

NOT EXTRAVAGANT.

An economical housewife told her husband that she would have to ask him for ten shillings more a week on account of the high cost of living.

"I'll try and give you five," he grumbled. "That's the best I can do. You're pretty extravagant, Amelia!"

"Me extravagant?" And Amelia laughed bitterly. "Well, James, I don't see how you can call a woman extravagant who has saved her wedding-dress for over thirty years on the chance that she may make a second marriage."

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EXPLAINED.

A young wife brought her weekly accounts to her husband. He scrutinised them with a look of profound understanding, and remarked: "I see you have been paying less for bacon this week."

"Oh, yes, darling," said the wife, with a proud smile. "I have been getting *streaky*, it's cheaper."

"Why is it cheaper?" asked the husband, suddenly jumping off the pedestal of superior wisdom.

"I believe the pigs cost less to keep," answered the young housekeeper. "They are only fed every other day!"

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PLENTY FOR A START

"Where's Jimmy?" asked the head of the house, coming home from work.

"He was very naughty," replied his wife. "I sent him to bed for swearing."

"Swearing?" roared the indignant father. "I'll teach him to swear!" and he rushed upstairs. For some minutes the indignant parental voice resounded through the house, and then Jimmy's mother called:

"John, dear. I'm sure Jimmy has heard enough for the first lesson."

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SMILE RAISERS.

Mrs. Blotter, of literary taste: "And, Horatio, order a gallon of midnight oil. All our best writers, I am told, burn it."

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The physician who says no fast will prove fatal to a healthy man within 20 days probably doesn't mean to include Belfast.

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A country is not made great by the number of square miles it contains, but by the number of square people it contains.

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"I called for a little light on the financial question," said the man in the rural editor's sanctum.

"Well, you've struck the right place," returned the editor. "If there is anything we are light on, it is the finances."

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Passenger (about to leave the cars, sees his heavy satchel fall from the rack on a lady's head): "That's very fortunate. I had just forgotten it was there."

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Tom: "A married woman should see that she has all kitchen requisites as she starts housekeeping."

Clara: "Yes, even to a husband who washes the dishes for her."

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"It is a question in my mind," remarked the dentist who had got up from a warm bed to respond to a cry from his baby, "if a fellow makes most noise when his teeth are coming, or when they are going."

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SCIENCE SIFTINGS

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NOSES AS CHEST PROTECTORS.

How many people know that the nose is a natural filter?

Its passages are furnished with numbers of minute hairs against which air must brush as it is breathed in. These hairs catch the tiny particles of dust and dirt which all air contains, preventing them from being carried into the delicate tissues of the throat and lungs.

When a quantity of small particles has been filtered by the nose, they set up an irritation, which causes you to sneeze and get rid of them.

The nose has another important function: it serves to warm cold air before it reaches the lungs. The air, as it is taken in through the nostrils, passes along narrow passages which are often the same temperature as the body, and as it goes its chill is taken off. The nose, then, is also a very effective chest protector.

That is why people who breathe through the nose are less liable to diseases of the chest and throat than those who breathe through the mouth. The latter take dirty, unfiltered air straight into the lungs, where its particles of dust, soot, or grit set up irritation, which paves the way for the microbes of disease. On cold days they pass quantities of unwarmed air direct to the lungs.

THE MYSTERY GUN.

The name of Sir Edgar Jones, M.P., having been mentioned in connection with the new long-range noiseless gun with which experiments have just been made in America, I asked Sir Edgar if the reports received from America were correct (writes a correspondent to the *Manchester Guardian*). He replied: "I have seen it and took a lot of interest in it when I was in New York. But I am not interested in it as a gun, but in its application to industry, particularly to coal-mining and quarrying. It is a very small instrument, that will make blasting with powder unnecessary. These developments are proceeding, and one of these days I think we shall have a very considerable and remarkable development."

"It is true that as a gun it will revolutionise gunnery, because it has no recoil and makes no noise. The inventor is not keen at all in applying his discoveries to destruction but in making them applicable to production. And it is from that point of view that I am interested."

"Who is the inventor? He lives just outside London, and is working away to apply the invention to industrial purposes. But as a gun I think our own people were getting ready to use it before the war ended. The inventor is a very clever man. He was a member of the Inventions Board, and has several important inventions all over the world. The arrangements for the trials of which the cables speak now were made when I was in New York."

"What of its applicability to mining?"

"Well, here is the instrument" (measuring a space of about a foot). "The man with it goes up against the face of coal. He works the instrument, and 'biff' splits the whole face of the coal. Then all he has to do is to get the coal out. It is not a blasting operation. It is just the delivery of a blow at a terrific velocity on a small patch which cracks the whole piece. It will crack granite or slate or any hard rock. It is very small but very complicated and very effective. There is no contact with the air and therefore no sound and no recoil. It is based on new mechanical principles absolutely."

Sir Edgar added that it was too early yet for experiments underground. As to the invention's qualities as a gun, he said the difficulty with big guns hitherto had been that huge guns required huge carriages and a great foundation of concrete. But in this invention there was no noise or recoil. Fired on board ship there would be none of the tremendous percussion which there hitherto had been.

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