

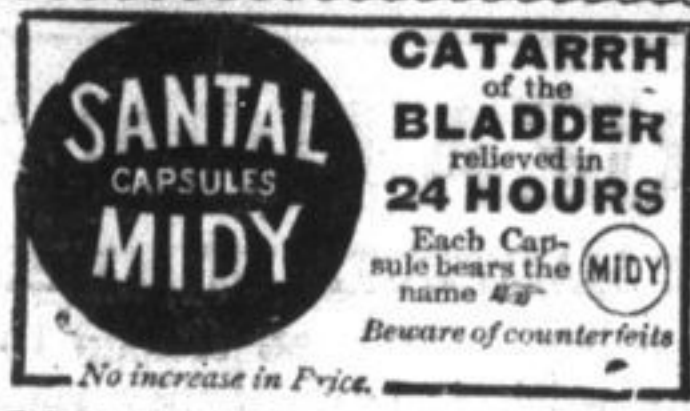


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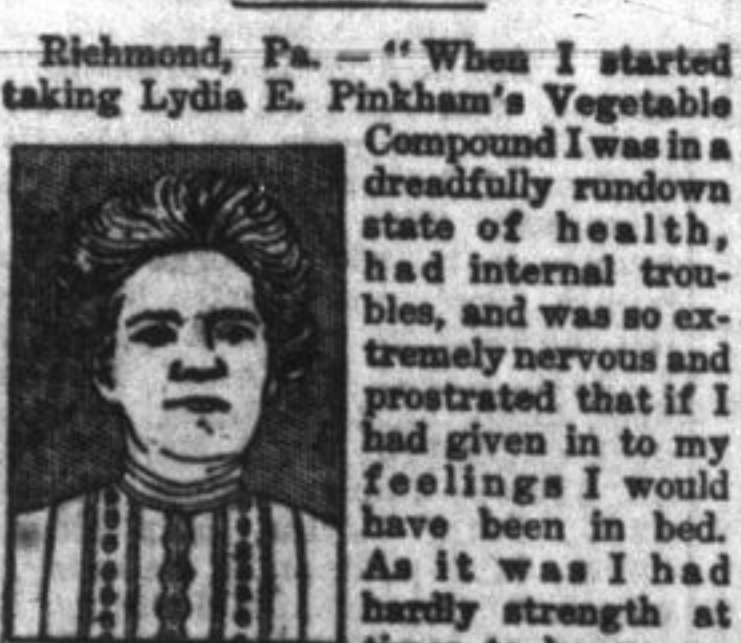
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**THUNDERSTORMS.**

Simple Scientific Explanation of How They Occur.

**ELECTRICITY IN THE CLOUDS.**

The Process by Which the Masses of Unequally Charged Vapor are United, the Lightning Flashes Generated and the Downpour Started.

Lightning is the result of electric discharges from the clouds, says the Electrical Experimenter in printing what it calls "a thunderstorm primer." Every cloud, like every other object, contains electricity. This makes no disturbance so long as the quantity contained is normal. When the quantity becomes greater than normal the object is positively charged; when it becomes less than normal the object is negatively charged. The equilibrium of the electric force in the clouds is disturbed by evaporations from the surface of the earth, by changes of temperature in the atmospheric vapor, by chemical action on the earth's surface and by the friction of volumes of air of different densities against each other.

When clouds charged with the opposite electricities approach, the forces rush toward each other and combine to restore the state of equilibrium, for all bodies charged with opposite electricities attract each other. Between the clouds is air, an excellent nonconductor, through which the electricity has to force a passage. The violence with which it does this produces the lightning and the accompanying crash of thunder.

Clouds are good conductors, while the air about them is a nonconductor; therefore the electricity accumulates in the clouds. It is probably this electricity which prevents the particles of water from uniting together and falling down in the form of rain.

