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Sept. 15, 1893

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Danger in Crowding the Toes.

It is well known that the connection between the nerves in the feet, and especially those in the great toe, and the brain and general nervous organization is strong. Dr. Brown-Sequard mentions a patient who, whenever he bore the weight of his body on the toes of his right foot, became violently insane. He also speaks of another case where pressure on the toe caused severe nervous paroxysms.

These cases simply show the importance of a proper care of the feet, a portion of the body that many people neglect. They think that they can crowd their feet into tight shoes and abuse them without serious results. They can't do it, however. This crowding of five toes into a space not large enough for three, results in pressing the joints out of shape and sometimes making them inactive and powerless. No man with his toes half paralyzed can walk properly. The control of the toes is necessary for a springy step. Broad soles and low heels give room for all the toes and allow perfect freedom of action to every muscle. People who have false standards of beauty for the feet, however, insist on wearing a shoe that is not natural in shape, and the result is great discomfort, and in some cases death.

As a consequence of these abuses we are forgetting how to walk properly. Perhaps you don't believe it, but just watch the parade on Broadway some fine afternoon and see how few men and women walk on the street as if they were not conscious of tight shoes and deformed feet.—Interview in New York Sun.

The Age of Coal Burning.

I have heard that when King Hudson, in the zenith of his fame, was asked as to what his railways were to do when all the coal was burned out, he replied, that by that time we should have learned how to burn water. Those who are asked the same question now will often reply that they will use electricity, and doubtless think that they have thus disposed of the question. The fallacy of such answers is obvious.

A so called "water gas" may no doubt be used for developing heat, but it is not the water which supplies the energy. Trains may be run by electricity, but all that the electricity does is to convey the energy from the point where it is generated to the train which is in motion. Electricity is itself no more a source of power than is the rope with which a horse drags a boat along the canal.

The fact is that a very large part of the boasted advance of civilization is merely the acquisition of an increased capability of squandering. For what are we doing every day but devising fresh appliances to exhaust with ever greater rapidity the hoard of coal.—Robert Ball in Fortnightly Review.

When Finished.

Busy persons, forced to defend themselves from interminable talkers, who have little to say, can appreciate a hint to which Henry IV of France once resorted. A parliamentary deputy called upon him and made a long speech.

The king listened patiently for a time, then he decided that his visitor would do well to condense his remarks. He took him by the hand and led him to where they could see the gallery of the Louvre.

"What do you think of that building? When it is finished it will be a good thing, will it not?"

"Yes," replied the man of many words, not guessing what was coming next.

"Well, monsieur, that is just the way with your discourse," was the king's mild observation.—Youth's Companion.

"The Begats."

The late Mr. Conington, professor of Latin in the University of Oxford, was noted for his prodigious memory. At a very early age it began to show itself. When he was a child of four or thereabouts he was sleeping one night in the same room with a relative, when, at the dead of night, his voice was to be heard crying out in the darkness from his little cot in the corner:

"Uncle! Uncle! I know the Begats.

Uncle—The what? Go to sleep, my boy, you are dreaming.

Child—I know the Begats. Listen! And he began: "Abraham begat Isaac and Isaac begat Jacob and Jacob begat Judah," and so on to the end, some forty-two generations, without a mistake.—London Tit-Bits.

Too Previous.

"And you won't marry me, Kit?"

"I won't."

"No use talking about it any more?"

"Not a bit. It won't do any good, Hank."

The Oklahoma youth, hurt and angry, reached under his chair for his hat.

"It's my own fault, I s'pose," he grumbled. "I ort to have waited till we'd got a little better acquainted."

"Yes, that's about the size of it, Hank," assented the young woman coldly. "When it comes to courtin you're too much of a sooner to suit me. Good evenin."—Chicago Tribune.

Accurate.

