

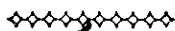
REPORTERS "SOLD."

The popular artist, Mr. Harry Furniss, tells an amusing story of his experiences as a lecturer.

He was lecturing in a small country town, and was asked by one of the committee where the manuscript of his lecture was. He replied that he never used one.

"Oh, that will never do," he was told. "The audience expect to see one in your hand. You had better take this sermon of the vicar's, and flourish it about on the platform."

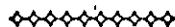
He did so, and the reporters, seeing the manuscript, were comforted, and laid down their pencils. When the lecture was over, they sent round for the manuscript, and in Saturday's papers there duly appeared, instead of a lecture on "Peace with Honor," the identical sermon which the vicar had contemplated preaching on the morrow.



BELATED KNOWLEDGE.

The preacher was Scotch, and of the old school, who believed in a physical hell, and he was preaching one of the good, old-fashioned, fire-and-brimstone sermons. With awe-inspiring gestures and appropriate pulpit pounding, he brought a particularly fiery discourse to a triumphant close with something like the following:

"And on the last day there ye'll be, all ye wickut sinners, up tae your necks in the sea of brimstone, and the flames'll be roarin' round ye, and ye'll no hae a drappie of water to wet your parched throats, and there'll be wailin' and gnashin' of teeth, and ye'll be crying out unto the Lord, 'Oh, Lor-rd, we did not know—we did not know!' and the good Lord, in the in-finite maircy and compassion of His loving hear-rt, will say, 'Weel! Ye ken the noo!'"



SMILE RAISERS.

Her Father: "What? You say you are engaged to Fred? I thought I told you not to give him any encouragement?"

His Daughter: "I don't. He doesn't need any!"



Mother: "No, Bobbie, absolutely no. For the third time I tell you that you can't have another chocolate."

Bobbie (in despair): "Oh, crickey, I don't see where Dad gets the idea that you're always changing your mind."



It was Tommy's turn to read aloud. He came to the sentence, "Silence reigned in the house."

"Now," said the teacher, "can you describe silence?"

Tommy thought for a minute, and then said, eagerly: "Yes, teacher, I know: it's what you don't hear when you listen."



Mother (in tramcar): Bobby, why don't you get up and give your seat to your father? Doesn't it pain you to see him looking for a strap?"

Bobby (cheerily): "Not in a tram, mother, but it does at home?"



Caddy (to lady amateur, who has lost her club for the third time): "If you keep on like this, I see you being champion of England."

The Lady: "Oh, do you really think so?"

Caddy: "Yes; at throwing the 'ammer."



First Onlooker: "I asked that bloke wot 'e was a-painting, and he said it was a copy of a chap called Nero. Wasn't 'e the chap wot was always cold?"

Second Onlooker: "No, that was Zero—another bloke altogether!"

PILES

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SCIENCE SIFTINGS

By "VOLT"

Singing for Health.

Choral singing is a tremendous aid to health, stated Dr. Henry Coward the other day. Figures showed (he said) that vocalists who ignored doctors' orders, frequented close rooms, and afterwards braved the cold and dangerous night air, had actually escaped the dreaded influenza germ, while non-singing people were falling victims.

Parents and teachers had the notion that choral singing injured the voice! That was a great mistake, as many of the principal soloists in the North of England had graduated in choral societies.

Candle Test for Eggs.

There is an absolutely certain test for the freshness of eggs which anyone can carry out. Egg shells seen under a powerful microscope are found to be full of tiny pores, through which air gradually leaks in as the egg grows older. When it is quite fresh the egg contains a bubble of air little bigger than a pea. This increase in size day by day until at the end of a fortnight it is almost the size of a walnut.

The air bubble can be seen quite easily if the egg is placed between a strong light and the eye. The best way of carrying out the test is to make a cardboard screen containing a hole the shape and size of an average egg. Place this in front of a lighted candle and hold the eggs up one by one to the hole.

The air space can now be seen quite easily. If the egg is quite new laid, it will be no larger than the little finger nail; but, in the case of an old stager, it will appear as large as a shilling.

Substitute for Cotton.

A new substance which it is claimed will take the place of cotton is undergoing experiments. Arghan, as it is called, is said to be immune from the diseases which destroy cotton, capable of resisting the action of acids, less affected by changes of climate, and ready for manufacture almost as soon as it is picked. It can be used in the making of sheets, shirts, and so on, and articles made from arghan cloth will cost very much less than those manufactured from cotton.

Scientists have reported favorably on the new material, and enormous fields of it are being laid out in the Malay States and India, where it flourishes.

Arghan was introduced from the jungle by Sir Henry Wickham, the pioneer of rubber. It is a hardy tropical growth, and already large quantities have been ordered by big Lancashire Mill-owners.

Animals' Eyes.

No two animals have eyes exactly alike. In every case they are adapted to the special needs of their owner.

The eyes of flesh-eating creatures are closer together than those of vegetarians. This is said to be due to the habit which the former have of fixing their gaze on their victims before springing. Human eyes are closer together than those of any other creature that eats flesh.

Tigers, lions, cats, and others of the same family are unable to see at great distances, but for objects near at hand their sight is very keen. Lions and tigers have round pupils, which grow bigger when the animal is angry.

Cats have pupils which can be dilated enormously. In the dark, or when the cat is angry, the pupils look almost round. In the first case, what little light there is is reflected by the retina, which is the explanation of the fact that a cat's eyes look green at night.

Animals that live on grass have large eyes, placed as a rule at the sides. This gives a wide range of vision and enables the creatures to watch for danger while cropping grass.

THE MOST OBSTINATE

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