Imagine two clouds near to each other in the sky, one positively and the other negatively electrified, for there cannot in all nature be such a condition as that of one body positively excited without the coexistence of another body negatively excited. If the positively charged cloud were all alone in the sky the circumjacent atmosphere would assume the negative condition. But as the other cloud is near by it becomes negative, and both are mutually attracted. They approach each other until the space of air between them can no longer resist their electric tension, when the discharge takes place.

The equilibrium of the clouds being thus restored, there is nothing to keep the particles of water apart; they coalesce into drops and fall as rain.

When only the clouds are involved the equilibrium is quickly restored by a few flashes and the storm is over. When the air also is involved it continues to charge the clouds with electricity, and the discharges continue until the various strata of air are brought into their normal state.

Sometimes, when the clouds are charged with an opposite electricity to that of the earth, a discharge takes place from clouds to earth or from earth to clouds. It is only when there is a great disturbance of the electrical forces that the lightning flashes to the earth or vice versa.

The flash and the thunder peal are simultaneous, and we see the one before we hear the other because light waves move far more swiftly than sound waves. The peal of thunder is instantaneous, but comes to us as a roll through being echoed from clouds or mountains. The noise is caused by the vibrations of the air rushing to fill up the spaces where the electrical discharge has rarefied it and condensed its vapors.

Lightning is zigzag when it travels through a long distance, because it compresses the air, which interferes with its direct course. It is straight when it passes through only a short distance. It is forked when, being resisted by the air, it divides into two or three points. It is sheet when the flash is too distant to be visible, and its reflection alone is seen.

By remembering that sound travels a quarter of a mile in a second, while light travels so swiftly that we see it instantaneously, we can tell how far off a thunder clap is. If we hear a thunder clap four seconds after seeing the flash we know it is a mile away. For such calculations our own pulse is a sufficiently accurate measure of time, for the pulse of an adult beats about once a second. A person under forty should count five beats to the mile; a person under twenty should count six beats to the mile.

**A Rough Criticism.**

Lord Houghton's epigram on "Sordello," probably the most obscure of Browning's poems, though it has often gone the rounds, is worth recalling. Said Lord Houghton, then only Dicky Milnes, "There are but two lines in 'Sordello' I can understand—the first and last—'Who will, may hear Sordello's story told' and 'Who would hath heard Sordello's story told,' and both 'so false.'"

**Finger Print Love.**

"Why do you think you'll be happy if you marry that young man, daughter?" asked the father.

"Because, father, we've had our finger prints examined and they almost reply."—Yonkers Statesman.

Let us remember that justice must be observed even to the lowest class.

From the raw sugar of love making to the vinegar of domestic intelligence is some change.

A woman never realizes how many men she might have married until she finds herself a spinster.

**QUEER HAWAIIAN NAMES.**

Such as Mrs. Oyster and The Man Who Washes His Dimples.

The natives of Hawaii are singularly picturesque in their choice of names. Mr. Scissors, The Thief, The Ghost, The Fool, The Man Who Washes His Dimples, Mrs. Oyster, The Weary Lizard, The Husband of Kameha (a male dog), The Great Kettle, The First Nose, The Atlantic Ocean, The Stomach, Poor Pussy, Mrs. Turkey, The Tenth Heaven, are all names that have appeared in the city directory.

They are often careless of the gender or appropriateness of the names they take. A householder on Beretania street, Honolulu, is called The Pretty Woman (Wahine Maikai); a male infant was lately christened Mrs. Tompkins; one little girl is named Samson; another, The Man; Susan (Kukana) is a boy; so are Polly Sarah, Jane Peter and Henry Ann. A pretty little maid has been named by her fond parents The Pig Sty (Hale Pua). For some unknown reason—or for no reason at all—one boy is named The Rat Eater (Kamea Ole Ole).

The Rev. Dr. Coan of Hawaii possessed the love of his flock. One morning a child was presented for baptism whose name was given by the parents, Mikia; when the ceremony was finished the parents assured the doctor that they had named the baby for him. "But my name is not Mikia," said the doctor, supposing Mikia to be aimed thereat.

