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## FIXING FACTS IN THE MIND

Expert Memory Man Tells How Not to Forget Names.

### NOTED CAREER OF FELIX BEROL

Immigrant Boy Dishwasher Twenty Years Ago, Now Trains Memories of Ministers and Lawyers.

A young immigrant boy, dishwasher by occupation, walked into Cooper Union one night, sleepy and tired, and picked up a book at random. He was a very ignorant boy; he had never heard of Shakespeare, and Lincoln was a myth, but he liked a book now and then. So he read.  
The boy was Felix Berol, today the greatest "memory man" alive; the dishwasher who twenty years ago knew nothing except that he existed in a rather dull world, today is the man who has 300,000 facts at his instant command. The book was Henry George's "Progress and Poverty," the factor in Berol's life that changed the whole current of his career. For he found that he couldn't remember anything he read, so he hunted books on memory. For seven months after that first night he was kicked around from the pillar of Cooper Union to the post of Astor library as a loafer. For some time, even though he was interested greatly, he would nod over his book; dishwashing for twelve hours was rather a subject. But he read voraciously on the subject, the thing that was awakening his mind. He began to plan a little system by which he could remember things. In seven months he was on the vaudeville stage as "Berol, the Mental Marvel, with 5,000 Facts in His Head."  
Mr. Berol smiles deprecatingly now at that paltry store of information, for today there are sixty times 5,000. Yet he mitigates the deprecation by asking, "What do you know? What knowledge has the ordinary man outside his business? How much of your college education have you retained? Then he reels off the history of the war of the Spanish succession or gives in full the construction of the digestive system.  
**Practical System.**  
How did he do it? What is his secret? The system is one of "hooks" and "slips," all very mysterious to the uninitiated, but quite simple and practical to the men who know. Every single fact to be acquired is written down on a slip of paper, on the other side of which is the "hook," or suggestive idea. The student, by repeated reference to these slips, soon learns the "hook," and thereby, of course, instantly can recall the associated fact.  
"We use the principle of assimilation," said Mr. Berol recently, "when we find, imagine, or make a word, which is easier for us to remember than the word we are trying to remember. Those assimilations are called homophones. As names of persons, for instance, generally mean little or nothing to us, they are hard to remember. By assimilating those hard-to-remember words into words which mean something to us, which therefore are easily remembered, we will be able to recall the names of people without difficulty. A little practice soon will enable us to find homophones to fit any name which we may encounter. There is no name, however strange, for which a homophone may not be found.  
"The homophone easily may be associated with something about the person's features, business, peculiarities. There are several kinds of associations, that of similarity, of contrast, of succession, of contiguity; it depends entirely upon your power of imagination. For instance, take that portly woman yonder. The most striking thing about her is that she is fat. We find that her name is Fry. See, how easy that is. There is a tailor named Nutting. Assimilation: Nutting—nothing. Association: It is very seldom that one can get a good suit for nothing.  
**Association is Essential.**  
"Memory never starts on its own account; association is absolutely essential. Although memories are by no means reasoning power, they constitute an important part of the act of remembering.  
Just by way of experiment a few questions were put to Mr. Berol.  
"When was Mendelssohn born?" asked the reporter.  
"On the third of February, 1809," came the instant reply.  
"How long is the River Jordan?"  
"It extends sixty miles, though it really is 300 miles in length."  
"What is the population of Ceylon?"  
"Four hundred and thirty-eight thousand four hundred and fifty-six, with an area of 25,000 square miles."  
"Who invented the sewing machine?"  
"Elias Howe. He exhibited the machine first on September 10, 1846."  
"What town are you from?" asked Mr. Berol, turning questions himself.  
"Richmond, Ind. Can you give me population?"  
"Twenty-two thousand three hundred and twenty-four."  
"I knew it was somewhere around 25,000," replied the reporter.  
"Which approximate knowledge is my reason for conducting a memory course," said Mr. Berol.  
In teaching his class at the Young Men's Christian association, Mr. Berol gives a little talk.  
"It is so easy to be exact," he says, "and so few people are. Now it really

