

LEARN THESE

Learn to laugh. A good laugh is better than medicine.

Learn how to tell a story. A well-told story is as welcome as a sunbeam.

Learn to keep your own troubles to yourself. The world is too busy to care for your ills and sorrows.

Learn to stop croaking. If you cannot see any good in the world keep the bad to yourself.

Learn to hide your pains and aches under a pleasant smile. No one cares to hear whether you have the earache, headache, or rheumatism. Don't cry. Tears do well enough in novels, but they are out of place in real life.

Learn to meet your friends with a smile. A good-humoured man or woman is always welcome, but the dyspeptic or hypochondriac, is not wanted anywhere, and is a nuisance as well.

ODDS AND ENDS

In North-Eastern Labrador a traveller has found a fresh water lake, 800 feet above sea-level and 100 miles from salt water, which is inhabited by seals. He thinks that the ancestors of these seals were imprisoned in a bay when the general surface of Labrador rose after the Glacial epoch. Being thus cut off from the sea, the water gradually became fresh, while its inhabitants accustomed themselves to their new conditions of life.

It is well-known that many creatures appoint one or more of their number to act as sentinels to guard against surprise while the rest are asleep, or feeding, or at play. Among the animals, birds, and insects that are thus prudent may be named the following: wasps, ants, chamois and other antelopes, prairie dogs, wild horses, rooks, swans, Australian cockatoos, zebras, quails, certain baboons and monkeys, flamingoes, and other birds, marmots, seals, African wild cattle, and elephants.

A North Island school teacher received the following interesting letter from the mother of one of her pupils:

"Dear Miss—You write me about whipping my son. I hereby give you permission to beat him anytime it is necessary to learn him lessons. He is just like his father; you have to learn him with a club. Pound noledge into him; I want him to get it, and don't pay no attenshun to what his father says. I'll manage him."

FAMILY FUN

Why is a book like a king?—Because it has many pages.

Why are two laughing boys like a chicken's wing?—Because they have a merry thought between them.

Why is a clock a most modest piece of furniture?—Because it runs down its own works.

Why was the elephant the last animal to come out of the ark?—Because he had his trunk to pack.

Why is a zebra like a convict?—Because he wears stripes.

Some night when the moon is at its full and the air is free from haze go outdoors with a hand mirror and hold it so that the moon's image will fall on it.

Make the experiment, preferably, when the moon is well up in the heavens. Instead of seeing one image, as you will expect, you will see four. One of these images will be very bright, but the other three will be dull, like unburnished silver.

They will be in a straight line, one of the dull images on one side of the bright image, and two on the other side of it. Turn the mirror slowly around, and the images will appear to revolve around on a common centre. The explanation of this queer little phenomenon may be found in the fact that there are two surfaces in a mirror, one in front and the other in the back, where the quicksilver is.

The brightest of the images is from the moon itself. The others are what are known as secondary images, reflected from the front to the back of the mirror and thence to the eye.

A similar experiment may be made with the planets Venus, Jupiter, and Mars, or with any of the first magnitude stars. The planets and the stars, however, make only three images, the number of images depending on the breadth of the object. A perfectly clear night is essential.

All Sorts

Animals to the number of 70,000,000, are killed yearly for the sake of their fur.

When a fish loses any of its scales, by a wound or other means, they are never renewed.

The wasp has been observed to waylay and rob bees while the latter, laden with honey, were returning to the hive.

'You don't look as if you were enjoying yourself, Mr. Shriner, I wish all my guests to be at home.' 'I'm sure they all wish they were, Mrs. Hostess.'

Civilisation does not tend to the horse's longevity. In the wild state he lives to be thirty-six or forty years old, while the domestic horse is old at twenty-five.

Among insects the most intelligent are those of the ant tribe, while next to them rank wasps. Bees come some way lower down the scale. Beetles are hopelessly stupid, but even they are not as bad as butterflies and moths.

Tommy: 'I'm going to begin vulgar fractions to-morrow, ma.' Mother: 'You shall do nothing of the kind, Tommy. You shall study the very best fractions they have in the school.'

'I say, I'd give anything to be as strong and healthy as you are,' remarked the lazy man. 'What do you live on?' 'Nothing but fruit,' answered the other. 'What kind of fruit?' 'The fruit of industry.' was the brief but significant reply.

If the Shah of Persia were to be deprived of his income he could still make sure of being one of the richest men in the world. He would only have to sell his ornaments, gems, and precious stones to become possessed of about £7,000,000, the sum at which the magnificent collection is valued.

Arabian horses show remarkable courage in battle. It is said that when a horse of this breed finds himself wounded, and knows instinctively that he will not be able to carry his rider much longer, he quickly retires, bearing his master to a place of safety while he has yet sufficient strength. But if, on the other hand, the rider is wounded and falls to the ground, the animal remains beside him unmindful of danger, neighing until assistance is brought.

Travellers who make holiday on the Continent are estimated by a French authority to spend at least £30,000,000 a year during their trips abroad. The three million tourists who visit Switzerland annually leave at least £6,000,000 in that country. Fewer visitors go to the Riviera, Italy, and Spain, but they belong to a wealthier class, and are estimated to spend over £12,000,000 during the winter season alone. The three large Continental capitals (Paris, Vienna, and Berlin) receive at least £9,000,000 a year from foreign visitors, while the amount spent at Continental spas totals £3,200,000 a year.

In Belgium every citizen has a vote who is over twenty-five years of age and has lived for a year in the same commune. Every one thirty-five years of age who is the head of a family has a second vote. Every one over twenty-five who has property in land worth £80, or a corresponding yearly income from such property, or an income of £4 a year from the Belgian funds either directly or indirectly through the savings bank, has an extra vote. It is, therefore, not difficult for a man of thirty-five to have three votes. The three votes, which are the maximum, may also be made up with the help of a supplementary vote given for a diploma of higher instruction or a certificate of higher secondary instruction. Some of these qualifications must often be wasted.

There are thirty palaces belonging to the imperial family in various parts of Japan, but the present Emperor has never occupied more than three or four of them, and some of them he has never seen. There is a stock-farm at Nikko belonging to the Mikado, and tourists are always amused at a large, oddly painted sign which advertises milk from his cows for sale. The Emperor seldom leaves the new palaces at Tokio, which are more modern and comfortable than any of the others, and were only completed in 1888. They consist of a labyrinth of one-storey buildings, all connected by covered passages and surrounding beautiful courts. Their architecture is of the ancient Japanese style, with high roofs at sharp angles, and heavy grey tiles, and the interior of most of them is furnished in the native fashion.