

own accord, because comradeship and equality render them thoughtless of little courtesies. Familiar use has robbed the phrase of its significance, but every child should know that God and good spring from the same root, with the same meaning. "Good-bye" is "God be with you," and the old-fashioned phrase, "Good night to you," is "God guard the night to you." It may perhaps have a different meaning for the children if they knew this.

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HARD TO BELIEVE.

The agent, while he went to the cottage to collect his employer's rent, left his horse at the gate in the charge of a friend, who happened that day to be accompanying him on his rounds.

The latter became engrossed in conversation with the small boy of the family.

"Are you sure," he asked at length, "that you are only nine years old? I really think there must be some mistake."

The boy was positive. To make doubly sure, however, he called out to his mother, and asked for confirmation of his statement.

The mother's reply left no further room for doubt.

For a moment there was silence; then he asked:—

"Say, mister, what made you think me more than nine years old?"

"I didn't," was the reply. "What puzzled me was how you could get so dirty in nine years!"

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SMILE RAISERS.

Gertrude: "I want to give my fiance a surprise for Christmas. Can't you suggest something?"

Daisy: "Well, you might tell him your age."

Daughter: "A certain young man sent me these flowers this morning."

Papa: "Don't say 'a certain young man,' my dear. There is none of 'em certain till you've got 'em."

The Widow: "I want a man to do jobs about the house, run on errands, one that never answers back and is always ready to do my bidding."

Applicant: "You're looking for a husband, ma'am."

Mrs. Nuritch: "I think I'll take this watch. You're sure it's made of refined gold?"

Jeweller: "Certainly, madam."

Mrs. Nuritch: "Because I do detest anything that ain't refined."

A lady with her hand in a sling explained to a friend that the damage was due to reckless driving.

"Of your motor-car?" asked the friend.

"No," said the sufferer; "of a nail."

Unsuccessful Author: "After my death this world will realise what I have done."

Sympathetic Friend: "Well, don't worry about it, old chap. You'll be out of harm's way then."

"Couldn't you find any eggs, dear?" a woman asked her little city niece who was visiting her on her farm.

"No, auntie," said the child, "the hens were scratching all around as hard as they could, but they hadn't found a single egg."

A woman who was troubled with chronic nightmare, and who frequently cried out in her sleep, advertised for room and board "with a family who would not object to screaming in the night." Among the answers she received was one which asked:

"How often would you require us to scream?"

PILES

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SCIENCE SIFTINGS

By "VOLT"

WIRES AS WEATHER PROPHETS.

To trained ears, telegraph wires act as excellent weather prophets.

Predictions as to the state of the weather can be made from twenty-four to thirty-six hours in advance by an appreciation of the pitch, strength, and quality of the tones produced by the wires. Rain, snow, and storms can be foretold with considerable certainty.

High shrill notes precede heavy but brief falls of rain or snow, while deep humming tones indicate rainfalls which are both brief and light. Buzzing tones indicate a change in the weather; indefinite soft, humming tones of medium strength indicate a longer continuance of damp weather.

It is difficult to describe the tones in mere words. They must be heard repeatedly in order that the mind may form consciously or subconsciously an idea of the weather condition to which they correspond.

OLD MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS.

The earliest keyboard instrument known is said to be the hydraulic or water-organ of the second century B.C., a Greek invention. This was followed by the monochord, an instrument consisting of a long box of thin wood with a bridge fixed at each end and an intermediate bridge, over which was stretched a single wire or catgut string; hence the term monochord. This is supposedly invented by Pythagoras, in the sixth century B.C., but its principle was used by the Egyptians twenty-four hundred years before. The monochord which was used for many centuries in Greek and Roman churches, in training the singers in the production of tone, was rapidly improved upon, and when the clavis or keys came into use on church organs, about 1000 A.D., they were likewise applied to the monochord. Each key had a small brass wedge, about an inch high, which as soon as the key was pressed down by the finger would prick the string at the proper division and thus produce the correct tone. The use of the clavis thus led to an increase in strings.

Of the musical instruments of early times, the Psalter is perhaps the one more often reproduced in sculpture and painting than any other stringed instrument as demonstrated in the art of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. This instrument, which was triangular, square, curved or harp-like in form, was often carried by a ribbon around the neck or, when in a case, was removed when used and placed upon a table or in some other convenient position. Its strings were operated by means of a plectrum which was held in the fingers of the performer and which to-day is only used in playing the mandolin or instruments of this character. With the demand for greater volume of sound, the Spinet (the invention of which is attributed to Giovanni Spinetti, and from whom the name of "Spinet" was supposedly derived) became a popular instrument until the eighteenth century, and, owing to its use by young women, was popularly termed in England a "Virginal." This instrument had one string to every note, which was picked by a crow-quill fastened to a jack resting upon the key, which sets the string in vibration when the key was pressed down. Spinets were built in various sizes, the small ones being easily carried about, and in Italy were usually made without legs or a stand, as they were often used in gondolas for the accompaniment of singing. The Spinet was made with the keyboard outside as well as inside the case, which was decorated most elaborately.

A single sunbeam is enough to drive away many shadows.—St. Francis of Assisi.

THE MOST OBSTINATE

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