doesn't affect my happiness to know that Lima, O., has a population of 30,000, but I want to show that people can remember anything they want to. If I were a minister, I would know every verse in the Bible; if I were an insurance man, I would know every premium. There are all sorts of spare-time. Why take chances? Assurance is half the battle. If you know that you know, you are efficient and a happy man. If you aren't sure, you are inefficient and miserable. Read your slips on the subway, on the elevated, between times. Most men work eight hours out of the twenty-four, and then take mental recreation on a roof garden. The mind only needs a change; it never requires complete relaxation.  
Remember, the slips are very important. Doing certain things all the time, not merely when it is convenient, is what counts. Read them every spare moment, review them each week, and meantime keep adding new facts to your store."  
**Easy to Remember "Hook."**  
Mr. Berol explains that the hook is always the simplest thing about the fact, and that remembering it requires no effort. That the fat woman is fat hits you in the face; that her name is Fry is not so obvious. Furthermore, you are positive that her name is Fry after you have once learned it. Mr. Berol's system is one by which a man can recall in an orderly way, facts which come to other people by chance if at all.  
"I quit the vaudeville stage a year ago," said Mr. Berol, "because I did not like to show off as well as I like to show how."  
During an engagement in Chicago, just a year ago, Mr. Berol was attending a trial in which the decision hinged upon the population of two cities, namely, Springfield and Peoria, Ill. Proceedings halted, books were pulled out, and authorities called upon. Nobody knew. The court was about to be displeased when a slip of paper was handed to the judge. Upon it was written the exact population of each city. After the trial the judge called for the man who had supplied the information.  
"Are you a freak, or did you just happen to know the population of those cities?"  
"I have a memory system," replied the vaudeville entertainer.  
"Can you teach it to others?"  
"I can."  
As a result, Mr. Berol began the instruction of a class of Chicago assistant district attorneys, and achieved such success that he, later took a class of 300 medical students.  
"Your possibilities are unlimited," Mr. Berol tells his classes, "if you have an accurate memory. But, though I can teach you to train your memory, the mainprinciple of success is in yourself. You must keep alert and on the watch. Read your Emerson on self-reliance, study your slips, improve your spare moments, and then see if you're not happier men."  
—New York Times.

### WORKING GIRL'S LONELY LIFE

Move for Betterment of Those With-out the Protection of Home.

In almost every large city in this country are organized efforts in which women generally take the lead to service that can not be too fervently acknowledged; to take care in many ways of the great mass of young women who must work for a living. Some of these have real homes; some, however, live in a hovel with no home care; some the hall bedroom, and eat as you please; all on wages that come near the minimum. It is needless to say that the temptations and hardships of such a life are great. Among the greatest is that of loneliness and lack of safeguard in the enjoyment of amusements or recreation, which is implanted in every healthy human being. The race would go mad without it and many of these poor girls do go mad in an awful sense from this very lack. So there is no more important work that any city can undertake than to provide rational amusement for the mass of young women who are fighting the battle of life alone. The constant crimes committed against women, the purse snatching and far worse, like the murder of that Chicago nurse who answered an advertisement alone after night at a place out on the prairie edge of the city, counsel us that women should begin to take care of themselves as the women of Europe do, and that there shall come in a general manner or custom of chaperonage. The streets of any city in broad daylight with young girls roaming at will alone and courting a publicity that is unwholesome ought to suggest fresh work from the many agencies that make for good in this time of great development of our social life. But of all the greatest is that provision for those that are thrown on their own resources.  
A girls' protective league in Detroit is at work to drive drink from any connection with public dance halls. That alone would do away with many worse evils that go with them, for a dance hall where no drink is accessible and where proper conduct is insured by chaperonage has no attraction for men whose contact is evil. Detroit, like many other cities, is going to secure for young girls proper places for public dancing. Such ought to be the work of every city. No one needs help in so many ways as the girl who works for her living and in nothing does she need it more than in protection in amusements and recreation as an offset for the horrible loneliness that besets her life every day, when she is not bound up with toil. There is no nobler field for high endeavor than this.—Indianapolis News.

**Quick Wit and Sure Aim.**  
A man named Kent in New Jersey started a drinking club several weeks ago, leaving his wife and children in Newark and going to one party after another in West Orange to pursue his rapacious fancy. On Saturday night remorse overtook him, and with the logic which is common in such cases he tried to commit suicide by drinking carbolic acid in the presence of his mother. That devoted woman's quick sense did not desert her and she threw the family Bible at his head, knocking the bottle from his hand and probably saving his life.  
Kent since Luther's death has been at the devil and hit him in the eye, causing him to disappear in an odor of sulphur, his combination of quick common sense with the power of the written word availed so clearly to avert sin. This mother's devotion is accounted for the fact that she held the weapon of her son's deliverance ready in her hand; her action was most admirable, and in Luther's time doubtless would have passed for sheer insanity.  
The young man is now in a hospital, his wife and children are, presumably, as thankful as they can be that his suicidal attempt did not succeed, and the whole situation awaits the healing touch of time. It is to be hoped that Kent will take the sure and steady path of near enough to kingdom come to startle even his foggy wife. He has his mother's quick wit to thank for the breath still in him.—New York Post.

