

NO PLACE FOR ETIQUETTE.

Flushed with triumph, parched, and scant of breath, they stood upon the towering mountain peak and surveyed the panorama that spread itself beneath them.

"There!" she exclaimed, angrily. "We have climbed all this distance to admire the beauties of nature, and we've left the glass at home!"

He shifted the lunch-basket to the other arm. "Never mind, dear," he replied. "There's nobody about. It won't hurt us just this once to drink out of the bottle."

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TACTFUL JIMMY.

Jimmy found a pocket-book on his way to school, and in it was a £5 note. He took it home to his mother, and she told him to watch the papers, and he would find the person who lost it.

Soon an ad. appeared. Jimmy went to the woman's house and handed her the pocket-book.

"Why, this can't be it. I had a £5 note in mine," said the woman.

"Oh, yes, it is," said Jimmy, "but I had the note changed, so you could give anybody that found it a reward."

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SMILE RAISERS.

Customer: "I say—do you mind changing these vests for some less humorous ones? These tickle me to death!"

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"My son-in-law has just got a new motor-car," said Mrs. Larkson. "He says he's going to call it 'True Love,' because so far he hasn't been able to make it run smoothly."

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A man had several complaints made to him regarding his workman, and took him to task. "Now Mike," he said, "I've heard some queer stories about your doings lately." "Och! don't believe them, sorr," came the reply. "Sure half the lies told about me isn't true!"

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One of the newly-rich was showing a friend round her "estate." Presently they came to the poultry run.

"Do your hens lay?" asked the visitor.

"Oh, yes," was the reply; "they *can* lay. But for people in our position it is quite unnecessary."

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She: "I suppose you are a lover of good music?"

He: "Oh, yes, but you can go on playing just the same."

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Two small boys once halted before a brass plate fixed on the front of a house whereon was inscribed in bold characters the word "Chiroprapist."

"Chirrupodist!" remarked one of them, perplexed. "What's that?"

"Why," replied his companion, "a chirrupodist is a chap that teaches canaries to whistle."

Science Siftings

By "Volt"

Harnessing Heat From Under the Ground.

What will happen when the earth runs short of coal and oil supplies?

This problem was discussed by Professor W. W. Watts, in a paper on "Geology in the Service of Man."

He suggested the possibility of a great new power which humanity may harness to its service—nothing less than the heat of the earth's nether regions.

A beginning has been made at Volterra, in Italy, where a new source of power has been found in the high temperature steam from Fumaroles, which has previously been used only as a source of borax. Now the steam is being tapped by boring, and its chief heat is employed in running great power stations.

This may be but the beginning of the application of a new and valuable source of power in which the services of geology will be required.

We are haunted by the fear that a limit will be imposed by high temperature to deep mining, while that very heat may provide energy as valuable as the material which would otherwise be mined—just as we dread the gas from certain coal seams, when the gas might, if it could be exploited, give a return equivalent to that of the coal itself.

Nature's Living Lamps.

What is the most efficient light in the world?

Some people might vote at once for the "last word" of science in artificial illumination, but they would be wrong. The most efficient light known to us was known in the days of pine torches and rush-lights. It is that with which Nature has endowed the glow-worm and the firefly.

Science has so far failed to solve the problem of the production of light without heat—a problem which seems to have given Dame Nature no difficulty. In all artificial light production an enormous amount of energy is lost in the form of heat rays and chemical rays.

Thus a four-watt carbon blow lamp has a luminous efficiency of less than half per cent., and the most perfect artificial illuminant has an efficiency of only four per cent.

Science here compares badly with Nature, for the luminous efficiency of the firefly is no less than 99.5 per cent., while the glow-worm's light is 80 times more efficient than a tungsten lamp.

Light From Trees.

A French scientist has discovered a means of extracting and harnessing the electricity in trees. He connected a copper plate attached to a tree, and another plate buried in the earth, with a galvanometer, a delicate instrument which measures the strength of weak currents of electricity, and obtained a record of the current passing through the tree.

With three trees connected in the same way

the power was increased, the experiment, with a like result, being continued until twenty trees were linked up in this fashion.

The scientist then placed two copper plates in the earth, about six feet apart, and with the current thus obtained lighted a small electric lamp.

Whether the idea can be extended to be commercially worth while has yet to be determined.

Deep-sea Fish.

Until a few years ago it was thought that no fish could live very far beneath the surface of the waves, owing to the great water pressure, but it has since been proved that fish actually do live miles below the surface.

Deep-sea fish do not feel the intense weight of the water any more than a human being feels the weight of air. This is because the pressure inside them exactly balances that outside.

Little is known of deep-sea fish, which nearly always live and die at a great distance beneath the waves, but enough specimens have fallen into the hands of man to reveal how queer these fish are in appearance. Usually they are flat and misshapen, many being without eyes, which are not needed in the intense darkness of their mysterious realm beneath the sea.

From Coal to Oil.

The great oil-burning ships of to-day are a sort of stoker's paradise. The old dirt and raging heat of the coal-burning days have gone; and the mere turning of a tap is sufficient to spray the oil from the tanks under the boilers.

From the point of view of the whole ship's company, too, "oiling" in port is very much more pleasant than coaling, which meant that the whole vessel, with everybody in it, was smothered in dust. Now, however, a tanker comes alongside the ship and fixes a flexible pipe through a hatch in her side. Presently the soft thud of the pump is heard, and the whole thing is soon over, without fuss or bother.

While oil is cleaner than coal aboard ship, however, it is otherwise so far as the sea is concerned, and many complaints have been made regarding the pollution of the water around our coasts by waste oil from oil-burning ships.

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