

All Sorts

'You seem to cough with more difficulty to-day than yesterday,' the physician said. 'That is strange,' murmured the patient, 'for I was practising all last night.'

A stranger wishing to play golf at North Berwick saw some one in authority upon the matter.

'What name?' asked the dignified official in charge.

'De Neufeldt,' the stranger replied.

'Mon,' said the official in a tone of disgust, 'we canna fash oorsels wi' names like that at North Berwick. Ye'll stairt in the morn at ten fifteen to the name of Fergusson.'

Mr. John O'Connor, M.P., has elicited from the English Board of Agriculture some remarkable and even startling figures with regard to the increase in the importation of foreign agricultural produce into the Three Kingdoms. The value of foreign beef imported has jumped from £5,599,502, in 1895 to £10,245,550 in 1905; mutton from £4,100,120 to £7,236,135; butter from £12,802,379 to £20,665,316; and flax from £2,765,772 to £3,291,467.

An American, visiting Dublin, told some startling stories of the height of New York skyscrapers.

'Ye haven't seen our newest hotel, have ye?' asked an Irishman.

'No,' replied the Yankee.

'Well,' said the Irishman, 'it's so tall that we have to put the two top storeys on hinges.'

'What for?' asked the American.

'So that we can let 'em down while the moon goes by!'

The use of incubators in the hatching of eggs is not a new process. On the contrary, it dates back to the ancient Egyptians, who often hatched eggs of various fowls in clay ovens heated to the proper temperature. With the dying out of the Egyptians the science of incubation, like so many of their other arts, went with them, and it was thought that it was one of the lost arts until Reaumur regained it in the last century.

To call a man who sells small quantities of sugar and flour a 'grocer' is, strictly speaking, an error (says the 'Ave Maria'). There is really no such thing as a retail grocer; for the word was originally grosser, and meant one who sold in gross, or at wholesale. Our ancestors talked about 'grossers' of fish and 'grossers' of wine. In the days of Edward III., 'spicer' was the word for grocer. But it happened once that the Grossers' company sold so much spice that the terms became confused; hence our modern word 'grocer' for one who sells spices, and similar things.

In China physicians are treated in precisely an opposite fashion from the way we treat them. Each family has its physician, whose business it is to preserve the health of that family. As long as health reigns the physician receives a stated amount of pay, but from the hour a member falls ill the physician's pay ceases and is not resumed until the patient's health is restored. Massage is one of the principal forms of treatment in China. It is used especially in cases of pain. The greater the pain the more violent the treatment. Oftentimes the physicians, who are all athletes, by the way, will climb right up and kneel on the body of the patient and pull and haul and beat the sufferer until the cries for mercy exceed the groans from the malady.

The most ancient bound books in the library of the British Museum (says the 'Ave Maria') are the following four: the manuscript of St. Cuthbert's Gospels, written between 698-720; it is bound in velvet intermixed with silver, and has a broad silver border; both the centre and border are inlaid with gems.—A copy of the Latin Gospels, written in the beginning of the ninth century; the binding is coeval or nearly so; it consists of thick oaken covers plated in silver and set with gems; on one side is embossed the figure of our Saviour, with the symbols of the Evangelists in the corners, and on the other side is the Agnus Dei.—Another copy of the Latin Gospels of the tenth century, in ancient metallic binding, ornamented with crystals.—A Latin Psalter, with the canticles, litany and Office for the Dead, written and illuminated about the year 1140; the covers are of carved ivory, set with turquoises; on one side are represented some events in the life of David; on the other, illustrations of the Seven Works of Mercy.

ODDS AND ENDS

'Please excuse Mary from attending school this afternoon, as she has an illustrated throat, with glaciers on both sides,' was a note sent the other day to an Auckland school teacher.

Customer: 'So you sell these watches at a pound each? It must cost that to make them.' Jeweller: 'It does.' Customer: 'Then how do you make any money?' Jeweller: 'Repairing them.'

'Will you give me a kiss, Johnny?' asked a spinster of a five-year-old. 'No, indeed,' replied Johnny. 'Why not?' she asked. 'Cause if I did, the next thing you would be asking me to marry you,' was the unexpected reply.

A Canterbury schoolboy recently wrote the following essay on 'Friendship': 'A friend is one who knows all about you and likes you all the same.' If there is anything more to be said on the subject, we can't imagine what it may be.

FAMILY FUN

Take a river, a crook, and a tree of the east,
Write down in rotation and trace
A preposition and fluid congealed,
Which shows you the dear trysting place.
It is near the old ivied fort,
Still favored a haunt of the swallows,
In a beautiful little nook,
Nigh the lovely lake of shadows.

—Answer—Post office.

Why is a prudent man like a pin? His head prevents him from going too far.

If a short man married a widow, what will his friend's call him? A widow's mite.

When may a man be said to breakfast before he gets up? When he takes a roll in bed.

What is that which never asks any questions but requires so many answers? The door-bell.

Why does a Russian soldier wear brass buttons on his coat and a Japanese soldier wear steel ones? To keep his coat buttoned.

Why is a young lady like a sheaf of wheat? First, she is cradled, then thrashed, and finally becomes the flower of the family.

All wind instruments are made to give forth sounds by means of a current of air flowing through them, but in most of them our lungs are the motive power. Here, however, is a self-sounding instrument which is so simple that nobody would suspect anything peculiar about it—a lamp chimney. One that is in use is best adapted for the trick. It is made ready for emitting sounds by placing inside, at the place where the glass begins to bulge out, a round piece of wire netting. Then the air in the chimney is warmed over a spirit lamp.

After a while the instrument is taken away and held perpendicularly, when it will begin to sound; monotonously, it is true, but it tinkles plainly. If the sound stops, the cylinder is placed in a horizontal position. Then the cooler air, which, flowing from beneath, produced the sound by collision with the wire netting, can no longer act, and the music ceases.