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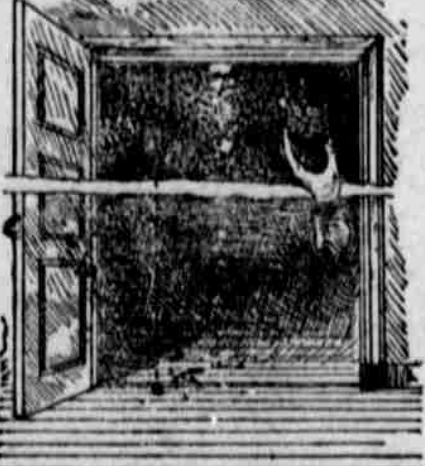
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SCIENCE AND PROGRESS.

A SELF WORKING SAFETY GATE FOR ELEVATED RAILROADS.

The Destructive Influence of Snow Upon Marble Explained—An Interesting Experiment Showing the Action of Gravity on Light and Heavy Bodies.

Take a sharp pointed knife with a heavy handle and press it lightly into the wood-work of the frame of a door. By striking the frame a sharp blow with the fist, the jar will release the knife, which will fall perpendicularly to the floor; and if a walnut shell or other soft body is placed directly beneath it, it will be crushed by the force of the fall.



AN ENTERTAINING EXPERIMENT.

Previous to placing the nutshell in position the handle of the knife should be inserted in a glass of water (see cut), when the falling drop, on reaching the floor, will indicate the exact spot where the nutshell should be placed. This experiment, explains Nature, also illustrates the principle of inertia, as the blow upon the framework of the door simply dislodges the knife before any motion is transmitted to it, as is proved by the fact that the knife falls perpendicularly in the same line as the drop of water falling from the handle. It also shows that light and heavy bodies both move in the same direction when acted upon by gravity.

Effects of Snow on Marble.

The results of the examination of snow taken from different places in Munich and its neighborhood, by Mr. Sendtner, would seem to indicate not only that snow has a considerable faculty for absorbing sulphurous acid from the atmosphere, but that the absorption goes on continuously for some time. Mr. Sendtner ascertained that, on one day when snow fell, sulphurous and sulphuric acids were present in it in fairly equal portions, but on the second day almost all the sulphurous acid had been oxidized to sulphuric acid. In the vicinity of chimneys and gas works the absorption would, of course, be greater. This great absorptive power toward sulphurous and sulphuric acids is considered of practical interest, as explaining the destructive influence of snow upon marble.

Capacity of Pumps.

To find (approximately) the amount of water a pump will move per minute, assuming a hundred feet piston speed as the standard, says Popular Science News, square the diameter of the water cylinders, and divide by four; and inversely, to find the size of a pump to perform a required duty in gallons, divide the number of gallons by four, and extract the square root of the quotient. The result is the diameter of water cylinder required.

Black on Green.

Several of the French railway companies, and other public bodies, have resolved upon having their printing done on green instead of white paper. The reason for the alteration is that they believe the combination of white paper with black characters endangers the eyesight of their workpeople. Black on green has always been recognized as a good combination, and many railway tickets are so printed.

To Make Hektograph Ink.

Following is a simple formula for making hektograph ink, purple blue and black: Take one part aniline of desired color, dissolve in about seven parts water and add one part glycerine.

An Automatic Railroad Gate.

A gate which is designed to be self opening and self closing with the movement of the cars on and off the track at stations, and which is more especially designed for use on elevated railroads, is shown in the accompanying cut. Scientific American explains it as follows: On the platform supports are secured a number of guides, which extend up to the outer edge of the platform, a vertically sliding gate being held between each two succeeding guides. These gates are connected at each end by a link with a weighted lever fulcrumed on a post or on a bracket secured either to the track posts or to the platform supports. From the fulcrum of each weighted lever extends an arm pivotally connected with a rod arranged horizontally along the platform, the outer end of the rod being pivotally connected with one arm of a bell crank lever pivoted on one of the track posts, and connected at its other arm by a link with the free end of a rail lever held alongside of one of the rails of the track.



