

copies. When we come to Wales we find that comic character Taffy. The Welsh language has been responsible for many good jokes, and it still survives as a spoken tongue. Those of us who have spent a good deal of time in Wales are well acquainted with the delightful sing-song voices of the Welsh folks. These people have very vivid imaginations, and they cannot resist the opportunity to improve a story.

The Welsh are noted for their great interest in religion, and many of their

LAUGH—and the world laughs with you

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how the stairs run in your house," said the lawyer. "Shure, when I'm oop stairs they run down, and when I'm downstairs they run oop." A very witty reply, too.

One day an Irish priest called at Pat's house and found that gentleman hanging from a rafter, a rope around his waist. "What's the idea, Pat?" said the priest. "Ooh, I'm fed up with life and thought I'd hang meself," said Pat. The priest explained that it was usual to put the rope around the neck. "I know, father, but when I tried that way, sure I couldn't draw me breath."

Indeed, every phase of life has its humorous aspect, and in almost every calling there occur amusing incidents that serve to relieve the monotony of the daily round. Medical men always enjoy a joke, especially if that joke or story is told against them. A doctor had attended a wealthy lady for many years, and she told him lots of times that she would remember him in her will. In due course she died, and naturally the doctor wondered what he would receive. The will stated that she had bequeathed him the contents of a certain room. Going to that room he found it full of the bottles of medicine and the pills which he had prescribed for many years.

Of course sometimes doctors are wearied by the patient's complaints, and one doctor, after listening to a very long recital of Miss Smith's many ailments, was heard to remark that he had just attended an organ recital. A well-known dentist was about to leave his surgery when the phone rang. It was a patient who wanted attention to a bad tooth. "I cannot give you an appointment this day," the dentist replied. "I have eighteen cavities to fill." He hung up the receiver and picked up his golf clubs.

In real life many of the things that amuse us occur in the course of conversation. A child amuses us with its funny questions, and its absurd sayings. For instance, a little girl

was crossing a London street with her mother when she observed that straw had been laid down outside one of the houses. She inquired why this had been done, and was told that it was to deaden the noise of traffic because a lady was ill and that a wee baby had arrived that morning. "Dear me, mamma," said the little girl, "it seems to have required a good deal of packing."

An authoress took her little girl shopping, and they visited the butcher. "What is that stuff, mummy?" said the child, pointing to a dish. "Tripe, dear," replied the mother. "That's funny," replied the child, "Daddy says that's the stuff you write."

An election canvasser rang the doorbell of a small house; it was answered by a little girl who said that her father was out. "And what colour is your father, my dear?" said he, referring to the question of political colour. "Well," she replied, "he used to be ginger, but he is very bald now."

Elections give scope for the heckler and quite often the hecklers do not always get things their own way, honours going to the harassed candidate in some amusing encounters. I recollect one general election when I was in London. One of the candidates was quite a young man, he looked almost boyish. A wag in the crowd called out, "I say, does your mother know you are out?" "Oh, yes," instantly replied the young candidate, "she told me to stay out until I got in." This sally won him a friendly hearing to the end of his speech, and a hearty cheer, too.

The late Lord Birkenhead once ventured to state "that the proceedings in courts of justice are so tedious that there arises a great temptation to alleviate them by humour even if one has nothing amusing to say. Even a poor joke is a welcome alternative to the dullness of law-court proceedings." Anyhow, it is to the legal fraternity that we must turn for some of the best humour. Many of the great English Judges and some of the magistrates have been extremely witty. Many also possessed the rare gift of sarcasm, while others possessed a great idea of the dignity of their position.

Mr. Justice Park was a stickler for forensic propriety, and he often caused amusement by his remarks. At Chelmsford the sheriff appeared one day in a buff-coloured waistcoat. His lordship glared at it for some time, and presently remarked: "I cannot sit here, sir, and behold that waistcoat any longer."

The late Mr. Justice Alpers introduced a breezy and fresh atmosphere into court life in New Zealand. If you have not already tasted of that excellent book of his, "Cheerful Yesterdays," I would advise you to do so. Since the original publication it has been issued in a cheaper form and is well worth the money. The whole volume is full of wisdom and humour relating to the Bench and Bar in New Zealand, and it contains some good stories of Christchurch and West Coast Courts in particular.

Witnesses are often responsible for a considerable amount of humour when



Harry A. Barton,

an Auckland baritone, whose voice is particularly well suited to the microphone. He will broadcast four numbers from IYA on September 18.

—S. P. Andrew, photo.

jokes concern preachers and their utterances. Some of the Welsh preachers possessed fiery eloquence, but they also possessed wit and humour. Wales has given us some splendid orators and wits in the British Parliament. Welsh is said to be one of the oldest living languages in Europe—indeed, one old preacher stated that Welsh was the language spoken by Adam and Eve in Paradise. Can anyone say it was not?

Old Stephen Jenkins was an eloquent preacher and was witty. Once, in reading the third chapter of Daniel, in which the list of musical instruments is four times mentioned, he read the names of the instruments the first time, but when it came to the second, third and fourth time he relieved the congregation by reading with the utmost gravity "and the band played as before!"

It is said of the Irish people that they quickly see a joke but are dull in making them. Illustrating this, one writer states that a joke was once made in the House of Commons in the midst of a dull debate. The Irish members roared with laughter. A few minutes later the English members smiled. An hour later the Scottish members chuckled quietly. However, the Irish people have a wide reputation for wit and humour. It is imported into almost every incident and detail of Irish life, and I think that no people excel the Irish in smart and ready replies.

An old Irish woman was being cross-examined in court. "Tell the court



Millicent O'Grady,

who is contributing several soprano solos to 3YA's variety programme arranged for Friday, September 16.

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