

for a time the beast had devoured my entire centre of gravity, and that I should never go on a steady perpendicular again."

"Upon my word," said Sir Jonah Barrington, to whom Curran related the story, "the mastiff may have left you your centre, but he could not have left much gravity behind him among the bystanders."

SHE WAS WISE.

A woman, wearing an anxious expression, called at an insurance office one morning.

"I understand," she said, "that for £1 I can insure my house for £500 in your company."

"Yes," replied the agent, "that is right. If your house burns down we pay you £500."

"And," continued the woman, anxiously, "do you make any inquiries as to the origin of the fire?"

"Certainly," was the prompt reply; "we make the most careful inquiries, madam."

"Oh!" and she turned to leave the office; "I thought there was a catch in it somewhere."

SMILE-RAISERS.

"How would you classify a telephone girl?" asked the old fogey. "Is her's a business or a profession?"

"Neither," replied his friend. "It's a calling."

"Ma! Ma!" bawled Freddie, as the usual morning wash was going on, "do my ears belong to my face or my neck?"

Ma temporised.

"Why, what is the matter?" she asked.

"I want it decided now. Every time you tell Mary to wash my face or my neck she washes my ears, too."

For the twentieth time the proprietor of an establishment found himself listening to the same remark from a visitor kept in by the wet.

"I say," complained the visitor, "the rain in this confounded place does seem to some down, and no mistake."

"True, true," agreed the proprietor. Just at the moment I can't remember a single occasion when it has taken any other direction!"

"Yes," exclaimed the street orator, "gravitation is the most wonderful thing on earth. Think of it, gentlemen. Just think that if the whole world was flattened out, so that the sea could flood it, the water would be two miles deep. Just think of that!"

"Oh, would it?" cried one of the audience. "Well, if you happen to catch anyone trying to do it, shoot 'em—yes, shoot 'em. I can't swim!"

The governess was listening to the children's reading lesson and her attention was, perhaps, wandering a little, when she was suddenly brought back to earth by hearing young Timothy declaim: "This is a warm doughnut. Step on it."

"Timothy, what ever are you reading?" she exclaimed. "Let me see your book."

She looked, and this is what she found: "This is a worm. Do not step on it."

The wounded Tommy was sitting up in bed when the nurse brought him in tea. He stared at his plate, and just as the nurse was leaving him, he said:

"Oh, I say! Who ever put the butter on this bread?"

"Why, I did," returned the nurse, indignantly.

Tommy went rather red, and stammered: "I—Oh, pardon, nurse, but—well, who scraped it off again?"

PILES

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SCIENCE SIFTINGS

By "VOLT."

Forty-Two Storeys High.

The highest building in America west of the Mississippi is in Seattle, Washington. The tower rises 450 feet above street level. The building covers a plot that is 108 feet by 120 feet. The main structure is twenty-one storeys high, and to this the tower adds twelve storeys. In addition to this there are two storeys below street level. The height to the lantern at the top of the tower is equivalent to forty-two storeys. The foundation rests on 1276 concrete piles driven to a depth of 50 feet below the surface. In building the foundation 4000 barrels of cement and more than 1000 tons of steel were used. On the foundation piles a total weight of 76,560 gross tons is carried, the steel for the superstructure alone weighing 4732 gross tons.

Guns at Sea.

Naturally, being continually on the move, a warship is a much less satisfactory gun platform than the solid earth. Even in the calmest sea vessels constantly roll from side to side. Theoretically, the best time to fire is at the moment between the rolls, when the deck is perfectly level. It is practically impossible, however, to fire exactly at that moment. No matter how careful the gunner may be, he fires his gun just before or just after the proper instant. The rule in the American Navy is to "wait for the downward roll"—that is, fire at the moment the ship is about to move down through the motion of the waves. The maxim in the British Navy is exactly the reverse; that is, "wait for the upward roll," a rule that has been observed from the very earliest days of fighting by the gunners in British ships.

The Revolving Earth.

Take a good-sized bowl, fill it nearly full of water, and place it upon the floor of a room which is not exposed to shaking or jarring from the street. Sprinkle over the surface of the water a coating of lycopodium powder, which can be obtained at almost any chemist's. Then upon the surface of this coating of powder make with powdered charcoal a straight black line, say an inch or two in length. Having made this little mark with the charcoal powder on the surface of the contents of the bowl, lay down on the floor close to the bowl a stick or some other straight object, so that it will be exactly parallel with the mark. If the line happens to be parallel with a crack in the floor or with any stationary object in the room, this will serve as well. Leave the bowl undisturbed for a few hours, and then observe the position of the black mark with reference to the object with which it was parallel. It will be found to have moved in the direction opposite to that of the earth on its axis. The earth in simply revolving, has carried the water and everything else in the bowl round with it, but the powder on the surface has been left behind a little. The line will always be found to have moved from east to west, which is perfectly good proof that everything else has moved the other way.

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