In a breach of promise case, the other day, the lady on the stand said that when a friend suggested that she would make him a good wife, he answered: "Hem!" "Did he really say 'Hem?'" inquires the counsel for the defense. "He did," she averred, "or something of that kind." This reminds one of the accurate witness who swore that some one had called over the banisters, "Tom, Tom," or words to that effect.—San Francisco Argonaut.

The Thumb an Index to Character.

The way in which the thumb is held is a true sign of character. The man who turns it in under his fingers is always weak. That is the position in which it is always held by a child. The thumbs of great men are large and point out conspicuously from their fellow members.—Interview in St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

GIRLS AT MEN'S WORK

YOUNG WOMEN IN PITTSBURG MAKE IRON BOLTS AND NUTS.

Work That Seems Hard for Feminine Hands, but Which Is Liked by the Girls, Who Are Very Skillful—They Are Neat and Intelligent—Their Pay.

There are probably a thousand women in Pittsburg who work in iron mills making bolts, nuts, hinges and barbed wire. It seems almost incredible that girls should be employed in an occupation which is associated only with brawn and muscle, but such is the case. At the first sight of the bolt works one cannot believe that anything bright or interesting could live inside. At the call of the 6:30 a. m. whistle girls are seen coming from all directions toward the factory. They are generally dressed tidy and well, and with their lunch baskets on their arms are not unlike any working girl one may see.

The first thing they do after entering the building is to change their street dress for one to work in, tie up their hair, roll up their sleeves, and, putting on a coffeesack apron, are ready to begin the day's labor. At 7 o'clock the last whistle blows, the wheels groan and screech as if they were weary to resume another day's work, but in a little while they begin to move with more rapidity and the noise amounts to something terrific. A sulphur smoke arises, and as it embraces everything in a dim color, it needs but the dull red burning of the oil, the horrible noises and the occasional sound of a human voice halloing a command to stamp the scene on one's memory as a study from sheol.

The bolts and nuts, as they are called, are fashioned by the brawny men on the first floor. In a crude state they are sent to other departments, when the finishing touches are applied by feminine fingers, ofttimes very delicate ones. The bolts are dumped into different bins, according to size and length, and each girl has one special kind to work on. The first work on the bolt is to "point" it—that is, to make a round end so that it will enter the machine which cuts the thread on it. The pointing machine has an immovable socket at one side and steam revolving knives facing it.

The operator, who is known as a "pointer," places the head of the bolt in the socket, presses her foot on a pedal, and the sharp steel knives are forced against the iron. Little bits of the iron fly, and in an instant she removes her foot and the pointed bolt falls down a slide into an iron deposit box on the floor.

While the one hand and foot has been accomplishing this, the other foot supports the girl, goose style, and the other hand has got a bolt ready to be placed into the socket the moment it is empty Thus for days, weeks and years the "pointer" handles one bolt after another for a living, being paid by the thousand. Expert workers have pointed 10,000 bolts in a day.

When the bolts are pointed they are taken to the cutting quarters. These machines are large, with deep sinks filled with a thick black oil. The bolts are placed in slides and pushed by the worker up into sharp steel dies. In an instant the thread is cut on them. The work is rather dangerous, and care must be exercised to keep the operator's fingers from going into the open dies and having their ends cut off instead of the iron. The oil in which the girl is compelled to work in order to keep the bolts from getting hot and thereby breaking has a very offensive odor and gradually smears the worker from the root of her frizzly bangs down to her runover heels. Girls of any age, from sixteen to fifty, work in this department. Their pay by the thousand averages from fifty cents to one dollar a day.

Little girls from six years up to twelve put the nuts on the bolts and pack them. The "nutting on" is also accomplished by machine power. The worker puts a nut on a plate; then, after catching the head of a bolt in the jaws above, she presses her foot on the pedal, when, presto! the work is done. At long tables, built of substantial wood, are rows of young girls, interspersed with a scattering of women whom life cast forth in their old age. They pile the bolts, row after row, alternate heads, then wrap them in strong paper.