AN AUTOMATIC RAILROAD GATE.

This rail lever is arranged in position covering the usual locomotive stopping places, and is so formed as to be acted upon only by the larger treads of the locomotive wheels. Each gate link may be connected to a separate weighted lever, or the links of two adjoining gate ends may both be connected to one lever. The weights of the levers are so arranged that the levers hold the gates in a closed position and also hold the rail lever slightly extending above the rails of the track. When a train moves up to the station, the treads of the front locomotive wheels press the rail lever downward, swinging the bell crank lever, and drawing the horizontal rod forward, so that the weighted levers are swung to draw down the gates until the top edge of each is flush with the top of the platform, thus permitting passengers to pass from the platform into the cars, or vice versa, in the usual manner. As soon as the train starts to leave the station, and the treads of the locomotive wheels move off the rail lever, the gates move upward vertically again by the action of the weights of the levers, and the station platform is closed on its track side.

STORIES ABOUT MEN.

How Judge Gary Revenged Himself on a Friend.

One day while the Anarchist trial was going on in Judge Gary's court, Mr. William King, who is upward of 80 years old, sought admission, but was told he could not go in. Going to the state attorney's office, Mr. King explained that he was an old friend of Judge Gary, and he was sure the judge would let him in if he knew he was there. Mr. Furthmann told him the court room was full, but that he would try to find a place within the bar. In a few moments the two entered the court room, and started to walk down the aisle.

"Sit down," said Judge Gary, sternly. "Your honor," explained Mr. Furthmann, "this is an old friend of yours."

"Sit down," said Judge Gary, louder and more sternly.

Mr. King looked as if he would like to have a big hole come up through the floor and swallow him. There was no place for him to sit down, and still the judge kept calling for him to do so. He looked appealingly at his old friend, but the old friend only glared on him savagely and repeated the awful command, "Sit down."

When the old gentleman had succeeded in reaching the bar Mr. Grinnell got up and gave him his seat. When court was adjourned Judge Gary came down from the bench, rubbing his hands together gleefully and laughing clear to his feet.

"I made him sit down, didn't I?" said he to Mr. Grinnell in Mr. King's presence. "I'll teach him not to boast me at what he did last night. I wish I had half a chance, I would have put him out," and grabbing Mr. King by the arm he took his old crony out to lunch with him.—Chicago News.

Ben Butler's Big Appetite.

The gastronomical peculiarities of great men are frequently made a subject of comment. Of all the public characters who visit Washington, I am told that "Ben" Butler heads the list as far as his ability for stowing away food is concerned. He literally "takes the cake," for the steaming pancake is his weakness, and it is the testimony here that the most agile cook in the district cannot turn the farinaceous flapjack fast enough to meet the demands of "Ben's" appetite. In the lower part of Pennsylvania avenue there stands a little hotel, an unpretentious little caravansary, noted for the correctness of its cuisine and its excellent service. It is a quiet resort, with all the comforts of an old English tavern and the seclusion so dear to the average gourmandizer? "Ben" Butler frequently comes to this place to order his favorite dish.

"I have heard of appetites," said an attendant to me the other day, "but I never knew exactly what a real appetite was before I saw Mr. Butler. I remember the first time he came here he ordered two porterhouse steaks, a dozen fried eggs, with fried onions, raw fried potatoes and pancakes to suit? I thought it was for a party of four, and I fixed plates, napkins, knives and forks accordingly."

"What the— are you bringing all these dishes in here for? Do you suppose I've invited a regiment to dine with me? Take them away," shouted Mr. Butler.

"While I cleared away the deck Mr. Butler sat there impatiently with a fork in one hand and a knife in the other, waiting for me to set the orders on the table. There were twelve pancakes on a plate. These he sliced through at one blow, cut out a section and apparently swallowed it pretty much as the average man does an oyster after giving it one bite. Another section followed in the same way, and before I could turn around he thundered out:

"Bring in some more pancakes."

"I rushed back to the kitchen and detailed the situation to the head cook."