"We always hear your wife call you Mikia," answered the mother. She had mistaken Mrs. Coan's familiar "my dear" for her husband's given name.

An old servant in Dr. Wight's family at Kohala caused her grandchild to be baptised in church, The Doctor (Kauka); that was its only name. By way of compliment to the early physicians, many children were named after their drugs, as Joseph Squills, Miss Rhubarb, The Emetic, The Doctor Who Peeps In at a Door.

Names uncomplimentary, or even disgusting, are willingly borne by their owners; others convey a pleasing and graceful sentiment. Among the latter are the Arch of Heaven (Ka Ria Lani), The River of Twilight (Ka Wia Lili), The Delicate Wreath (Ka Lei ma Lili). The name of Lili O Kalaui, the queen now in retirement, means A Lily In the Sky.—Youth's Companion.

**WALKING FOR SPEED.**

Arm Action, Body Balance and the Proper Leg and Foot Motion.

In starting on the track the novice should hold himself as erect as possible, without, however, leaning at all backward, the arms at the sides, with the forearms in a horizontal position, at right angles to the part of the arms above the elbows. He should have a feeling of being "well balanced on his pins."

The weight must be kept on the heels—therein lies the chief secret of walking fairly. Speed depends on two factors, the length and the frequency of the stride. Experiments prove that the length of the stride becomes greater as the frequency increases.

Arm action should be carefully cultivated. Properly used, the arms seem to act as levers to lift forward the body, besides helping to balance it. In each stride one foot should be always on the ground and at same moment of the stride some part of both feet should be on the ground simultaneously—that is, the first necessity. Second in importance is to have the walk "heel and toe"—that is, the heel of each foot should strike the ground unmistakably first and the toe of each foot should be the last part to leave it. One should not walk flat footed, with the ball of the foot or any part except the heel striking the ground before the heel does. Lastly, the knee should be "locked" at the end of each stride—the grounded leg should be stiff and taut as the loose leg swings out for the next stride.—Outing.

**Story of a Dream.**

Of course the medical sharps know it all, but let me tell what happened to me. I had a strikingly vivid dream in which I saw and spoke to a dead friend, and she emphasized what she said by saying her hand on my hair, a trick the dead girl had when living. The subject of her speech has no value. But when I woke I could almost feel her touch still. In a day or two I noticed my hair looked queer where she touched me, and it faded until I had four bars, almost white, across my red mop, just such as would be made by four fingers.—Letter in New York Times.

**Homemade Rat Poison.**

Farm and Fireside gives the following recipe for homemade rat poison: Barium carbonate is a poison which in small quantities is harmless to the larger domestic animals, but will kill rats and mice. Mix four parts of meal or flour and one part of barium carbonate and place where the rats will find it, or mix ordinary oatmeal to a stiff dough in water, with about one-eighth its bulk of barium carbonate.

**Tracing a Thief.**

A burglar who broke into an antiquary's shop in Paris was identified by means of a small strip of skin torn from his ear by the broken glass of a showcase. The piece of skin was preserved in a bottle of spirits, and it fitted on to a fresh scar on the man's left ear.

**Catty Comment.**

"When I have anything to occupy my time, I hate to have a lot of foolish men hanging around me."

"You are never idle, are you, George?"

—Baltimore American.

**Charity begins at home, but reform needs to be practised by a neighbor.**

It isn't that coal is not cheap enough, but dealers are willing to take too much for it.

**HIS SPEECH WAS SHORT.**

It Was Also Right to the Point, and the Jury Did the Rest.

A Chicago lawyer tells of a prosecuting attorney in a circuit court of an Illinois county some years ago whose early education had been defective, but who was so shrewd and "long headed" that few more dangerous antagonists could be found at the bar in that region.

At one time he had procured the indictment of a man for theft. The amount alleged to have been stolen was \$5, and at that time the penalty for stealing \$5 or more was imprisonment at hard labor in the penitentiary. For stealing less than that amount the punishment was confinement in the county jail without labor.

