



MULTIPLY ON YOUR FINGERS

Method is an invention of a Polish Mathematician—Serves as Calculating Machine.

A French magazine describes an amusing method of learning and remembering the harder part of the multiplication table. The method is there stated to be an invention of M. Procopovitch, a Polish mathematician.

He has discovered a way of making the fingers serve as a calculating machine to obtain the products of the numbers from 6 to 10, and also of the series of numbers from 11 to 15 and from 16 to 20, both inclusive.

For the first series—6, 7, 8, 9, 10—fingers and thumbs are numbered, the numbers running from 6 on the thumb to 10 on the little finger of each hand.

The rule is a little different for the products of the series 11, 12, 13, 14, 15. The fingers of the factors are marked as before except that the thumbs are now 11 and the little fingers 15.

For the next series of numbers, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, the thumbs are each 16 and the little fingers 20.

Perhaps the latter cases of this curious little trick will be more interesting than useful, but the first series will at times be an aid to everybody who is now and then bothered in his recollection of the multiplication table.

GIVE SOAP-BUBBLE PARTIES

Most Interesting Pastime for All Ages and Sizes—Clay Pipes and Castile Soap Needed.

These are most interesting for all sizes and ages. Good clay pipes and castile soap and bowls enough to go around are the needful things; also a room which will not be hurt by a sprinkling of soap suds; and one thing more—the smaller the child the bigger the apron to cover him.

A little glycerine in the lukewarm soap suds will make the bubbles brighter and more durable, and if a thick shawl is spread on the floor they will bounce upon it like rubber balls.

Arrange sides, with leaders. Let one side step forward in a line with pipes and bowls; then the leader starts and sees how many bubbles he can make with one dip of his pipe.

There are many different ways of enjoying this pretty pastime. Science has discovered several methods of heightening the colors in the bubbles.

THE DANCER.

She dances like a dandelion, Fluff upon the breeze, As gaily as a butterfly, And quite as much at ease; And surely she was always meant To fly upon her toes.

The flowers she is scattering Are no lovelier than she, They fall in yellow showers, As she gaily sets them free. And she beckons them to follow To the land where all is young, Where a thousand sprites are singing In the eerie faerie tongue.

What the Toad Does. He has the power to drink with his skin. Even if emaciated, his skin will take up enough water to make him appear fat.

He is most useful in the garden, catching the insects. His skin secretes an acrid humor, so a dog seldom bites one the second time.

Authorities unite in saying that he has been known to live 35 to 40 years.

It is not true that he can exist imbedded in stone, unless there be a fissure.

"GREETINGS, MR. FROG."



How do do, Mr. Frog? In your fine new attire And your lovely bright green back You look like a squirrel."

"Thank you," said the Frog. In a manner quite airy; "With your pretty red ribbons You look like a fairy."

SWINGING RING GAME IS NEW

Requires Very Nice Sense of Distance, Careful Eye and Light Touch to Do it Right.

On days when it is too stormy or too slushy to be comfortable out of doors there is generally a strongly expressed wish voiced by the younger members of the family that "there was something to do."

Here is a pastime that is real fun, for it depends on skill. It is fun even when played alone, for you can always try to beat your own best previous score, and every time you try it you become just so much more expert.

You need two nails, a string and a ring of some kind, about six inches in diameter. If you have no old curtain ring or something else of that sort, you can make a ring that will serve your purpose perfectly well by getting a thin piece of board, marking a circle seven inches in diameter on its surface, and inside of that another circle six inches in diameter.

Stand by the nail in the side of the wall with your right hand holding the ring close to the nail. Now push the ring away from you, trying to make it swing back and hook over the nail.

It takes a lot of practice to score three out of five tries. Get your brother to try it with you, and he will be astonished to find he is no better at this than you are.

Of course, the winner is the one who rings the nail the most times out of fifty trials.

SIGN THAT IS NOVEL PUZZLE

Unique Method of Trimming Store to Advertise Stock—Eleven Words Can Be Picked Out.

This sign was placed in a trimming store to advertise the stock. They kept cotton, lining goods, silk, tape, thread, pins, braid, cloth and buttons.

A	T	B	T	O	E
O	R	U	N	I	P
L	E	A	S	A	T
G	C	D	I	L	O
T	O	N	G	K	

A Unique Sign.

down and slanting? Do not skip, though you may use the same letter over again.

Why! Indeed!

Arthur, six years old, gave to the little maiden of his choice a candy on which was printed in pink letters, "Why do you keep me in suspense?"

"I gave Millicent a candy with reading on it," he said shyly to his mother.

"What did the reading say?" asked his mother.

"Why do you keep me in suspense?" repeated Arthur, proudly.

Why the Sun Sets.

Little Jack asked his mother one night why the sun set so often. She told him so that it might rise in the morning.

