

'I wouldn't mind work,' observed the Lamp, 'but I'm sensitive, and it isn't pleasant when you're quite bright to be turned down once or twice every evening.'

'Sensitive!' sneered the Mirror. 'Think of the ugly faces often turned on me!'

'And think also,' said the Carpet, 'how the children jump on me; still I'm not worn out yet.'

'You may all talk till you're tired, yet you must admit that not one of you is so sat upon as I am,' finished the Chair, decisively.

ONE BETTER

'Madame,' briskly spoke up the gent. in the check suit, when the lady of the house appeared at the door, 'I have here an invaluable invention for daily domestic use—a combination of useful utensils no housekeeper should be without, combining, as it does, in one compact tool, a corkscrew, a paper-cutter, a tin-opener, a nut pick, a bodkin, a shoe-buttoner, a—'

'No, thank you,' she answered curtly; 'I have all the hair-pins I need.'

The next moment the door was slammed in his face.

SHOP TALK

Two newsboys sat in the gallery of a theatre in which 'Hamlet' was being played. It being the first time they had seen a play, they were held breathless with excitement. In the last scene, after Hamlet had killed Laertes and the King, the Queen had died of poison, the younger of the two could contain himself no longer. Turning to his chum of the streets, in rapturous tones he said: 'Oh, Bill, what a time that must have been for sellin' extra specials!'

ODDS AND ENDS

Bombay's population is the most crowded of any in the world. There is one house with 691 inhabitants, and another with 663.

'I like to hear my husband whistle; it shows that he is happy.'

'Is that a sign? Why, my husband whistled yesterday when I showed him my dressmaker's bill, but I am certain he was not happy.'

A teacher was instructing a very juvenile class about animals. She fully explained what an extinct animal was, and asked if anyone in the class could name one. Little Johnny jumped up and said: 'Please, miss, I can.' 'Well, Johnny, tell us,' encouraged the teacher. 'Dicky, our canary,' replied Johnny, 'the cat stincted him.'

Tommy: 'Pa, what is an equinox?'

Pa: 'Why, er—it is—ahem! For goodness sake, Tommy, don't you know anything about mythology at all? An equinox was a fabled animal, half horse, half cow. Its name is derived from the words "equine" and "ox." It does seem as if these public schools don't teach children anything nowadays!'

FAMILY FUN

Magical Glass.—Place the palm of your hand completely over the mouth of a goblet nearly filled with water, bending the fingers at right angles. Then, still pressing your palm down tightly, straighten out your fingers to a horizontal position. This will produce a partial vacuum, and you will be able to lift the glass from the table.

A Little Experiment.—Not all colors absorb a like amount of warmth. White, for example, absorbs much less warmth than black; therefore we use light-colored clothing in summer and dark in winter. The absorbent quality of colors is cleverly illustrated by the following experiment:—The inner sides of a cut glass are pasted out alternately with a white and black strip of paper and carefully dried, so that they do not bulge. Then a number of pins are taken, their heads dipped into molten wax or stearin and fastened against the outer side of the glass. A piece of candle is placed in the centre of the glass and lighted. The candle end must not be much longer than the strips of paper. It will not be long before the pins fastened to the black surfaces will drop down, the heat having melted the wax or stearin. The pins fastened to the white surfaces remain in their places much longer.

All Sorts

At Kouka, in Central Africa, the average annual temperature is 83.5 degrees Fahrenheit. This is the world's record for heat.

'Will you have your eggs cooked on both sides?' asked the waiter.

'Yes, please,' replied the diner; 'on the outside and on the inside.'

The Japanese system of letters is called Iroha, from the names of the first three letters, 'i,' 'ro,' and 'ha,' on precisely the same principle as that which gives to our own system the title 'alphabet.'

The smallest coin in the world having a genuine circulation is probably the Maltese 'grain,' a tiny fragment of bronze about as big and round as the top of a slate pencil, and worth only one-twelfth of a penny.

The Jordan is one of the most crooked rivers known. In covering a distance of sixty miles, for that is the length of a straight line drawn on the map between the Sea of Galilee and the Dead Sea, it runs two hundred and twelve miles because of its many windings.

'Is that dog of yours smart?'

'Smart? Well, I should say so! I was going out with him yesterday; and I stopped and said: "Towser, we have forgotten something!" And bothered if he didn't sit down and scratch his head to see if he could think what it was.'

The ant's mouth consists of a pair of powerful mandibles. In the case of warrior ants, which do the fighting of an ant community, the mandibles are the most prominent feature of the insect. They are so strong that when fixed in the flesh of an enemy the ant's dead body may be pulled off before the mandibles will lose their hold.

A gentleman who takes a business view of things, when recently asked respecting a person of quite a poetic temperament, replied:

'Oh, he's one of those men who have soarings after the infinite and divings after the unfathomable, but who never pays cash.'

Herbivorous animals do not eat all of nature's menu. The horse refuses the water hemlock that the goat eats with avidity, and, on the other hand, the goat refuses some plants that are eaten by the sheep. The tobacco plant is avoided by all save the goat, man and the tobacco worm. Some botanists think that no plant is absolutely poisonous, but only relatively so, being harmful to only certain animals.

A backblocks newspaper proprietor quickened the memories of his subscribers in the following novel manner:—'All persons knowing themselves indebted to this office are requested to call and settle. All those indebted to this office and not knowing it are requested to call and find out. Those knowing themselves to be indebted and not wishing to call are requested to stay at one place long enough for us to catch them!'

A recent search among the muniments of Ripon Cathedral discloses the interesting fact that the builder of the Cathedral organ in 1530 was an Irishman, James Dempsey. From the specification it would seem to have been a noble instrument, and reflected credit on its Irish builder. This James Dempsey, according to Dr. Grattan Flood, had been organ builder to Gerald, Earl of Kildare. He settled in England in 1529, and built many organs. His last work was that of Doncaster parish organ in 1561, and he died at Doncaster in July, 1567.

The costliest pun that was ever perpetrated was probably that of Sir William Collingbourne, for which he paid with his head in 1484. Richard III. was then on the throne, and, with his agents, Ratcliff, Catesby and Lovel, was working his crooked will upon the English nation. Using as the basis of his satire the wild boar on the King's shield, and the popular use of the word Lovel as a name for dogs, Collingbourne wrote the following:—'The rat, the cat, and Lovel the dog, rule all England under the Hog.' The punster was sent to the block for his ill-judged witticism.

Don't neglect your cough. Stop it at once, and drive away all risk of consumption. TUSSICURA, the great throat and lung healer, will do this. All chemists and stores.