"Why, dat must be Mr. Butler," said the cook, knowingly, and, calling to an assistant, he told him to make up a big panful of pancakes, batter and to 'nighly quick about it, for dar is a man in de dinin' room wid an appetite like a rat hole." When I got back to the dining room a portion of the porterhouse steaks was missing. It had disappeared so quickly that I began to doubt whether I had brought it or not, when my mind was settled by Mr. Butler, who said, as he wiped his mouth and chin:

"That steak was just right, but this one is not quite rare enough."

"But he fell to it all the same and destroyed it in large sections, supplemented by mouthfuls of egg, potatoes and onions, and an occasional half cup of coffee."

"Where the— are those pancakes?" he shouted, while glaring at me with one good eye, and then he turned as if to the cook:

"Bring in those— pancakes!"

"Well, sir, you may believe me or not, but Mr. Butler got away with four dozen pancakes, and as for the steak, eggs and potatoes, there wasn't enough left to feed a cat. And then he got up and walked down the avenue as briskly as if he had only lunched on half a dozen raw oysters."—New York Tribune.

Not Likely to Forget It.

Maj. Thaxter, of Portland, Me., is one of the few veterans who know that Virginia was the only Confederate state that sent twelve cavalry regiments into the war. He got his information this way: He went out with his regiment from Warrenton, Va., on a raid. When he returned at night he rode to the place whence he had set out and came upon a cavalry camp asleep.

"What regiment is this?" he shouted.

"The Twelfth," was the answer.

"The Twelfth what?" he asked.

"Twelfth Virginia, you— fool!" was the answer from one who was surprised that any one shouldn't know that there was but one Twelfth cavalry regiment in the service.

Maj. Thaxter didn't wait for further information, but got away. He afterward learned that the Union troops had fallen back and the Confederates taken their place.—New York Sun.

THE Evolution of a Poet.

"We are always glad to note the result of close application, determination to succeed, and true American grit. Peter Peake Seaman, of Ovens, sent us a poem about a year ago, which, while bristling with gems of literary acumen, was not exactly suited to the requirements of this paper. We returned it with the advice that he persevere in his efforts, and that he has done so, with magnificent success, and at the same time not allowing his brain to run away with the practical affairs of life, is evidenced by his coming in today with a forty-four pound pumpkin, to which is pinned the following beautiful sentiment exquisitely engrossed in purple ink:

When this you eat, Remember Pete, —Saskatchewan (Minn.) Exposer.

Bold Westerns Hyperbole.

"Did it rain?" exclaimed the western man, in the course of a thrilling recital of border life. "Yes," it rained so hard that afternoon that the water stood three feet on a sand roof.—Buffalo Courier.

PHYSIOLOGY AND HYGIENE.

A Peculiar Form of Intoxication—Evid Effects of Carbonated Waters.

Essence of ginger is popularly regarded as an innocent and harmless preparation—a sort of "old woman's remedy" or family medicine—to be dealt out for the small boy's pain under his jacket or to sustain the grandmother under a "faint spell." The following statements are therefore surprising: A druggist is said to affirm that there exists a peculiar kind of dissipation, known as ginger drinking, of the extent of which few people are aware. The article used is the essence of ginger, or the alcoholic extract ordinarily sold by druggists.

Having once acquired a liking for it, the victim becomes as much a slave to his appetite as the opium eater or the votary of cocaine. In its effect it is much the most injurious of all such practices, for in the course of time it destroys the coating of the stomach and dooms its victim to a slow and agonizing death. The druggist says that as ginger essence contains about 100 per cent. alcohol, and whisky less than 50 per cent., the former is therefore twice as intoxicating. In fact, this is the reason why it is used by hardened old toppers whose stomachs are no longer capable of intoxicating stimulation from whisky. They need the more powerful agency of the pure alcohol in the ginger extract.

The authority mentioned relates the instance of a woman who contracted the habit through employing the ginger on several occasions for stomachic pains. The relief it afforded her was so grateful that she took to it upon any recurrence of her trouble. She found, too, that the slight exhilaration of the alcohol banished mental depression. In this way she got to using it regularly, and finally to such an excess that she was often grossly intoxicated.