The evidence proved beyond dispute the theft of a five dollar note of the State Bank of Illinois, but the prisoner's counsel brought several business men to swear that it was not worth its face value in gold, but all agreed that in ordinary transactions it would pass for \$5.

Over this testimony the prisoner's counsel quibbled for two hours while the prosecuting attorney listened in patience.

When his turn came he arose and delivered himself as follows:

"Gentlemen, I hope the learned counsel won't get offended if I don't talk but just one minute. All I've got to say is this: The prisoner don't pretend to deny that he stole our money, and all he asks of you's just to give him the privilege of stealin' it at a discount."

He sat down, and the jury went the chief to the penitentiary.—Case and Comment.

**TECHNIC OF PAINTING.**

Modern Color Methods and Those of the Old Masters.

Many persons think that the paintings by the old masters owe their permanency in some degree to secret processes now lost. In the Journal of the Franklin Institute Dr. Maximilian Toch points out that as a matter of fact the old masters used only those few colors (madder, for example) the permanency of which was well established, and that they avoided mixing colors known to have a bad chemical effect on one another.

Incidentally he describes the scientific methods of detecting later day copies. Zinc white, where flake white would have been used, protoplasmic remains in the cells of the wood used for the picture and the transparency of the bitumen in the shadows are proofs that a picture is not a genuine antique.

In respect to deterioration the author mentions the bad effects of smoke and modern gas fumes and, after saying that either light or darkness may bleach a picture, points out that some pictures that have been kept in the dark can be restored by placing them in bright sunlight.

Finally Dr. Toch condemns those modern painters who substitute the collapsible tube or palette knife for the brush on the ground that the flakes of color thus attached to the canvas will crack off and become detached. If that method had been used by the ancients no traces of their work would now exist.

**The Heroines of Novels.**

If I were his Satanic majesty and a novelist came to me for judgment I should beetle my brows in a horrible manner and quiz him thus:

"Did you ever make your heroine eighteen years old? Did you ever endow a maiden with the repartee of Pinero, the intuition of Blavatsky, the carriage of Garden, the hauteur of the Medici, the beauty of Aphrodite and the wisdom of Athena—all at the age of eighteen years?"

If the novelist answered me "Certainly not!" I should say, "To heaven with you!" But if he answered, "Sure, I did!" I would blast him where he stood.

For of all the iniquitous, fallacious, unfair and dangerous doctrines this taken, the being of the cake—that the female species reaches her apogee at the immature age of eighteen.—George Weston in Saturday Evening Post.

**Types of Feet.**

Among the various races of men, three types of feet occur. Certain pure races have one type of toe which is characteristic of each race. Thus, the Zulus, the Basques and probably most pure Celts have the even toed foot, while the Papuans, the Boschmen and a number of African tribes, as well as both ancient and modern Egyptians, have the arch toed foot. Many European nations, however, have a mixture of the three types. But it is certain that among the English, and probably among the Germans, French and Greeks, the even toed foot is the commonest.—Strand Magazine.

**Reward of Writers.**

Writers of nonfiction today seldom fare more handsomely than did Chief Justice John Marshall, who, 110 years ago, received \$60,000 for his life of Washington. After Stevenson's death the royalties on his books amounted every year to ten times the sum he had received a few years before.

**The Swordfish.**

So powerful is the jaw of the swordfish, from which the sword projects, that it has been known, in attacking vessels, to pierce through oak timbers to the depth of ten inches.

**The Cosacks.**

No matter how old a Cosack is he belongs to the reserve forces of the "national defense" in Russia, and if required, accompanies his sons and grandsons to battle.

**A girl is never satisfied until she has coaxed some young man into telling her how handsome she is.**

Be charitable to the living; the dead are not in a position to appreciate a monument.

**THE MARKING OF BILLS.**

One of the Secret Service Methods is the Use of Pin Holes.

In their surveillance and apprehension of suspected persons government secret service officers often find it necessary to "mark the money" handled by such persons. There are various methods of so marking the national currency, one of the most novel of which is the pinprick.

