

SUCH A PLEASANT ROOM

'It ain't everybody I'd put to sleep in this room,' said old Mrs. Jinks to the fastidious and extremely nervous young minister who was spending a night at her house.

'This here room is full of sacred associations to me,' she went on, as she bustled around opening shutters and arranging the curtains. 'My first husband died in that bed with his head on these very pillars, and poor Mr. Jinks died settin' right in that corner. Sometimes when I come into the room in the dark I think I see him settin' there still.'

'My own father died layin' right on that lounge under the window. Poor pa! He was a Speeritualist, and he allus said he would appear in this room after he died, and sometimes I'm foolish enough to look for him. If you should see anything of him to-night you'd better not tell me, for it'd be a sign to me that there was something in Speeritualism, and I'd hate to think that.'

'My son by my first man fell dead of heart disease right where you stand. He was a doctor, and there's two whole skeletons in that closet that belonged to him, and half a dozen skulls in that lower drawer.'

'There, I guess things'll do now—Well, good-night, and pleasant dreams.'

ODDS AND ENDS

'Robert,' solicitously said the good woman at the tea meeting, 'will you have some more of the refreshments?'

'No-o,' replied the small boy. 'I think I'd prefer something to eat now.'

Criticisms never hurt anybody. If false, they cannot hurt you unless you are wanting in manly character; and if true, they show a man his weak points and forewarn him against failure.

Examples from a recent examination in a Victorian school:

'Define fathom, and form a sentence with it.'

'A fathom is six feet. A fly has fathom.'

'Define species.'

'Species is kind. A boy must be species to his mother.'

'Your daughter,' said the flatterer, 'has such a comprehensive sweep upon the piano.'

'I wish,' muttered the over-worked mother, 'she had that same about the house.'

FAMILY FUN

Leading Quotations.—One person in this very delightful and instructive game, gives a familiar quotation, which must be promptly followed by another quotation from the next player beginning with the letter that concluded the preceding quotation.

For example:—

First player—'If you've 'eard the East a-callin', you won't never 'eed naught else.'

Second player—'England expects every man to do his duty.'

Third player—'Young folks are smart, but all ain't good that's new; I guess the gran'the, they knowed sunthin', tu.'

Fourth player—'United we stand, divided we fall.'

Fifth player—'Life, what is it but a dream?'

Sixth player—'Man wants but little here below, nor wants that little long.' etc.

This game is not quite so easy to play the first time, because most people are only too unaccustomed to exchange quotations. But in a few evenings you will find yourself quoting quickly, and enjoying the pastime wonderfully well.

A Trick with Glass.—Did you ever try to cut a pane of glass in a straight line with a pair of shears? Perhaps you think it can't be done, but it can. Get a deep pan or bowl and fill it with water. Put your hands, the pane of glass, and the shears completely under the water and hold them there while you do the cutting. In this way you may cut the glass in either a straight or a curved line, but you must be careful not to allow the last part of the shears to come above the surface. The reason is that the water deadens the vibration of the shears, and the glass, and with these vibrations deadened the sharp edge of the shears makes a uniform cut.

All Sorts

It costs £125,000 a year to run the British Museum. The principal librarian and secretary receives a salary of £1500.

The total number of distilleries at work in the United Kingdom last year was 186—Scotland's proportion being 150.

A grocer in Dublin had written on his window the other day, 'Only fresh-laid Irish eggs sold here.' Next morning some joker had written underneath: 'We scorn the foreign yoke.'

Experiments are being made in New York with a new type of steamer to run sixty miles an hour. The keel is practically one huge propeller, with flanges working up and down, enabling the vessel to travel at a great speed.

The Shansi (China) coal fields cover an area of 14,000 square miles, and contain, it is estimated, more than 600,000,000,000 tons of anthracite, enough to suffice for the wants of the world at the present rate of consumption for over 2000 years.

'You told us, boy,' the tourist said to the urchin who was fishing in the lake, 'that the boat always left here at four, and we have waited now till a good deal past five.'

'Oh,' said the boy, 'it doesn't begin to run till next month.'

In Alaska is found a kind of fish that makes a capital candle when it is dried. The tail of the fish is stuck into the crack of a wooden table to hold it upright, and its nose is lighted. It gives a good, steady light of three-candlepower, and considerable heat, and will burn for about three hours.

'If I never see you again,' a teacher said with much earnestness to a girl whose scholastic career had come to a close, 'I hope that you will never forget to do your best wherever you may be, and that you will always be an honest, upright woman—truthful and brave. 'Thank you,' said the girl, 'and I hope you'll be the same!'

'Well,' said the proprietor of the millinery establishment, 'I see you have at last sold that wretched-looking hat we expected to have left over.' 'Yes,' replied the saleswoman, 'I got a middle-aged lady to try it on yesterday, and then told her that it would not, of course, do for her, because it was intended for a very much younger woman.'

The changing rose is a plant to the cultivation of which the Japanese devote much attention. It produces a tiny, but beautifully formed flower. On being taken suddenly out of a dark place into a sunny room, it slowly assumes a pink hue, which gradually grows in intensity until it becomes of the deepest red shade. The color vanishes again at night, or when the rose is replaced in a dark room.

'Who is there,' cried the impassioned orator, 'who will lift a voice against the truth of my statement?'

Just then a donkey on the outskirts of the crowd gave vent to one of the piercing 'hee-haws' of his tribe. The laugh was on the orator for a moment, but, assuming an air of triumph, he lifted his voice above the din to say:

'I knew nobody but a jackass would try it!'

The number of French families, that is to say, households, with or without children, is estimated at 11,315,000. Of this total 1,804,720 families have no children, 2,966,171 have one child, 2,661,987 have two children, 1,643,425 have three, 987,392 have four, 566,768 have five, 327,241 have six, 182,998 have seven, 94,729 have eight, 44,728 have nine, 20,639 have ten, 8305 have eleven, 3508 have twelve, 1437 have thirteen, 554 have fourteen, 249 have fifteen, 79 have sixteen, 34 have seventeen, and finally 45 families have eighteen or more.

The origin of the establishment of the needle industry in Redditch, which town is now famous for its needle production, is uncertain, but recent researches seem to show (says the 'Engineer') that the art of needle-making was probably first taught to the inhabitants by the monks of the Cistercian Abbey of Bordesley, which was a large religious house existing on the outskirts of the present town of Redditch, and which was dissolved in 1538. The growth of the trade, however, must have been very slow, and it was not until toward the end of the eighteenth century that the bulk of the English needle-making industry was concentrated in and about Redditch.

For Bronchial Coughs take Woods' Great Peppermint Cure. 1s 6d and 2s 6d.