

careless and bad habits of voice. Often a sharp voice shows far more ill will than the heart feels, but people do not know that the speaker's 'bark is worse than her bite,' and they believe her to be ill tempered and disagreeable. It is so easy to pick up a sharp and snappish manner of speaking. Very often it is acquired in mirth and in the give and take battles of words in which boys and girls delight. There is no malice in their sallies and a great deal of fun, but meanwhile the voice is often acquiring a sharp and shrewish tone which sticks through life, making it stir up strife and ill will among its listeners. So watch the tone in which you speak and take care that it is gentle and sweet. A kind voice is like music in the home, and is to the heart what light and beauty are to the eye.

A SAFE WAGER

A joker offered to bet a new hat with a gentleman that he would ask sixteen persons one question and receive the same answer.

The bet was accepted, and the joker asked each one of the sixteen this question:

'Did you hear that Smith is bankrupt?'

And 'Which Smith?' was the stereotyped reply.

ODDS AND ENDS

The Caspian Sea is the lowest body of water on the globe. Its level has been growing gradually lower for centuries, and now it is 85 feet below the level of the neighboring Black Sea.

A public-school magazine contains this courteous announcement. 'The editor will be very pleased to hear of the deaths of any of the old boys.' No doubt the old boys will oblige the editor from time to time.

Nervous old lady (on seventh floor of hotel): 'Do you know what precautions the proprietor of the hotel has taken against fire?'

Porter: 'Yes, mum; he has the place insured for twice what it's worth.'

The Co-operative Wholesale Societies' Annual reports that the societies of the United Kingdom have 2,320,116 members; £29,337,392 of capital, and made net profit £9,791,740 last year. More than one-fourth of the adult males in the United Kingdom are co-operators.

FAMILY FUN

What bird is a pedlar like? A hawk.
Why is a tight loot like an oak tree? Because it produces a corn (acorn).

How do you swallow a door? Bolt it.
Why is a watchman like a mill horse? Because he goes his rounds.

Why is a thump like a hat? Because it is felt.
Where should a starving man be sent? To Hungary.

If a farmer raises 365 bushels of wheat in dry weather, what would he raise in wet weather? An umbrella.

When is a door not a door? When it's an egress (a negress).

The Magazine Game.—In this the answers to the following questions are the names of well-known magazines:—

One hundred years—Century.

Santa Claus—St. Nicholas.

An ancient minstrel—Harper's.

A public place in Rome—Forum.

An early New England settler—Puritan.

Veracity—Truth.

One who sketches—Delineator.

A noted fairy—Puck.

A large body of water—Atlantic.

A dispenser of justice—Judge.

A prospect—Outlook.

What we all cling to—Life.

A citizen of the world—Cosmopolitan.

A show ground—Arena.

A boy's jack knife—Youth's Companion.

Part of a rope—Strand.

The wanderer—Pilgrim.

All Sorts

The costliest diamond is the Imperial, for which the Nizam of Hyderabad paid £430,000.

It is a law of science that sound cannot travel through a vacuum. The sound waves require the atmospheric conditions for their vibrations.

Stars seem to rise and set, like the sun, on account of the earth's revolution on her axis. They seem to rise four minutes earlier every night, on account of the earth's revolution in her orbit.

The first balloon was made by a Jesuit, about 1620. The idea was revived in France by M. Montgolfier in 1783 and introduced in England the following year.

Bees swarm because they become too crowded in one hive. When the bees feel that they are crowded too much they create a new queen, and she leads a new colony off to get a start for themselves.

Each instrument excels in some particular passage—the piano in scale passages, the harp in arpeggio, the mandolin in the rapid repetition of one note, the banjo in the rapid playing of broken chords, and so with other instruments; but the violin can beat them all on their own ground, while there is much violin music that can be played on no other instrument.

An English tourist was being driven on a jaunting car through the Donegal Highlands, and after a time the results of his observation came to the surface in the following query: 'Driver, I notice that when you speak to your friends whom you meet on the road you invariably do so in Irish, but when you address your horse you do so in English. How is this?' To which came the retort: 'Musha now tlan, isn't English good enough for him?'

Forty years ago there was not a single trout in all the length and breadth of New Zealand. To-day New Zealand trout are famous all over the world for their size and numbers, and thousands of fishermen come every year simply and solely to fish—to fish all the time and do nothing but fish. There is no doubt at all (says the 'Country Gentleman') about New Zealand being the angler's paradise. Everything possible is done to help him and encourage him and make him comfortable. Hotels in some parts exist solely for him, hotel managers are always ready to give advice, and in every town and village fishing-tackle shops abound, where polite proprietors are ready with rods, flies, baits, and information of all kinds about the 'state of the rivers, the fish in them, the sort of fly to be used, and everything else the would-be fisherman may want to know. What a pity it is that New Zealand is so far away!

During the recent visit of King Edward VII. to Paris, Sir Francis Bertie, the British Ambassador, accentuated the fact that the Embassy is the King's residence by moving to an hotel. During a Sovereign's stay in a foreign capital the Ambassador officially ceases to exist. An Embassy in a foreign city is a sanctuary. One continually hears, in cases of trouble in Eastern countries, of persons taking refuge in the British Embassy, where they are safe from arrests unless the Ambassador or Minister gives them up. An invasion of an Embassy by the police would be as much a direct cause for war as the invasion of the actual territory of the country by soldiers of the other Power. An Ambassador, not being subject to the laws of the country to which he is accredited, can naturally not be sued. He is exempt from direct taxation, his letters are delivered in special bags, and he is free from paying Customs duty.

Here is a Frenchman's idea of golf:—'But your game of golf! Oh, yes! I know him. You put on the tunic red—so red as the Ingleesh rosbif underneath—done. You strap your sack of bended-head sticks on the back of a boy twice so small as the bag. He scrape a mud pudding to make balance a leetle white ball. He make three bad tries to balance him; then very angry you call loud, "Four." Then you what you call address the ball, and, ma foi, your address sometimes is of language to make afraid. You strike, and the ball find himself in the boakaire. You call loud for the nibelungen stick, and beat the dust till your partner say, "Ho, chuckit!" You say —. But, my friend, I excuse myself to repeat what you say: Ah! my friend, you are a great nation, but your golf game gives me what you Ingleesh call ze hump.'