

unchanged. Hence, finally, the obligation, at all times, under all circumstances, to render fitting assistance, in a parent's need.

HIS LAST CHANCE.

The fat man decided to try golf as a weight reducer. Armed with four clubs, a ball, and a caddie, he marched off to the links.

The caddie placed the ball upon the tee. Then, with a terrific swing, the fat man whirled his club through the air.

But the little white ball still stayed smiling on its tee, while the club, meeting mother earth, broke into splinters.

"Give me another club, boy!" said the fat man.

Alas! Club No. 2 shared the fate of club No. 1, club No. 3 emulated the evolutions of club No. 2, and club No. 4 flew into a hedge.

"What would you do now?" asked the golfer, wiping his forehead, as he turned in desperation to the caddie.

Holding out the empty bag, the youngster replied: "Don't give in, boss! Give it a swipe with this!"

SMILE RAISERS.

Teacher: "Do you know the population of London?"

"Not all of them, ma'am; we've only lived here two years."

Mother: "Annie, I hope you are not teaching the parrot to use slang."

Annie: "Oh, no, mother. I'm just telling him the things he must not say."

Father was testing his son's knowledge of arithmetic.

"Now, sonny," he said, "suppose your mother had three pounds and I had ten. If I gave her seven pounds, what would she have?"

"Hysterics," muttered the precocious child as he drifted into the garden.

Teacher: "Now, Bobby, how much do six and four make?"

Bobby (eagerly): "Eleven, sir."

Teacher: "Now, guess again."

Bobby (doubtfully): "Twelve—nine—thirteen."

Teacher: "How about ten?"

Bobby (exultantly): "Oh, you can't mix me up that way. Five and five make ten."

One Saturday afternoon a woman entered a grocer's shop. After ordering her weekly list of goods, the grocer asked her if she would be good enough to take the things with her.

She became indignant.

"Well, ma'am," replied the grocer, "I'm sorry to have to ask you to take them, but I've no one here—my right hand's away with a swollen foot."

"I'm not at all sure," said the profiteer's wife to the head master of the fashionable preparatory school, "how your school is going to suit my dear boy."

The head master smiled confidently.

"You need not worry about that, madam," he said; "we've taught him how to hold his knife already."

A countryman who went to a large city to see the sights engaged a room at an hotel, and before retiring asked the clerk about the hours for meals.

"We have breakfast from seven to eleven, dinner from twelve to three, and supper from six to eight," explained the clerk.

"Look here," inquired the farmer, in response, "what time am I goin' to get to see the town?"

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SCIENCE SIFTINGS

(By "VOLT.")

Remarkable Results of Sound Study.

A special message from Paris to the *Boston Pilot*, under date June 23, says:—

The honors recently bestowed upon the Abbe Rousselot, of whom it has been said in France that "he made deaf-mutes speak and cannot be silent," direct added attention to the number of Catholic scientists who have achieved remarkable things in special fields.

The accomplishments of the Abbe Rousselot have been remarkable in the extreme, some of them almost weird in their astonishing results. By his talents he performed a great service for his country during the great war, as well as doing remarkable things for deaf-mutes.

The fact that his country has rewarded the services he rendered to it during the war by appointing him to the chair of Experimental Phonetics in the College of France is an indication of the esteem in which he is held.

Abbe Rousselot has been referred to as "the priest who silenced cannon. His study of sounds by means of delicate instruments gave him during the war the power to locate the batteries of the enemy. In the summer of 1915 he was stationed at Fontainebleau, taking records on tambours or revolving drums of the wild confusion of sounds that reigned there. From the study of the tracings thus made, each of which represented a given sound, he calculated the intensity, the pitch, and the timbre of the latter.

With this data he was able to determine, by means of carefully worked out tables, not only the exact position but the calibre of every gun in the German batteries. There was something remarkable about the precision with which he could distinguish such sounds coming from various distances as that of the explosion of the charge or the sound-wave coming from the mouth of the gun, the whine of the projectile in the air, and the noise of the shell's explosion. Furthermore, this was done in the midst of multitudes of other noises.

He camped in the forest of Fontainebleau for days, and devoted his time, strength, and skill to France. From October, 1917, to November, 1918, he was engaged in making experiments on French submarines and in teaching their crews to detect their hidden German enemies.

His work for deaf-mutes was notably fruitful. Through his study of voice production and his analysis of the motions and changes of form of the lips, mouth, larynx, and nostrils, he was able to analyse speech into its elements that he could teach words and even sentences to children and adults, as well, who had been prevented from enunciating either vowels or consonants.

The Abbe is now 75 years of age.

Sun Bombs.

Sun bombs are not of the metallic kind, but consist of a highly heated and very light gas. Their favorite part of the sun is where a great deal of activity is taking place, as, for example, where groups of spots have appeared. This remarkable discovery was made by Dr. Ellerman, of the Mount Wilson Observatory, U.S.A., and he has described them as following one another like balls of a Roman candle, at intervals of 10 or 20 minutes. The bombs, apparently, come to the sun's surface during the tremendous uprush of gas which produces the sunspots, as generally they are to be seen on the fringe of the spots. An explosion of one of these gas bombs often occurs in precisely the same place.

The speed with which they rush to the surface is equalled by the violence with which they explode. Though they do not appear to be very large when viewed from the earth—a distance of about 93,000,000 miles—they must be of enormous dimensions, and their gaseous contents must add considerably to the clouds of incandescent gas which hover above big sunspots. They have been photographed, and are now recognised as an established feature of the sun's activity. Students of solar matters are looking forward with interest to the return of the sunspot period, so that they can study these extraordinary gas bombs more effectively.