

GOOD PAY, SHORT HOURS

A certain cottage and its old mistress had improved so greatly in comfort and appearance that a visitor shrewdly surmised that the son of the house, a lazy ne'er-do-well, had turned over a new leaf. He inquired about it.

'Yes, sir, my son's in work now,' said the smiling old mother. 'Makes good money, he does, too. All he has to do is to go twice a day to the circus and put his head in the lion's mouth. The rest of the time 'e 'as to himself.'

LITTLE BOYS AND LITTLE SHEEP

Joe came home with his clothes, and even his curls, all ringing wet. 'Just knew the ice wasn't strong 'nough!' he grumbled.

'Then why did you slide?' asked auntie. 'Cause all the other boys did,' said Joe; 'so I had to, or they'd laugh.'

His aunt gave him dry clothes, set him down by the fire, and made him drink hot ginger tea. Then she told him a story.

'When I was a little girl, Joe, my father had a great flock of sheep. They were queer things, where one went, all the rest followed. One day the big ram found a gap in the fence, and he thought it would be fun to see what was in the other field. So in he jumped, without looking where he was going, and down he tumbled to the bottom of an old dry well, where father used to throw stones and rubbish. The next sheep never stopped to see what had become of him, but jumped right after, and the next, and the next, although father tried to drive them back, and Watch, the old sheep dog, barked his loudest. But they just kept on jumping and jumping, till the well was full. Then father had to pull them out as best he could, and the sheep at the bottom of the well were almost smothered to death.'

'My! what silly fellows!' exclaimed Joe. Then he looked up at his aunt, and laughed.

ODDS AND ENDS

Mother: 'Sammy, I don't want to ever catch you in the pantry again.'

Sammy (weeping): 'An' I don't want you to, either.'

Lucile, a carefully brought up little girl of five years, returned from her first party in great glee. 'I was a good girl, mamma,' she announced, 'and talked nice all the time.' 'Did you remember to say something pleasant to Mrs. Townsend just before leaving?' her mother asked. 'Oh, yes, I did,' was the enthusiastic reply. 'I smiled and said, "I enjoyed myself, Mrs. Townsend. I had a lot better dinner than I thought I'd have."'

The other day a little fellow walked into a butcher's shop and asked the proprietor for a sheep's head.

'Sorry, my boy,' said the man, 'but the only head I have in the shop just now is this one of mine.'

'No, that won't do,' replied the boy, decidedly; 'I want one with brains in it.'

Boy: 'Cow is a noun, feminine gender, third person singular, and stands for Mary.'

'Stands for Mary?' asked the master, in astonishment.

'Yes, sir,' responded the urchin, with a grin, 'for if the cow didn't stand for Mary, how could Mary milk the cow?'

FAMILY FUN

An arithmetical puzzle:

1 times 9 plus 2 equals 11
 12 times 9 plus 3 equals 111
 123 times 9 plus 4 equals 1111
 1234 times 9 plus 5 equals 11111
 12345 times 9 plus 6 equals 111111
 123456 times 9 plus 7 equals 1111111
 1234567 times 9 plus 8 equals 11111111
 12345678 times 9 plus 9 equals 111111111
 1 times 8 plus 1 equals 9
 12 times 8 plus 2 equals 98
 123 times 8 plus 3 equals 987
 1234 times 8 plus 4 equals 9876
 12345 times 8 plus 5 equals 98765
 123456 times 8 plus 6 equals 987654
 1234567 times 8 plus 7 equals 9876543
 12345678 times 8 plus 8 equals 98765432
 123456789 times 8 plus 9 equals 987654321

All Sorts

There are 5265 joint-stock companies, with a nominal share capital of £137,907,836, registered in the United Kingdom.

Youth, which is forgiven everything, forgives itself nothing; age, which forgives itself everything, is forgiven nothing.

There are 55 Labor M.P.'s in the House of Commons, of whom 30 have hitherto been receiving payment from the Labor Party.

'I had quite an argument to-day with my butcher over the quality of a roast.'

'Sort of a joint argument, eh?'

If the demands of the Women's Social and Political Union of Great Britain are conceded, about a million and a half women will be given the vote.

It has been proved by experiments that if fish get beyond a certain depth in the sea they die, being unable to support the pressure of the water.

The little child from the city was enjoying her first visit to the country, and was enthusiastic in her admiration of the farmyard. 'Just look at the chicklings!' she exclaimed, in ecstasy. 'They're all running about raw!'

The Angler: 'Is this public water, my man?'

The Inhabitant: 'Aye.'

The Angler: 'Then it won't be a crime if I land a fish?'

The Inhabitant: 'No; it'll be a miracle!'

Some plants are starch factories, as, for instance, the potato; some are medicine factories, examples of which are camphor, opium, and castor-oil; other plants are gum factories, as India-rubber; others are perfume factories; and still others are color-makers, not for themselves only, but for man's use.

'Well,' said the lawyer for the defence to his client, 'I was certainly surprised at your conviction.'

'I wasn't; it was all your fault.'

'All my fault? I put up a magnificent fight for you.'

'Yes, an' you kep' yellin' at the jury that you demanded justice for me till they went an' give it to me.'

'Friend,' asked the traveller who had lost his way, 'where is Mugg River? I expected to find it somewhere along here, but I don't see any signs of it.' 'Mugg River, sir,' said the man in the doorway of the log cabin, pointing to a dry gully a short distance ahead, 'has been postponed this year on account of the weather.'

The teacher was expounding to the best of his abilities the difference between an atom and a molecule. 'An atom,' he explained, 'is the smallest particle of an element that can take part in a chemical combination. Now, can anyone suggest an illustration?' One small hand shot up. 'Well, Johnnie, what is it?' 'Wellington at Waterloo, sir. Up, Guards, and atom!'

Mme. Curie, one of the discoverers of radium, was busy in her laboratory the other morning, when a scrub-woman rushed up to her, crying:

'Madame, madame, I have just swallowed a pin!'

'You don't say so,' said Madame Curie, wholly absorbed in some scientific problem. And taking a pin from a tray she added, 'Here is another.'

The Chinese pitcher-plant is very singular-looking. The end of the leaf extends like a tendril, and has an appendage shaped like a pitcher with a regular lid. This is generally closed down, though it may be raised. Even when the rain can not get in, the pitchers always have water in them; some hold about a tumblerful, others even more. The water is a part of the sap that comes to the leaf. In the island of Ceylon this plant is called the monkey-cup, because the monkeys sometimes raise the lid and drink the water.

Great living authorities on social statistics, Mr. Chas. Booth and Mr. R. A. Rowntree, declare that from ten to twelve millions of people in England are subsisting upon or below the 'poverty line,' which is the minimum upon which a bare existence can be maintained. Another economist estimates that 8,000,000 are in dire poverty, and that 20,000,000 more are poor. At any moment the number in receipt of poor-law relief approximates a million. On the other hand, the total income of the United Kingdom in one year is £1,700,000,000. Of this sum, according to recent calculations, two-thirds is divided amongst 5,000,000 well-to-do people of the upper and middle classes, and the other third amongst 35,000,000, or seven times the number of poor people of the working class.