### See if the Child's Tongue is Coated

Mother! Don't hesitate! If cross, feverish, constipated, give "California Syrup of Figs."  
Look at the tongue, mother! If coated, it is a sure sign that your little one's stomach, liver and bowels need a gentle, thorough cleansing. Once  
When feverish, cross, listless, pale, doesn't sleep, doesn't eat or act naturally, or is feverish, stomach sour, breath bad; has stomach ache, sore throat, diarrhoea, full of cold, give a teaspoonful of "California Syrup of Figs," and in a few hours all the foul, constipated waste, undigested food and sour bile gently moves out of its little bowels without gripping, and you have a well, playful child again.  
You needn't coax tick children to take this harmless "fruit laxative"; they love its delicious taste, and it always makes them feel splendid.  
Ask your druggist for a 50-cent bottle of "California Syrup of Figs," which has directions for babies, children of all ages and for grown-ups plainly on the bottle. Beware of counterfeits sold here. To be sure you get the genuine, ask to see that it is made by "California Fig Syrup Company." Refuse any other kind with contempt.

## BARTON AFTER GOULD ROAD

Wants Government to Collect Three Million Dollars.

### SUBSIDY FOR BRANCH LINE

Matter is Investigated by W. T. Thompson and His Opinion Herebefore Made Has Not Been Acted Upon.

(From a Staff Correspondent.)  
WASHINGTON, D. C., Oct. 28.—(Special Telegram.)—Representative Barton today introduced a resolution asking the Treasury department for information as to steps taken by the secretary to recover over \$3,000,000 alleged to be due the government from the Missouri Pacific railroad. In explanation of his resolution Mr. Barton said:  
"Between July 25, 1896 and January 21, 1898 the government issued subsidy bonds in an amount of \$1,000,000 to assist in constructing a hundred miles of railroad between Atchison and Waterville, Kas. This road is now owned by the Missouri Pacific. The principal and interest due on those bonds as set out in a report by the secretary of the treasury, October 1, 1913 was \$3,627,902.80.  
"A resolution was introduced in the house of representatives April 20, 1913, directing the attorney general to proceed immediately to collect this sum by foreclosure sale or otherwise. My resolution of inquiry sent to the secretary of the treasury was introduced for the purpose of showing to the country and to the members of congress that to date no action has been taken.  
**Investigated by Thompson.**  
"Mr. W. T. Thompson, solicitor of the Treasury department made a very careful and exhaustive examination of this case, coming to the conclusion that the government should take action to collect this money and so advised Franklin MacVeigh, then secretary of the treasury. For some reason this matter is permitted to continue without any decisive action being taken.  
"The secretary of the treasury should make demand upon the present owners

of the road to pay the principal and interest, and in event they failed to pay we should do as we would do in ordinary business, to foreclose the government subsidy bond line, and bring action for a sale of said road and telegraph line; for an accounting of its net earnings and for personal judgment against the present owners for any deficiency that remains unpaid.  
"The age of subsidy bonds has passed. I believe all other roads that have this gratuity from the government have paid their debts and I cannot see one intelligent reason why enforced collection of this debt has not and is not now being made by our government officials."  
**Bestest Way Out.**  
A Louisville negro was caught with a number of hides in his possession, for which he could not reasonably account, and was brought into court charged with stealing.  
"Guilty or not guilty?" thundered the judge.  
"Not guilty," emphatically responded the negro.  
"Then how do you account for the fact that you were in possession of two 35 bills when you were arrested, although you are known to have been unemployed for a year?" demanded his honor.  
"I can't relate the circumstances, Mr. Judge."  
"And that three hides of which you claim to know nothing were found hiding in your cellar?"  
"I dunno, judge, but—"  
"And that you were seen coming out of the tannery with these more?"  
The negro scratched his head in silence for a minute, then burst out:  
"Looky here, Mr. Judge, if you is gwine to set so troublesome an' so 'quid-dive' 'bout this little matter, I's just gwine to take back what I said 'bout not guilty an' make it guilty."  
—Louisville Courier-Journal.

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