

"Oh, never mind, George," she interrupted. "Even if it is a chestnut, I'm sure I never heard it. Go on, please."

#### A WORD OF THANKS.

The following extract from a letter of thanks is cherished by its recipient.

The beautiful clock you sent us came in perfect condition, and is now in the parlor on top of the book-shelves where we hope to see you soon, and your husband, also, if he can make it convenient.

#### CAPPED THE LOT.

Over a glass of—er—milk the old sea-dogs were swopping yarns.

"I remember one time," said the one with the scarlet nose, "we ran into a hurricane. The cook was in the galley cooking salt horse, what the owners called beef, and raising a dickens of a steam. But that there hurricane was so cold that it froze that steam solid, with poor old cookie in the centre, and it took us three hours to dig him out."

"That so?" replied the one with the wooden leg. "Minds me of an Arctic voyage I went once. The cold was so 'orrible that it froze the bo'sun's shadow to the deck, and we had to hack it loose with a chopper before he could move."

"And another time——" he went on, reminiscently.

But his friend had vanished.

#### SMILE RAISERS.

Husband: "Have you brought your opera-glass?"

She: "Yes, but I cannot use it."

Husband: "Why not?"

She: "I have left my bracelets at home."

He: "Most girls, I have found, don't appreciate real music."

Second He: "Why do you say that?"

He: "Well, you may pick beautiful strains on a mandolin for an hour, and she won't even look out of the window, but just one honk of a motor car horn, and—out she comes!"

Uncle Jack, who was visiting them, wished to talk to Mary's father at his office. He could not find the telephone directory, and thus appealed to three-year-old Mary for information regarding the 'phone number:

"Mary, what does mother ask for when she talks to daddy at his office?" he inquired.

Mary was wise for her days.

"Money," she lisped.

One morning Mr. Smith was heard talking to himself while making his morning toilet in a manner that denoted much perturbation.

"I wonder," said Mrs. Smith, "what's provoked father now?"

"Oh, it's nothing much, mother," answered little William. "I just put a tube of sister's oil-paints in place of his tube of tooth-paste."

Mrs. A.: "Your husband told my husband that his word was law at home."

Mrs. B.: "Yes, it's one of those laws that are never enforced."

#### PILES

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WALTER BAXTER ... CHEMIST, TIMARU.

## SCIENCE SIFTINGS

By "VOLT."

#### Color Cure Treatment.

Of late years many experiments have been made in the treatment of disease—some of them very daring, and all most interesting. No field has offered wider scope for these than nerve disease, with which also so many of our returned men are afflicted, states the *Sydney Red Cross Record*.

A notable feature of the new Nerve Home, shortly to be opened at Russell Lea, Five Dock, Sydney, New South Wales, is a ward, decorated in colors, especially selected for their value in helping to restore shattered nerves. Miss Edith Walker has been instrumental in introducing the "color cure" into this home, and has been assisted in carrying out the scheme by a young Sydney artist, Mr. R. de Mestre, who is making a special study of the therapeutic value of color.

This ward is similar to one which has recently been equipped in a London hospital, and is painted in colors, which would suggest a day in spring. The ceiling is of the blue of a summer sky, and this note is repeated in the frieze in a lighter shade. The picture rail is of a delicate green, which leads the eye gently on to the sunlit yellow of the walls. On the floor is a linoleum of same green as the picture rail, slightly deeper in tone. The furniture and wood work are painted a pale primrose, and the bed-covers are the same color, the bedsteads and other fittings being aluminium color. The light can be regulated by curtains and blinds. On dull days the light may filter through the open shutters of primrose-colored curtains of deep violet. There is very little pattern in the room, except for a faint design on the bed-spreads, and on the wall is a decorative landscape, painted especially for its surroundings by R. de Mestre.

This venture is of a pioneer character as far as color treatment is concerned in Australia.

Naturally everyone is most keenly interested in watching the result, and the matron of Russell Lea will observe very closely the effect on the patients of this new treatment.

From a purely artistic point of view, the effect is delightful. Those completely ignorant of therapeutics can realise the soothing and calming value of this carefully-thought-out harmony of coloring, and can understand the cheerful, yet restful effect such surroundings must have upon a depressed or restless mind.

Speaking of the Kemp-Prosser Ward, a similar room in London Hospital, Dr. Furber says: "The Kemp-Prosser Ward has given considerable satisfaction," and that "the general contentment prevailing in the ward is a most valuable factor in the treatment."

The patients who are at present occupying the room at Russell Lea say that already they think that they sleep better. This will be pleasant news to the lady who is making this fascinating experiment, and of whose personal interest and affection for the returned men this is another proof.

## Gregg Shorthand

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