

The clock struck eleven. It struck twelve, but even at midnight he was as determined as ever that he would not give up. One o'clock chimed.

At two o'clock he suddenly gave an exclamation of delight.

"Ah!" he cried. "I remember at last. I had decided to go to bed early!"

GETTING CHEAPER.

The member of Parliament for Hoaksham seemed disturbed in mind.

"Perkins," he said, to his private secretary, "have I done anything lately to make myself unpopular?"

"I think not, sir."

"You have not received any letters of complaint, nor been interviewed by any discontents during the last month or so?"

"Certainly not, sir. I should have told you at once."

"You have not noticed any antagonistic tendency in the leading articles of the local press?"

"No, sir. Why do you ask?"

"Well, Perkins, I am fairly certain there is an undercurrent of unfriendly influence at work in the constituency. You know, of course, that a brand of fourpenny cigars was named after me?"

"Yes, sir."

"Quite so. Well, they are now selling them at five for a shilling."

RIGHT-ABOUT TURN.

A popular rector tells a good story against himself.

Going up the steps of his church to take service, he was accosted by a stately old dame in difficulties with her breathing.

"Pardon me," she said, "but would you do me the favor of assisting me up the steps?"

"Certainly, madam," assented the rector, giving her his arm.

They reached the door, when the old woman, pausing for a moment's rest, said: "Pardon me once more, but do you happen to know who is preaching this morning?"

"The rector, madam," replied the cleric.

"Oh!" she said. "Then might I beg you to do me yet another favor?"

"Certainly," replied the rector once more. "What else can I do for you?"

"Would you," said the old woman, "be so good as to assist me down the steps again?"

SMILE RAISERS.

It is said that laughter will cure indigestion; but the trouble is the man who has it doesn't feel like laughing.

"Try one of these cigars, old man. They're the best things out."

"How are they when they're lighted?"

Hubby (reading the paper): "What asses some men will make of themselves."

Wife: "How, dear? What have you done this time?"

Doris rushed to her mother one day in a most excited manner.

"Oh, mother, we've been playing postman, and we gave every lady on our block a letter."

"But, dear, where did you get the letters?"

"Why, we found them in your trunk in the garret all tied up with pink ribbon."

PILES

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SCIENCE SIFTINGS

(By "VOLT.")

Pencil Points.

A "lead" pencil is not made of lead at all, but a graphite with several other ingredients. Pure graphite alone was once used, but it was found to be too expensive, and so a soft gutless clay was added.

When the ingredients are mixed in the required fashion, they are squeezed through a strainer, and the long thin rods are produced. When these are dry they are placed on a grooved board and then smeared with glue. Another grooved board is clapped on top of it and the two are pressed together. They are then planed off until the pencils are rounded out.

In Praise of Walking.

The ideal form of exercise is walking. One of its greatest advantages is its almost universal availability. Then, too, unlike many gymnasium forms, it does not develop one set of muscles and neglect others. It calls into greater or lesser degree of action most of the organs of body and mind, and is less liable to result in serious exhaustion than any other exercise. Professional walkers are long-lived, and are good insurance risks, but professional athletes are shunned by life insurance companies because too many of them die early of enlarged hearts or hardened arteries. When a man walks for exercise, he generally does so out of doors, and his whole physique participates in the effort. The blood absorbs the resulting carbon dioxide, and races to the lungs to discharge it and receive increased quantities of oxygen. The heart responds with stronger impulses, and sends new nutriment to the remotest tissues to repair their loss. The heat centres respond to the stimulus, the cutaneous capillaries expand, and the sweat glands eliminate more freely the retained impurities. The attention of eye and ear is required to direct his progress; and interest in his environment is awakened, so that he forgets that exercise is his object, and enjoys what Stevenson calls "the wonderful pageant of consciousness."

Making Violins Talk.

Experiments made by two young Danish engineers promise to revolutionise wireless telegraphy and telephone (says London *Tit-Bits*).

They have discovered a new force, resembling electro-magnetism, by means of which it will be possible to increase the capacity of a wireless station to receive or dispatch messages.

The two inventors picked up wireless messages from different European stations, and by a specially constructed apparatus were able to take them down at the rate of six hundred words a minute. Mechanical recording of wireless messages has been attempted already in France and Germany, but the highest rate has been one hundred and twenty words a minute.

The force by which this is made possible is developed by sending an electric current through certain substances—for instance, lithographic stone (a slaty limestone).

During an experiment one of the inventors went to a house connected with the demonstration-room by wire and played on a violin. This was distinctly heard by the gathering in the demonstration-room. In fact the sound was magnified so much that listening became almost unbearable. The inventor then talked into his violin, and another violin in the demonstration-room repeated his words.

Foolish economy—shutting the Catholic paper out of the home to keep down expenses.

THE MOST OBSTINATE

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