"Oh! I know, mother. The sun sets so that she can hatch all the days!"

JACK'S TEMPTATION

By WILLIAM ALFRED COREY

"Up there, the range finder stands," the gunner's mate was explaining to an interested group about him, "and the aim is taken through these two little tubes which are fitted with lenses. By means of this wheel the muzzle of the gun is raised or lowered and this other one is to swing it laterally as the man taking alfa directs. This gun is effective at sixteen miles."

Pulling a lever, he swung back the breech block and, letting the visitor's peer into the bore of the great weapon, he was showing them the process of charging the gun when he suddenly stopped, turned pale and trembled as though in mortal fear.

Women are proverbially quicker witted than men. At least the woman was in this instance; and Floretta Williams quickly and tactfully relieved the tension of the situation by extending a delicately gloved hand to the discomfited gunner with the words: "Why, Mr. Masters! How amazed I am to meet you!"

And then turning to her party, she said, with perfect grace and composure, "Mr. Masters, let me introduce my uncle, Mr. Gilson of Los Angeles; and these young ladies are my cousins, Miss May Gilson, Mr. Masters, and Miss Angelotta Gilson." Then, to her friends, she explained, "Mr. Masters is a former friend of mine from Kansas."

The young lady's presence of mind had been so well and charmingly shown that probably none in the party except Jack Masters himself, not even the young lady's cousins, though it takes a woman to read a woman, detected a vague something in Floretta Williams' manner that indicated her desire not so much to show cordiality to the embarrassed gunner as to relieve the general strain.

However, the situation relieved, young Masters pulled himself together and devoted all his attention to Miss Williams, his former Kansas friend, and her party.

Two hours were spent in inspecting the wonders of the great battleship. The gunner took them everywhere, above and below, forward and aft, explaining the mysteries of turret and tower, gun and bridge, signals and codes and flags, details as to discipline and routine, the how and the why and the why not in a thousand different particulars, and with infinite patience.

Often, as Jack Masters tried to catch Floretta Williams' eye, he as often failed. No; once she did look at him, but it was when he had addressed her as "Floretta," and the look had said with a plainness he could not misunderstand, "I am Miss Williams, please," and he had humbly swallowed the rebuke.

But even as he talked of the navy and of the things of war, his mind was far away, both in point of space and time. As he was explaining to them the wireless message system in use on the ship, memory was bringing to his mind wireless messages from a village among corn and wheat fields; of faces of friends, of harvest field and schoolroom and pleasure party, and then of the sudden end of it all; of an insane fit of jealousy, a penciled goodbye that had been a stab in the heart of love, and then of the new life with its suspense, its hopelessness and its trailing burden of guilty conscience.

And here she was by his side; here on the quarterdeck of the Kansas, the woman whose heart he had wounded in a moment of causeless frenzy—and he could get no word from her. She was interested only in the ship.

The time had come for Miss Williams and her party to go, and the Mariposa's signal was already blowing.

"Floretta—Miss Williams," hesitated Jack, with the earnestness of desperation in his voice, "I must have a word with you before you go."

"Why should you?" she returned coldly. "You are nothing more to me. And you told me five years ago that I was nothing more to you. What is there to change it?"

"Oh, Flo," pleaded Jack, taking her reluctant hand and leading her to a secluded corner by a gun carriage, "dear Flo, I have been miserable ever since I left you and I have suffered a thousand deaths."

"It was misery of your own making, and if it was death you brought it on yourself," she said. "I gave you no cause to write me that terrible letter." There was a forbidding hardness in her voice and manner that chilled the sailor's heart.

"Flo," he urged as the last whistle was blowing, "I have forty-eight hours' shore leave beginning to-morrow morning; may I call on you and have a frank talk? Don't refuse," he pleaded; "give me one chance."

"I have no objection to your calling," she said, handing him a card as he helped her down the gangway and onto the deck of the Mariposa, "but don't presume too much."

In the heart of the sailor lad standing on the quarterdeck of the battleship, and watching the Mariposa steaming away toward her landing, there raged a greater storm than he had ever known at sea. She had regretted his insane jealousy and cruel letter of farewell almost immediately; but the feeling that he had himself made the case hopeless had kept him

from communicating with Floretta and, more to shake off the past than for anything else, he had joined the navy and embarked on an entirely new life. But now, he had met her face to face, had heard her voice, had felt the magic of her presence, had learned that she was still free, and the former love had suddenly leaped up and taken him by storm.

For a time the old love transformed the gunner. It sank in his ears, rioted in his blood and danced along every nerve. She, of all women, was found again, was near him and there was still hope when he had supposed hope was dead. He would live for her! He would possess her yet.

But when? And then there fell a cloud. There was the navy, and he had three years yet to serve and his ship was to cruise around the world! It would take him away from her. Would it? No! By all the gods, it should not! He would desert first, cost what it would. He would give up everything, risk everything, name honor, manhood—everything, if necessary, to be with the woman he loved.

