

## TROUT ON A SPREE

John Fronkin, a saloonkeeper at Oyster Bay, New York, has a big tank cooled by water from a well 165 feet deep. In it he keeps his beer in kegs and also a colony of twenty-seven big brook trout that used to swim in Mill Neck creek before they were brought to the saloon.

Recently the bartender at Fronkin's saloon dumped four new quarter kegs into the pool. That was at 7 o'clock. An hour later, just as Fronkin started to work the beer pump, something slapped up against the inside of the door leading into the room containing the tank. It slapped again harder than before, and then there were more slaps. John Fronkin stopped pumping and opened the door. As he did so the biggest trout in the tank turned a handspring on its fins and went flopping toward the bar, three others followed, and several more were tumbling around on the floor beside the tank. Some of those in the pool were jumping clear over the beer kegs. Some were landing on top of them and sliding down the sides, and all were beating the water, splashing, and rolling over, and chasing each other like mad.

Two males were fighting. They had their jaws locked together and the water was streaked with blood. One had its back fin partly torn off, and some were swimming on their backs, some were going tail foremost, and some kept their heads out of the tank for a long time, while they wiggled their fins and "treaded" water. All bumped into the beer kegs, and appeared to be confused generally whenever they started to go anywhere.

Now, John Fronkin knows these trout well, and they had never done such stunts before, so, when a fine two-pounder rolled over and slapped its tail hard against the side of one of the kegs, John Fronkin discovered something. He discovered that one of the "quarters" which had been put into the water full of beer at 7 o'clock didn't contain beer at 8. A hoop was broken and the bung was out.

The next day John Fronkin's trout lay under the spout with the cold spring water and air bubbles trickling soothingly down their backs. Their food for the day lay untouched at the bottom of the tank. One only is dead. It was found under a keg.

## WHAT THE EYES DISCLOSE

The color of eyes has hitherto chiefly concerned the novelist and the poet and lately, says the London Express, the cold-blooded statistician has been looking into them.

It is announced that, taking the average of Europe and America, 44.6 per cent of men have light eyes, including blue and gray. The proportion of women having blue or gray eyes is 32.2 per cent. In other words, blue eyes are decidedly rarer among women than among men.

Men have light eyes oftener than women, but in the intermediate shades between light and dark the percentage of the two sexes is very nearly the same. In this intermediate category are brown and hazel eyes. The percentage of these among men is 43.1 and among women 45.1.

Blue eyes are considered to possess great attractions. This was the case among the Greeks and Romans of classic times. Upon the goddess Minerva was bestowed a surname to signify the blueness of her eyes.

Gray eyes have ever been the ideal of all great novelists. Among the number Charlotte Bronte, George Eliot, Kilkie Collins and Charles Reade. Most of the heroine in up-to-date fiction are gray-eyed maidens.

Of the living great, as well as the famous dead, most have eyes of gray or blue. Shakespeare had eyes of gray; so had nearly all the English poets. Coleridge's eyes were large, light gray, prominent and of liquid brilliancy. Byron's eyes were gray, fringed with long black lashes.

Charles Lamb's glittering eyes were strangely dissimilar in color, one being hazel, the other having specks of gray in the iris. Chatterton's brilliant gray eyes were his most remarkable feature. Under strong excitement one appeared brighter and larger than the other.

As to green eyes, they are for glory. The Empress Catharine of Russia had eyes of this hue.

## THE BENEFIT OF FASTING

The fast cure is one of the new ideas from which great benefits may be derived by suffering humanity if they will but observe its simple rules. It is already believed in by many who have adopted its ways with good results, but more should follow. It is an undisputed fact among men of science that humanity suffers from proceed directly from the stomach, while as many more proceed indirectly therefrom. Apoplexy, heart failure and in many cases sudden deaths, can be traced directly to the stomach, overtaxed and weak, yet pushed on to the task for which it is unequal. The result is inevitable.

A restricted diet is always an aid toward recovery. Fasting in connection with cups of hot water drunk during the day as a tonic, will produce remarkably quick cures in some stomach troubles. Doctors prescribe milk diets and other diets not so much for the virtue of the diet itself

as to avoid the harmful effects of the foods it excludes. To keep a person on a milk diet for a week or two means that the stomach gets a complete rest.

Dyspepsia especially yields to fasting and light meals rather than dieting. Indigestion is only a symptom of something awry with the internal machinery, and one of the most common-sense cures is to give the machinery a rest and let the body right itself; but dyspeptics are continually dosing themselves with drugs or trying to find something they can eat with safety. Everything disagrees with the overburdened digestion, but they never stop to give the wheels a rest. Like the foolish muleteer who put the load all on one side and then tried to make things balance by putting a heavy stone on the other, they overload their weakened stomach with food and then attempt to counter balance by larding in a lot of powerful drugs.

## GOOD IN OLD-AGE PENSIONS

Simply speaking, the payment of an old-age pension, say of \$100 each to every citizen, male or female, who has passed the age of 70, does not involve a heavy burden to the state.

Let us now consider for a moment the advantages which the state, as an organization, would receive from such a system. As matters stand, the managers of asylums, whether for the poor, or perhaps for the blind, or the insane, or other invalids, are always at their wits' ends to know what they shall do with the aged people who are crowded upon them. The almshouses of towns and counties are filled in the same way.

Now, all these old people are better cared for in the homes of old neighbors, or old friends, very possibly of

## FOOLED BY SLICK TRAMP

Harry Sanderson, manager for Tony Pastor, who resides at Cranford, N. J., not feeling particularly well, took a day off recently and remained at home. From the window of his library he observed a tramp entering his gate and he walked down to the rear door to meet him. It was the old story—a request for a meal. Having a load of unsawed wood in the shed he told the fellow that if he got to work and performed on the sawback for a brief period he would have something prepared for him.

The tramp went to the shed and immediately the sound of vigorous sawing was heard, stick after stick parting under his energetic efforts. Call-

ing the tramp into the kitchen, Sanderson complimented him upon his energy, and the tramp replied, with a modest air, that whenever he had anything to do he generally paid attention to it. The meal was eaten and the tramp expressed his thanks and departed.

Shortly after Sanderson went out to the shed and was surprised to find every stick of wood intact. Upon inquiry in the village he ascertained that he had been entertaining a stranded ventriloquist, who was working his way back to New York from Easton, Penn. The mean chap had simply gone into the shed and given his imitation of sawing wood.—New York Times.

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Among the prize offers in the August St. Nicholas departments are two especially intended to train young readers' powers of observation and discrimination. The editor of Nature and Science asks the girls and boys to send him letters and photographs or drawings of what they find on the beach in August. The Books and Reading Department invites brief articles from its readers on "Some Recent Books for Young People." The object of this contest, aside from the training of the contestants, is to learn what books published in the last two or three years have been enjoyed by young readers. The girls and boys are requested not to name books that every one knows, but those that should be better known.

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