The note to be marked is, say, the five dollar silver certificate bearing the vignette of an Indian chief in his full regalia of feathers and trappings and presenting a full face view. With the aid of a pin the secret service man makes two punctures in the bill directly in the pupils of the Indian's eyes.

The casual and sometimes even critical inspector of the note these pinpricks are invisible. If raised to the light, however, the bill will distinctly reveal them.

The markings are complicated by the following process: The pin point is applied in the twist of the large figure 5 at the two upper corners of the note. These two twists do not appear in the "necks" of the two figures 5 that are at both ends of the bottom of the note.

The note is now pierced again, this time in the ends of the scrolls on each side of the word five in the lower center of the bill. The marking is now complete. In secret it is exhibited to one or more persons for purposes of identification and is then placed in the till or money drawer to which the suspected person has access.

It is said that the pinpricks will remain perfect for some time. When such bills are produced in court and their marking is explained under oath conviction is practically certain.—Every Week.

**MELODY DEAFNESS.**

To Those Who Are Afflicted With It Music Is Simply Noise.

Every one has heard of color blindness, but few people are aware that there is such a malady as tune deafness. It prevents those affected from appreciating music, which to the melody deaf is nothing but noise.

The most intelligent people often suffer in this way. Empress Catherine of Russia used to declare that for her music was a nerve trying din, and Napoleon I. hated any form of melody. Victor Hugo had to be coaxed by the composer who put his famous lines to music. "Are not my verses," he used to say, "sufficiently harmonious to stand without the assistance of disagreeable noises?"

Doctors say that the power to appreciate music depends upon a perfect combination of the nerves and brain. Some people's nerves readily carry musical sounds to the mind, while in others nerves impede their passage to the brain cells.

Good musicians are more often born than made. Nature has provided them with nerves which instinctively carry musical chords to the brain. That is why a good musician can memorize a tune after hearing it played over once. Every note has been clearly recorded in his brain.

Those with less sensitive musical nerves receive a dull impression of any music they may hear, and thus they are unable to remember it unless it is drummed into their brain by repeated playing.—Pearson's Weekly.

**Ingenuous Air Bombs.**

Bombs thrown from the air are usually exploded by contact. With the Martin Hale bomb, designed specially to be dropped from aeroplanes, there is a "safety pin" which renders the bomb harmless until it has been withdrawn and until a fall of about 200 feet through the air has caused the propeller to rotate and release the firing mechanism. All destructive explosives cause damage by the actual shock of the explosion—that is, by the disturbance in the air created by the expansion of the contents of the shell, by the fragments of the shell or the bullets which it contains flying in all directions, by the fumes which may be given off on explosion and which may have a stupefying or fatal effect on people in the vicinity and by the falling of bricks and mortar displaced by the bombs.—London Mail.

**English as She Is Spoken.**

The professor who in his address on the correct pronunciation of English said he preferred "ofn" to "often" is on the winning side. No "pronouncing dictionary" with a reputation to lose ever sounds the "t" in the middle of such words as Christmas, mistletoe, ostler, often or chestnut. Good actors, whose duty it is to speak "trippingly on the tongue," can cite authority to support their pronunciation of ban'ker-chief and We'n'sday. And no one who knows his way about in the elocutionary field pays any regard to the spelling of such words as "extraordinary."—London Chronicle.

**Early Closing Scheme.**

She—Papa says that when coming to see me you must not come in a street car any more. He—Really! Does he expect me to walk all this distance? She—Of course not. He says all he asks is that you will come in a carriage hired by the hour.—New York Weekly.

**Engineering Triumph.**

"Why are you studying that dachshund so intently?"

"I consider him an architectural triumph of Mother Nature's," explained the bridge builder. "See how nicely the stress is calculated to the span."—Judge.

**Our past lives build the present, which must mold the lives to be.**—Sir Edwin Arnold.

A girl may strike a man as a pretty miss—and hit him later as an angry wife.

The barber's idea of a miser is a man who shaves himself.

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