Another case was that of a man who bought a four ounce bottle every morning and drank its contents by noon. He craved the stuff so ardently that he was unable to go about his business until he had set the machinery of his stomach in operation and started the circulation of the blood with this fiery draught.

Large doses are described as producing a quiet stupor and additional ones a profound lethargic slumber which lasts in some cases twenty-four hours.

Careful Nursing.

When a sick person is obliged to lie constantly in one position, as is the case with a broken leg, bed sores must be guarded against. The lower part of the back is most frequently attacked, says Good Housekeeping, and the nurse should pass her hand under it at least twice a day to see that the draw sheet is free from wrinkles and creases. Morning and night she must bathe it with a small sponge dipped in alcohol or a solution of tannic acid, and when it is dry rub it with corn starch or buckwheat flour. It may seem impossible to her to get her hand underneath, but most beds will yield a little to pressure, and by working in a roll of old linen under the back above the place to be bathed, she will obtain a little space to work in. If in spite of precautions the back becomes sore, an air cushion with a hole in the middle must be used to prevent the sore from coming in contact with any surface, or it cannot heal.

Carbonated Waters.

Dr. Herzog, a German physician, calls attention to the evil results of a continuous use of carbonated waters. A daily use of such beverages will in consequence of the distension of the digestive organs, caused by the carbonic acid gas, produce nervousness, numbness, irritation, and even rupture of a vessel. These, like powerful medicines, should only be employed under the advice of a physician.

Treatment of Burns.

For simple burns oil or the white of an egg can be used. One part of carbolic acid to six parts olive oil is found to be invaluable in most cases of burns, slight or severe, and the first layer of lint should not be removed till the cure is complete, but saturated from time to time by the application of fresh outside layers.

Cleaning the Hair and Scalp.

For cleaning and softening the hair a popular means is a beaten egg rubbed well into the hair and on the scalp, and thoroughly rinsed out with several warm waters. It does not leave the skin harsh and dry, as soap, ammonia, etc., sometimes do.

Ice for Sick Stomach.

When a person is "sick at the stomach," ice taken into the mouth in small pieces, and allowed to melt before swallowing, will in very many instances relieve the discomfort.

SOCIAL ETIQUETTE.

Manners and Customs Practiced in Polite Society.

An authority on etiquette, objecting strongly to the terms "lady friend" and "gentleman friend," gives through The World the following reasons for so doing:

The terms lady and gentleman have been and are so misused as to have grown almost meaningless, and their constant application to all conditions of life almost vulgar. Hence the term lady friend does not convey any impression, as a rule, beyond that the friend is a feminine one. If intended to qualify, it can only bear the inference that the person speaking of "my lady friend" has others he or she does not consider ladies. Every respectable woman or girl is presumed to be a lady, and every reputable man a gentleman, until he or she proves himself or herself to be otherwise. Among refined and cultivated people, whose use of language is the best test of its correctness, the moment a word or term becomes misused and meaningless it is dropped. Hence the reaction of late years among refined people in favor of the old Saxon terms, man and woman. Lady and gentleman in other days carried an idea of persons of good breeding and position. The desire of many people to have these terms applied to them is due to the impression that their assumption of them, or resentment when they are not applied, will give to them qualities and position they do not possess. Disreputable persons of either sex are often vehement in their claims to be called "lady" or "gentleman."

Avoid a Fussy Manner.

It is in the worst possible taste, according to Harper's Bazar, for a lady to concern herself about a gentleman's hat, the seat he has chosen, the length of a call, or anything about him. She simply smiles, bows, gives him her hand when he comes in to make a call, and puts him at his ease by her tactful conversation, as he makes an effort to be agreeable to her. She does not urge him to come again or to prolong his call; her manner must do all that.

Young men are especially annoyed at any exhibition of fussiness on the part of their entertainers. "I wish Mrs. Brown would let me sit on an uncomfortable chair if I wish to," is the remark of more than one young man when he comes out of some fussy presence. "Young men can take care of themselves in a parlor, and it is not a uncommon fault of American women that they are too anxious to take care of men."

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