The next morning Jack Masters called at the address Floretta had given him. She cordially welcomed him, as did also her relatives, the Gilsons.

There was a long drive, luncheon, an afternoon matinee, dinner and an evening concert. It was late that night before Jack got the opportunity he longed for, the opportunity to talk with Floretta. Drawing her to a seat beside him on the lawn of the Gilson residence, he told her again of his love, of his repentance for the past, of what he had suffered in atonement and of his hope to win and be worthy of her love.

"But Jack," said Floretta, "your heart may be right, but you are not free. You belong to the navy."

"I stung him and he burst out with: 'Hang the navy! I'll quit it. It's irksome, anyway. I'll quit it and live for you.'"

She looked at him in wide-eyed astonishment. "Quit it," she echoed. "Quit the navy? That's desertion, Jack. You certainly are beside yourself."

"Lots of them do it," he said sullenly.

"That is no justification," she returned. And then, after a moment, in which neither spoke, she went on as with a mind made up. "Jack, you are impulsive as you always were, and you lack judgment, as you always did. You have many good qualities"—she put a hand on his shoulder—"but you lack coolness and caution. You left me when we were soon to be married, left me in a mere pique, without cause, to suffer humiliation and ridicule. And now you want to come back to me under circumstances that would only cause added suffering and humiliation to both of us. You certainly know that desertion from the navy or army is a serious crime, and one severely punished. You would have to change your name and completely hide your identity to escape punishment, and that would be unbearable humiliation to us both. If discovered you would not only suffer imprisonment but you would lose your citizen right. Oh, Jack, you certainly don't expect me to allow you to bring all this on yourself and me, do you?"

The sailor could answer nothing. He could only sit with his head in his hands and with a brow wet with the perspiration of mental agony.

Finally, Floretta went on: "Jack, assert your manhood; bear your burden. We all have them to bear. You are a soldier. Be brave in the face of every foe, even your own desires. Be true to the promise you made your country when you enlisted; be true to the flag. I am glad to have seen you again, glad to know you repent the wrong you did me, to know that you still love me. Jack, my heart is the same as it was. I shall never love anyone else. Go back to your ship and your duty; serve out your time and then come to see me with a clear conscience and an honest name."

There was a struggle that lasted far into the night, the old, old struggle between love and duty, between the broad and the narrow way. Both the man and the woman knew what was right and best, but the man was weak and it took the strength of both to hold him true.

At last the sailor asked: "Would it be any harder, Flo, for you to wait for me as my wife than as my sweetheart?" And his heart almost stopped beating as he awaited for answer.

Looking far off into the moon-lit spaces of the night, she said slowly: "Isn't that a good deal to ask, Jack?" "I know it's a good deal, Flo," he admitted, "but it would help me to carry my load. Won't you do it, Flo?"

After a while the answer came, "I will help you, Jack."

The next evening there was an impromptu wedding in the parlor of the Gilson residence, followed by a delightful dinner, and three weeks later Floretta received the following telegram from San Francisco:

"Transferred cruiser Chicago. Remain on Pacific coast. Promoted gun captain. Two weeks furlough. Coming to Los Angeles. Jack."

Russian cigars come high, says a press report. Until now cigarettes and not cigars were associated with Russia.

EVERY BREEDER SHOULD POSSESS DIPPING TANK

Even Carefully Kept Herds and Flocks Are Liable to Become Infested With Vermin—Inexpensive Plant Illustrated.



A Practical Dipping Tank.

The time to rid flocks of sheep and herds of swine of ticks and lice is during the warm months and then there will be none to bother with in the winter time and to annoy animals so that only half or no profits can be had from them. Of course while the flocks and herds are cleaned up, the buildings must also be properly renovated and cleaned up, or there may be a general reinfesting from them, says Wisconsin Agriculturist.

A convenient, inexpensive and durable dipping plant may be constructed on the plan of the one represented in the accompanying illustration. The sheep or hogs are driven in at a receiving chute, plunged into a tank containing a disinfectant solution, made to swim to the other end, where they can climb out over another chute and return to the pens or into paddocks.

The general construction of the chutes does not need much explanation. That is quite clear from the plan of the illustration. Good cedar posts set firmly into the ground three feet apart, with the exception of those at the ends of the tank, which should be no farther apart than the top width of the tank, answer the purpose of supports. Pieces of 2x4-inch studding are nailed to each pair at proper height to give the incline to the floors. Planks are used for the flooring and inch boards for the sides. The incline of the receiving chute to the right of the illustration has cleats nailed across its floor to aid the animals in making the climb; the decline has no cleats and is covered with a sheet of galvanized zinc to prevent the animals resisting being plunged into the tank.

