

## JUST THE THING!

A farm worker had come up to London for a few days. Before he started he had promised to buy his daughter a present, so he went into a jeweller's shop and said to the assistant:

"I want a pair of earrings, cheap but purty. They be fur a present."

"Yes, sir," said the jeweller. "You want something a trifle loud, I suppose?"

"Well, I don't mind if one of them is a bit loud," replied the farm worker. "My girl is deaf in one ear."

## OUR FUNNY LANGUAGE.

The nervous foreigner got up in the crowded tramcar and made his way to the conductor's platform.

"Excuse me," he said, "but ze car be run so slow, and why, if you please, is it so?"

The conductor was bewildered for a moment, but with commendable intelligence he realised that he was being questioned as to the tardy motion of the car.

"Yes," he answered, briefly. "But we can't help it. You see, the car ahead is behind."

The foreigner's eyes opened wider.

"Would you please to say him again?" he asked, apologetically.

"Certainly!" said the conductor. "I said that the car ahead is behind. Do you follow?"

Then the foreigner returned to his seat, holding his head in both hands.

"Ze car ahead, he ces behind," he muttered, hopelessly. "Truly the way they do things in this Angletterre, it is wonderful!"

## SMILE RAISERS.

Diner: "Waiter, there's a button in my soup."

Waiter (ex-printer): "Typographical error, sir; it should be mutton."

Hostess (to small guest, who is casting lingering glances at the cakes): "I don't think you can eat any more of those cakes, can you, John?"

John: "No, I don't think I can. But may I stroke them?"

"I can't understand," said Jim. "why Fred is so mean. He rarely attempts to pay when we're out together; I generally have to do that."

"Well," was the reply, "there's one thing about it. You can't say you haven't got a close friend."

"What became of the Cromwell relics you had on exhibition here?" asked the visitor of the museum attendant.

"Let me see," said the man, who was new to his job. "I fancy they were returned to Mr. Cromwell last week, sir."

Teacher: "Now, suppose I am leaving the school, and a man comes up, gives me a blow which knocks me down, and my head strikes the pavement with great force and I am killed. What is the consequence?"

Pause. Finally, a scholar rose and said: "We should have a holiday."

## Science Siftings

(By Volt)

"The Cup That Cheers.

On September 25 occurred the 265th anniversary of the day when Samuel Pepys had his first "dish of tea."

Only 27 years earlier the very first cup of tea ever drunk in England is recorded as having been prepared at Arlington House, which then occupied the site on which Buckingham Palace now stands.

The Earl of Arlington bought the tea in Holland and gave sixty shillings a pound for it, a sum which to-day would be represented by at least twenty pounds.

The drink that was a curiosity less than three hundred years ago is now our chief beverage.

Meals for Sponges.

One of the hardest things to believe is that the sponge you use daily was once an animal, and not a vegetable growth of the ocean. Sponges live their own lives, and eat their food as other animals do.

The separate existence of a sponge begins with the breaking away from the parent of a tiny particle. The latter, after being whirled about for a time by tides and currents, eventually attaches itself to a piece of rock, and from that home it seeks its own livelihood.

The food of infant sponges consists of yelk cells, which contain a form of nourishment. Later, as the sponge grows, it requires something more solid, and this is brought by the currents, which sweep into a bag—half-mouth half-stomach—minute particles of the new food.

Clocks Without Hands.

A new type of clock with a square dial and no hands is being tested at Waterloo and other London terminal stations.

The time is indicated by figures on two small panels, instead of by hands pointing to numerals on a round dial. A new panel is let down automatically as each minute passes, and the hours are changed the same way. The clock, which is driven by electricity, is controlled by a master clock of the ordinary type.

It is easier to read the figures than hands at a distance, and for that reason the time-piece is particularly suited to railway stations. On the new clock the time appears just as it does in time-tables. Thus, at 12.30, all that you see are the figures 12.30.

Writing with Fireworks.

A new method of sky-writing, more appropriately termed sky-printing, has been invented.

From an aeroplane, flying one to two miles high, groups of fireworks are fired (colored stars at night, smoke-puffs during the day) to produce letters or numerals.

The apparatus consists of small firing machines, each comprising a number of interconnected Very pistol barrels pointing in different directions. When the pilot pulls a lever, each of these machines fires a group of fireworks into the air, where they burst simultaneously, forming a letter about 80 yards square.

An average advertisement fired letter by letter is completed in ten seconds (says a writer in the *Scientific American*). The fireworks, being projected 300 feet or more from the aeroplane before bursting, are free from the wash of the 'plane and are said to produce a lasting advertisement.

## A Summer School of Catholic Studies

Will open at the Convent, Timaru, on Thursday morning, January 7, and end on Saturday, January 9.

A series of lectures will be delivered by specialists on subjects of interest to Teachers and University Students.

The time between lectures may be agreeably spent in sea-bathing, tennis, and pleasant outings.

Fuller particulars will be given later.

Applications should be made early, as only a limited number can be accommodated.

Apply to

THE SUMMER SCHOOL COMMITTEE,  
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## To Convents and Schools

We have a number of books in our library which would be very suitable for school prizes. These will be supplied at special rates on application to

THE MANAGER.

## To Tennis Players

We beg to direct the special attention of all tennis enthusiasts to Messrs. Briscoe and Co's advertisement on page 57.

We ask our readers to patronise our advertisers, and when buying to mention that they have seen the advertisement in the *Tablet*.

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