functions.

THE J. D. KING CO., LTD., TORONTO, ONTARIO.

CHEAP BICYCLES. Are "fated for destruction," and the worst of it is they not only destroy themselves, but frequently destroy their riders.

Adams' Ginger Beer.

Adams' Extract. One bottle. F. Schmitt's Yeast. One half to one ounce. Sugar. Two pounds. Cream of Tartar. One half ounce. Lukewarm Water. Two gallons.

San Francisco seems to be the natural home of dyspepsia. Physicians there say that ten out of twelve of the inhabitants suffer from indigestion. The only explanation suggested is the fact that the climate allows fruit and vegetables to be had almost the year around, so that there is not the enforced change of diet that residents of other regions have.

Just at this season of the year when so many intending purchasers are looking around and comparing the different grades and makes of wheels a word of advice would not be out of place. There are many who imagine a wheel is all right because it happens to look pretty, but varnish and charity are synonymous, both cover a multitude of sins, so it is a good idea to enquire and if possible inspect the facilities that the maker has at his command for the manufacture of the wheel which he sells.

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GOLD - MEDAL - CLEVELAND. The Safest, Speediest and Most Durable Mount in the World.

1897. MODELS 27, 28 AND 29. PRICE \$100. The true aristocrats among bicycles, whose chic and dash are most apparent when in full motion - ladies' and gentlemen's wheels bearing impress of the best mechanical genius of the age.

CONVINCED THE SCEPTIC.

The Merits of the Great South American Nervine Withstand all the Assaults of the Credulous and Sceptical. "When they are Converted, so its use in their Personal Ailments they become its best Friend - for it never fails them."

Mr. J. W. Wood of Campbellford, Ont., says: "I recommend South American Nervine to everybody. I consider it would be true to the best interests of humanity were it not to do so. In one instance I convinced an avowed sceptic to all remedies of its curative powers; I prepared a bottle and it has been of such benefit to him that he continues to purchase and use it, and has proved its great worth as a stomach and nerve tonic. It has done wonders for me and I keep it constantly in my house. An occasional dose acts as a preventive and keeps me well and strong. It is a wonderful medicine."

NEIGHBORHOOD JEALOUSIES. We had four organ grinders over on our street yesterday, and you didn't have none, said the boy with the frazzled tresses. That's all right, retorted the boy with the rimless hat. We had a mad dog, an' you didn't.

EASY TO ORDER. "SALADA" Ceylon Tea. BY ALL DRUGGISTS. Splendid Equipment and good solid work have placed the Central Business College.

A NEVER FAILING REMEDY For Weak and Inflamed Eyes, or Chronic Granulation of the Lids, Ulceration of the Glands. Sale by all Druggists.

3 WORDS. STRENGTH BEAUTY EASY-RUNNING. Sun Bicycle. G. T. Pendrith & Co., 73-81 Adelaide St. W.

J. D. KING CO. Ltd., The only Manufacturer in Canada of a real flexible, strong, light and durable look. No squeak, No Tacks, No Nails. The Patent Sleeper Insole. Ask for this Boot. Buy this Boot. Be Comfortable. You will be Pleased.

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