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LIST OF 100 WORST BOOKS

Suggestion is Offered That Some Wise, Broadminded Men Make Up the List.

There are some who have a passion for making lists of the "greatest," the "best" men, books, paintings, musical compositions. There is a famous list of the 100 best books, and any one reading them night and day to the exclusion of others would be a tiresome prig.

A list of the 100 worst books drawn up by a man of true critical acumen and catholic taste, a human being, would be much more to the purpose, although it would include some volumes now ranked as classic and invaluable. Charles Lamb's essay on books is too familiar for quotation. M. Anatole France alluded to Gabriel Piquet of Dijon as a man who, writing volume after volume about books, yet wrote no book. Oscar Wilde divided books into three classes—books to read, books to reread and books not to read at all—and among the last he included Thomson's "Seasons," all John Stuart Mill except the essay on liberty, Hume's England, "all argumentative books, and all books that try to prove anything."

To tell people what to read is, as a rule, either useless or harmful; for the appreciation of literature is a question of temperament, not of teaching; to Parnassus there is no primer, and nothing that one can learn is ever worth learning.—Phillip Hale, in Boston Herald.

SHOES MADE OF SNAKESKIN

Fashionable Women of London Being Tempted to Conquer Their Aversion to Reptiles.

From all reptiles the ordinary woman shrinks in disgust. Yet fashionable women are now being tempted to conquer their aversion to the extent of wearing snakeskin shoes. One of the smartest boot shops in the west end of London is "featuring" these shoes; but up to the present it seems to be uncertain if the fashion will really establish itself on widespread lines.

Choice of quite a variety of skins is offered. There is the dark and heavily-marked skin of the deadly cobra, or the lighter skin, with its more delicate pigment markings, of the rapacious python. The skins of the viper and the boa-constrictor have also been made up.

Snake skin is very soft, pliable, and durable. The shoes are expensive, of course, for the skins are not too plentiful, but this factor should rather commend itself to smart people, as it renders it much more difficult to copy the fashion on cheap lines.

Broken-Hearted Dog.

The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in Monticello, N. Y., will exercise its authority by putting an end to the sufferings of a little cocker spaniel named Buttons, which has apparently lost its mind, following the death of its master. The little dog for years has been the steady companion of Louis McGrain of New York, who succumbed to tuberculosis here last summer. Buttons since the death of his master has been grief stricken, and has refused to be petted or to take food from friends of Mr. McGrain. After she had roamed the streets for several months the animal's half starved condition was brought to the attention of the society. It has been decided that the only way to solve Buttons' problem is by taking its life.

More Appropriate.

Representative Henry, condemning the international marriage, said at a dinner in Waco:

"What kind of men are these dukes and earls, anyway, that they can frankly admit marrying helresses for their money?"

"I heard a story the other day, a story about an helress who said to her titled fiancé:

"My dear, I'm rather a new woman, you know, so do you mind asking the bishop to omit the word 'obey' in our wedding ceremony?"

"Lord Lucian stroked his mustache, smiled cynically, and answered:

"No, I don't mind, my love. I'll just tell the old boy to make it 'love, honor and supply.'"

Pocketbooks in Walking Sticks.

The latest styles in society walking sticks are practical as well as ornamental. One of the new canes is fitted with a coin box and a match box these being contained in the head, which is provided with a skillfully concealed lid. The coin box is so arranged that a person can easily deposit or remove the coin by a slight pressure of the thumb. Men who have used these canes say they are practical and convenient, for they do away with the annoyance of fishing for coins in the pocket when boarding a street car.

In France there is quite a variety of uses which the cane is made to serve. A clever Frenchman has made a cane with a handle containing a complete outfit of the game known as "petits chevaux."

Mercenary.

"You'll never again be the fighter you once were," said the expert in pugilism.

"Well," replied the man with bulgy muscles, "I don't want to be. A man never gets a chance to make big lecture money till he's a has been."

BIT OF A SCOTCH PUZZLE

Because Scotch Policeman is Not Policeman on Sunday Leaves Question Unsettled.

When is a policeman not a policeman? This is a question that has seriously agitated the Scotch players appearing in "Bunty" at the Comedy theater, New York, since they received a letter from a distinguished resident Scotchman. In the letter he objected to the use of the word "policeman" in "Bunty," and suggested that "bailiff" or "sheriff" be used instead. "Policemen," he insisted, would never be heard in Scotland.

Scotch policemen, in certain communities, do not work on the Sabbath. There is no such thing as a Sunday policeman in Scotland, but upon any extraordinary occasion, the Scotch players contend, any self-respecting policeman, if called upon, would do his duty.

Will Jaxone, who plays the part of the policeman, insists that, although he has had no personal experience with Scotch policemen, he has had a social acquaintance with many of them, and that the word "policeman" is the only description of these men he has ever heard. Also Graham Moffat, the author, has also used the word "policeman" in the actors' lines.

"When we were boys we all had a good deal to do with a policeman," says George Ingleton, the stage manager.

However, the point made by the writer of the letter is not settled, because a Scotch policeman is not a policeman on Sunday.

THE MAN IN A PINK SHIRT

Plays Stiff Game of Poker, Hunts a Good Deal and is Familiar Figure at Ball Game.

The telegraphic story of the events which threw the fat into the fire in Mexico and started the war over again, mentions a man in a pink shirt as the one who led the attack on Juarez. Having touched the spark to the powder magazine just as the bellgerents were shaking hands for peace and reformation, the man in the pink shirt passes out of the telegraphic narrative and out of the history of Mexico.

Unless this man in the pink shirt is an exception, those who live in a country town know him well. The pink shirt itself was bought at a racket store for 69 cents. The man plays a stiff poker game, hunts a good deal without reference to the game laws, and is a familiar figure at ball games, country fairs and foot races where betting is tolerated.

Wagering money on the outcome of a ball game is too slow for him. He bets on whether the next throw of the pitcher will be a ball or a strike; whether the batter misses or breaks his bat; whether the catcher running for a foul gets or is cut on the barbed wire fence.

It is disturbing to know that a man in a pink shirt could overrule the general of an army and scatter death and destruction as at Juarez; doubly disturbing to believe that he could change the destinies of a nation.

Her Luncheon Bag.

While calling on a business friend about the lunch hour yesterday I was greatly surprised to see his fair stenographer eating and drinking from what had the appearance of being an ordinary hand bag. Invited to inspect the article in question, however, I was amazed at the clever manner in which the "buffet" bag was arranged. It contained specially made places for sandwiches and pie, besides a flask-like arrangement with a screw top for the coffee. To cap the climax, salt and pepper shakers were set in the sides. "It's a little idea of my own," explained the young woman. "I had the bag, that looks just like an ordinary hand bag when you carry it on the street, made from my own drawings." —Boston Post.

The Man That Does Things.

"It is not the critic who counts—not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the door of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood, who strives valiantly; who errs and comes short again and again because there is no effort without error and shortcoming, but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat." —Roosevelt.

Milk for Flesh Reduction.

The simplest article containing complete nourishment is milk. That is Dr. Mitchell's cure for obesity, but he puts his patients to bed while he gives it to them. An amount of milk sufficient for the nourishment of a healthy, active person presents digestive difficulties for many. It is not the simple liquid diet it seems, but presents a solid mass of curds in the stomach. Lime water makes it more digestible. In the form of buttermilk, it is easier to digest and makes a very effective reduction diet. It is wise to take with a little gluten bread with butter, since the fats have been removed from the milk.—Harper's Bazar.

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