

toffee-shopkeeper a 'chocolate specialist.' Artificial teeth are known, less vulgarly, as 'dentures,' and are fitted on in a 'dental institute.' The undertaker is dignified by the title of 'funeral director'; even the humble milkman describes himself as 'cream and dairy contractor.'

A QUESTION OF NOMENCLATURE

The doctors of all nations in session at Basel had discussed the characteristics of the minute creatures which they had just determined to be the cause of most of the ills that flesh is heir to.

'Now we should give them a name,' suggested an eminent Swiss physician, 'and, as we have learned all about them here at Basel, I suggest that this city be honored by calling them after it—"bacilli."'

'With all due respect to the suggestion of my learned friend,' put in a famous German savant, 'and desiring in no way to rob the city that is our host of any honors that may be due to it, I cannot see why the factitious selection of Basel as the site of our meeting should be deemed an appropriate reason for christening these creatures bacilli. For we in Germany have been studying these animalculæ for years, and the greater part of the knowledge about them originated in Germany. Therefore I propose as an amendment that they be called after the great land of which I am so unworthy a representative—"germs."'

'I must beg leave to take exception to the assertion of my erudite friend from Germany,' spoke up a celebrated French professor. 'Our laboratories in Paris have supplied the world with more information about these disease bearers than all the universities of Germany. The honor belongs to Paris, therefore I move that they be called "parasites."'

'The assertions of our Continental friends are vain boasting,' cried a surgeon from Ireland. 'These creatures were first discovered and studied in the university of my native Dublin, and to Ireland belongs the honor of naming them. Therefore I move that they be called "mike-robes."'

After a long and heated argument, participated in by men of many nationalities, a bland Chinese physician arose. 'I see that we may talk for ever and yet fail to reconcile the conflicting nationalities,' he said, 'and, as these beings which we are discussing are international in their ravages, I suggest as a method of solving all difficulties as to their nomenclature that we adopt not one but all the names that are offered here to-day.'

And the Chinaman's motion was carried by acclamation.

WHENEVER

Standing by the entrance of a large estate in the suburbs of Dublin are two huge dogs carved out of granite. An Englishman going by in a hack thought he would have some fun with the Irish driver.

'How often, Jack, do they feed those two big dogs?'

'Whenever they bark, sir,' was the straight-faced reply.

AS USUAL

A young woman who was very stout and who ardently longed for a slim, willowy figure, finally decided to consult a physician, thinking he could assist her in reducing her avoirdupois.

The physician drew up a careful dietary; she was to eat toast, boiled beef tea, etc., and to return in a month and report reduction. At the end of the month she returned, and could hardly get through the doctor's doorway. He looked at her in grave astonishment. 'Did you eat what I told you?'

'Yes, I did, religiously,' she replied, panting for breath from the exertion of mounting the stairs.

He meditated, with a wrinkled brow. Suddenly he had a flash of inspiration.

'Anything else?' he asked.

'My ordinary meals,' she replied, calmly, seating herself more comfortably in the large arm-chair.

FRUSTRATED

There was a temperamental difference between Charles and his teacher which made school a burden to the sensitive youngster.

'Work hard,' advised his sympathetic mother, 'and get promoted at the end of the term; then you'll be out of Miss Brown's room, and get along better. I know the teacher in the next grade, and she's so nice.' The boy followed her advice, but on the day of trial he came home with a depressed air.

'Didn't you get promoted, dear?' asked mother, with a sinking heart.

'Yes,' said Charles, grimly; 'and so did Miss Brown.'

BRAVE AND READY

Some years ago, a company of geologists were examining some rocks between Aberystwith and Llanrhystyd, in Wales, and were making their way along a narrow ledge of projecting rock, on the face of a cliff, about a hundred and twenty feet above the level of the sea.

As they rounded a projecting angle the rock on which the last man stood gave way. He was whirled round, with his face to the sea, but with instant presence of mind grasped the ledge at his side with one hand, and extended the other to the man in advance, who happened to be his uncle.

The latter grasped it, and thus held him suspended for fully five minutes, having only six inches of standing ground. This was a breathless pause, during which the uncle gazed upon a rock, some ninety feet below on which the young man was doomed to be dashed.

'Tom,' he said at length, with perfect calmness, 'there is but one way for it. I'll save you, or we will die together. Loose your hold of the rock.'

'Yes, uncle,' said the young man, faintly, as he obeyed.

Then the uncle sprang into the air, and with such force that the two turned several somersaults, still linked together. They struck the water at some distance from the rock, and slowly and painfully regained the shore.

APOSTLE SPOONS

It was an ancient custom—one which is not quite out of use—for the sponsors at christenings to offer silver or gilt spoons as a present to the child. These were called Apostle Spoons, because the extremity of the handle was formed into the figure of one or other of the Apostles. Such as were opulent and generous gave the whole twelve; those who were moderately wealthy or liberal escaped at the expense of the four Evangelists, or even sometimes contented themselves with presenting only one spoon, which exhibited the figure of any saint, in honor of whom the child received its name.

FAMILY FUN

Multiplying by Nine.—Professor Paul Carus invented this little device to help one of his children over the difficult point of remembering the table of multiplication by nine. Put the two hands together on the table, palms down, and give each finger and thumb from one to ten, beginning at the left. Now, if you wish to find the product of, say, nine times six, raise the finger that is numbered six, count fingers and thumb on the left for the tens place of the product; count the fingers on the right of the raised finger for the units. In this case you have 54. The rule will hold true for all the numbers. Most children will not need this device in learning to multiply, but it is a curious fact.

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