The cleats of the former are nailed straight across. A gate is attached at the entrance to the chute so that a number of animals may be inclosed at a time while the dippers are working at the tank. The distance between the posts of the receiving chute on the sides is four feet, and the height of the incline is one foot and a half.

The incline of the chute through which the animals leave the tank is the same as that of the receiving chute, but it is longer, the distance between the posts being five instead of four feet. The floor here should also be covered with galvanized sheeting and the cleats nailed so as to allow the dripping from the wet animals to run back into the tank. Unless this is done the supply of solution in the tank will soon all be lost, and the dipping made unnecessarily much more expensive. The cleats, instead of running directly across, are short pieces nailed at angles, so that their inner ends are lower than the outer ends, and do not meet so as to let the drippings run down the center. When sheep are dipped it may become necessary to retain them in the dripping chute for a time, as those with long wool will carry even a gallon or two of the dip in their fleeces, which takes time to drain out.

The dipping tank should be at least four feet deep at the end into which the animals are plunged to admit of their being entirely submerged, and should be about fifteen feet long, so that sufficient time is required by the animal to pass through for them to receive a thorough wetting from the solution, otherwise it will be necessary to hold them back for a time until this is accomplished. The deep part of the tank need not be longer than five feet, the rest of the tank becoming gradually shallower up to the dripping chute and the bottom having cleats or grooves across to assist the animals in wading along. At the top the tank should be 18 inches wide, but at the bottom a width only sufficient for the animal's feet is necessary. This will properly be about one foot.

The material of which the dipping tank is made may be either wood, galvanized sheeting or concrete. Concrete will prove the most lasting, and can easily enough be molded by the owner.

Topdressing Pastures. Pastures may be topdressed and should not be grazed too early in spring nor too heavily. Where pastures can be plowed it is advisable to plow and reseed occasionally.

The raising of clover, corn and forage crops furnishes a larger amount of protein for cattle and less feed will need to be purchased.

Watering Plants. Watering in the evening, besides aiding in the spread of fungous diseases, also causes "damping off." Watering should never be practised during heavy, cloudy weather. Shade, heat and light should be considered. Plants growing in the bright sunlight always need more water than those in the shade, for evaporation and transpiration are always greater under such circumstances. Mid-day waterings, when the sun shines directly on the foliage, will burn the foliage of many of our common house plants. Shading during excessive heat will strengthen the plants and assist in retaining moisture.

Big Potato Crop. On Lord Rosebery's estate at Dalmeny, Scotland, an acre has been made to produce more than 2,900 measured bushels of potatoes. This yield is so remarkable that the department of agriculture at Washington has sent an expert to Scotland to find out how it was made, and secure hints that will aid the American grower to increase his potato yield.

Poor Method of Farming. Agricultural implements exposed to inclemency of weather and used by poultry for roosting places.

In March I drove ten miles to a big sale in another part of the county and on the way I counted five mowers, one new reaper, and six plows standing in the fields or alongside barns without shelter. In one barnyard which contained about twenty Holstein cows a good reaper stood on one side of the barn. Part of it was under the eaves from which had dripped rain and snow and formed an ice ridge six inches thick. A big Plymouth Rock rooster stood proudly on one of the blades of the machine and there was evidence that this was the favorite roosting place of the flock.

In one field a breaking plow had been left standing at the end of a furrow in a corner of the field and the snow covered the beam. One handle was broken off. At the sale a fine reaper and mower were sold. The reaper was in a leaky shed but the mower stood in a corner of an alfalfa field. The reaper brought \$14 and the mower nine dollars. Both were new two years ago. I bought a likely looking Jersey heifer but when I got her home discovered that she was lousy. The owner of this farm told me he was going to move to Canada where he could get some cheap land for his boys. "There's nothin' in farmin' in the states any more," he said. "Land's too high. I figger I can buy 260 acres

up in Canada for what my 120 will bring here."

Perhaps he was right, but it seemed to me that if he had farmed his 120 acres right up to the handle in every way he would have been better off than after selling out, paying the expense of moving and equipping his new big farm in the northwest. The farm showed every evidence of neglect of small things. It was untidy, unthrifty in appearance and showed the lack of system. With such a farmer the bigger the farm the greater the waste. That ten-mile trip was a great object lesson to me and to my boys, who went along, as well.

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Method of Feeding Poultry. The device shown in the illustration gives a novel way to feed mangels, cabbage and so on to poultry. When the lower portion is all eaten off the tops fall down sufficiently to allow the chicks a share as well as the fowls. The rod is made to rest in a groove on posts set in the ground. The roots do not get soiled, and this proves an economical plan. The poultry will eat all, clear to the last bit.

Surface Culture. Frequent surface cultivation makes the natural food of the plant more available, prevents escape of moisture and holds water in store for summer use.

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