

MODERN DEFINITIONS.

Barquet—A half-crown dinner that you pay a guinea for.
 Bargain—The spendthrift's excuse.
 Benedict—A penitent bachelor.
 Biography—Posterity's revenge.
 Wedding present—Society's trading stamps.
 Bore—A loquacious father of precocious children.
 Job—What you are glad to get when you are looking for a situation.
 Naivete—The surprise a girl shows when she receives a proposal she has been working for.
 Inconsistency—Putting a woman on a pedestal to look down upon her.
 Suspicion—Testing the engagement ring on window-glass.

ODDS AND ENDS

Traveller: 'That's a rather large statue, Pat.'
 Pat: 'Yes, sir. They tell me the hand is eleven inches wide.' Traveller: 'I wonder why they didn't make it twelve inches?' Pat: 'Because they didn't want to make it into a foot.'

Husband: 'Business is not so good as it was last year, my dear, so I'm afraid it will be necessary for you to reduce your dressmaker's bills.'

Wife: 'How can I, John? I don't make out her bills.'

FAMILY FUN

To melt lead in a piece of paper.—Wrap up a very smooth ball of lead in a piece of paper, taking care that there be no wrinkles in it, and that it be everywhere in contact with the ball; if it be held in this state over the flame of a taper, the lead will be melted without the paper being burnt. The lead, indeed, when once fused, will not fail in a short time to pierce the paper and run through.

To so fill a glass with water that it cannot be removed without spilling the whole.—This is a mere trick, but may afford some amusement. You offer to bet any person that you will so fill a glass with water that he shall not move it off the table without spilling the whole contents. You then fill the glass, and laying a piece of paper or thin card over the top, you dexterously turn the glass upside down on the table, and then drawing away the paper, you leave the water in the glass, with its foot upwards. It will therefore be impossible to remove the glass from the table without spilling every drop.

To get a ring out of a handkerchief.—Bend a piece of wire into the form of a ring, having, previously sharpened both ends. You have a real ring made of the same piece of wire, and concealing the false ring in the palm of your hand, offer the real one to be inspected. When it is returned, borrow a handkerchief, and while taking it from the lender, slip the real one into your left hand, and take the false one at its point of junction. Throw the handkerchief over the ring, and give it to some one to hold between his finger and thumb. Let the handkerchief fall over it, and give a piece of string to a second spectator, directing him to tie it round the handkerchief, about two inches below the ring, so as to enclose it in a bag, and tell him to do so as tightly as he can. While he is doing this, take up your conjuring wand, a rod of some hard wood, about eighteen inches long, and when the knot is tied, step forward, passing the rod into your left hand, taking care to slip over it the real ring which has lain concealed there. Slip your left hand to the centre of the rod, and direct each of the two persons to hold one end of it in his right hand. Then tell the one who has the ring and handkerchief to lay them on your left hand, which you immediately cover with your right. Then tell them to spread another handkerchief over your hands, and to say after you any nonsense that you like to invent. While they are so doing, unbend the false ring, and draw it through the handkerchiefs by one of its points, carefully rubbing between the thumb and finger the place where it came through. Hang the empty handkerchief over the ring which is on the rod, and take away your hands, which you exhibit empty, as you have saved the false ring inside the cuff. Strike away the upper handkerchief, and the real ring comes to the surface, when the will and the ring come out of the handkerchief and hung upon the rod.

All Sorts

Two million pounds of fruit, packed in ninety-one thousand baskets, was Great Britain's import from France in a single day a few weeks ago.

Copenhagen has a school for servants at which high school instruction is imparted, not only in day classes but to students in residence.

The most costly of all furs is that of the sea-otter. A small skin of unusual quality has been sold for £80, and £30 is a common price.

Meerschaum when soaked in water will become soft and soapy, producing quite a lather if rubbed. In fact, the material serves as a good substitute for soap, and is thus used in Morocco.

Dora: 'How is it the play you gave was not so well attended as the one you gave a while ago?'

Dolly: 'Well, you see, we went round and sold tickets to all our friends for the first performance, and—er—after that we had no friends.'

Judge: 'said Mrs. Starvem to the magistrate who had recently come to board with her, 'I'm particularly anxious to have you try this chicken soup.' 'I have tried it,' replied the magistrate, 'and my decision is that the chicken has proved an alibi.'

Agent: 'Here is a book you can't afford to be without.' Victim: 'I never read books.'

Agent: 'Buy it for your children.' Victim: 'I have no family—only a cat.' Agent: 'Well, don't you need a good heavy book to throw at the cat sometimes?'

There has lately been discovered an insect, known to science as the Zopherus Melicanus, which has the extraordinary power of being able to cut metal with its mandibles. In less than forty-eight hours a pair of these remarkable little creatures actually succeeded in biting their way out through the stopper of a zinc-topped glass jar. How such tiny insects can exercise such tremendous strength is at present an utter puzzle.

An experiment of great interest for all countries is being carried out by the hospitals of Paris. For ten years now the question of the isolation of consumptives has been before the administration, and at last a system has been drawn up and decided upon. J. M. Bourgeois presented the final report on the subject just before assuming office as Foreign Minister a few months ago. The hospital population of Paris numbers on the average about 14,000, of whom about 5000 are consumptives. These 5000 are to be gradually withdrawn from all the general hospitals, and to be drawn together in three groups—one of 500 at Laennec, one at Tenon and Agincourt, and another in Paris itself. The two first will not be aggregated as in a hospital, but will rather inhabit a special quarter. The Paris establishment will be a special hospital.

Cuba, which had no use for the Spaniards as rulers, is welcoming them as workers (says the 'Sacred Heart Review'). The Immigration Bill passed the other day by the Cuban Congress appropriates \$1,000,000 to be devoted to the promotion of immigration, \$800,000 of which is to be used to transport families from Europe, principally from Spain and the Canary Islands. The immigration from Spain into Cuba in 1905 consisted of 50,000 persons, many of whom, however, returned home at the close of the crop season to spend their earnings. This unstable element the Cuban Government hopes to attract as permanent settlers, as the Spaniards more easily assimilate with the people of the native population than do the people of other races.

A few months ago President Roosevelt appointed a committee to make a thorough investigation of the business methods of each of the several departments at Washington, with a view to ridding them of some of the red-tape ways of doing things. Secretary Bonaparte, on being interviewed by this committee, told the following story, which beautifully illustrates the free use of red tape in the Government service:—

One of the naval officers on a certain ship desired to change a thermometer from one side of the vessel to the other, assigning very good reasons for doing so. This could not be done, according to naval regulations, however, until he had carried the matter to the ship's commander, and through him to me. I readily consented to the proposed change, which cost just fifty-three cents—fifty for the postage and stationery and three for the nail and wear and tear on the hammer.

Up to the middle of October the mission of the Irish envoys to Australia had resulted in the collection of £11,000.