The girls always come to the factory clad neatly and well. Dressing rooms are provided for them, and soap and towels. At noon the girls are given three-quarters of an hour. They lay aside their aprons, wash their hands and devour their wee lunches with energy worthy of a better cause. Formerly the girls would hurry their dinners and devote the rest of their time to dancing. The orchestra was not the largest, nor did it rival the Mexican band in melody, but it answered the purpose of furnishing time for the shabby shoed girls. It consisted of one girl and a mouth organ. The men were not permitted to come into the girl's side of the shop, but they would stand at a respectful distance, as though longing to join the merry dancers. It seems rather strange, but the girls never mingle with the men in the same factory. They are good and honest, and generally intelligent.

The girls were very happy, and everything moved as smoothly as steel on ice, until a forewoman was introduced to take the place of a foreman. Immediately she put a stop to all singing during the day and all dancing at noon. There was a decided stir among the girls at these new rules, but they were forced to submit. Since then they spend the noon hour reading and doing fancy work. Most of the girls are experts with the needle and those who read would surprise a scholar with their quotations. There are more handsome girls in this factory than could be found among the same number at a reception. They are beautifully formed, and the influence of the oil keeps the hands white and prevents them hardening from contact with the iron.—New York Advertiser.

An Odd Fellow's Odd Suit.

John Geiger, a member of Court Valley Forge, No. 169, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, has three mended places in the bone of one of his legs, and, incidentally, the second degree in that secret organization. Mr. Geiger's leg was broken in taking the second step, and he now asks of the Cook county court of chancery that he be paid $25,000 damages, or at the rate of $8,333 and the odd cents for each fracture.

It was about three months ago that Mr. Geiger went into the lodge, with great expectations of hearing something drop. He had nerved himself for almost anything except a hospital ambulance, determined to take the second degree or fall through the skylight.

According to his allegations in the bill, Officers James Donohue, John Riordan, John Nolan and others compelled him, in spite of his protests, to engage in a mock war, in which blood threatened to flow in lurid streams at any moment. He was compelled to toy with bright, sharp swords, and as a last measurement of his courage he was called upon to jump into a boiling, seething lake of fire.

It was real fire, of course—that is, not English fire. It had been built in the Greek language, as it were, and Geiger shut both eyes and jumped.

The dull thud occurred 1½ seconds later. Geiger went home with a second degree in the patrol wagon. He suffered from the attacks of a surgeon and splints for several weeks, while the lodge paid the bills. At the end of that time he compromised on $200 damages in installments of ten dollars each. After the second installment the lodge suspended payment. Now Geiger claims to be injured for life, and in asking for $25,000 damages will make over all right and title to a second degree on payment of the cash.—Chicago News.

What a Wannigan Is.

A wannigan is a flat bottomed boat, on which a house is built, according to the financial ability of the owner, and many of those on the west were well built and very comfortable and costly furnished. Some stand high above the river at its ordinary stage, and in cases of high water are supposed to float. Others were built below the bank near the water's edge and raised several feet by means of blocks and posts. With the water very near the floors no danger was apprehended by the occupants, but the current brought down logs and debris.

Recently the frail underpinnings on one side of some half dozen wannigans were knocked out, and they ignominiously toppled over in the water, piling furniture, crockery and occupants in confusion. Then the water came in and added to the work of destruction. The wannigans might have floated on an even keel, but they were never built to be launched with only half the ways knocked out.—St. Paul Pioneer Press.

Death of Two Valuable Dogs.

Two great St. Bernard dogs, Lord Bute and Lord Lonsdale, the first said to be the largest in the world, have just died at the Menthon kennels at Phœnixville, Pa., of congestion of the lungs Lord Bute was imported by his owner, Mr. Knowles Croskey, last year from England at a cost of $4,000 and was valued at $5,000. He weighed 262 pounds and stood thirty-four inches high. He was a great favorite, and it was a common sight to see the gigantic dog with a keg hanging to his neck going about the town collecting contributions for churches and other charitable objects. Lord Lonsdale was likewise very large and was bred fram the same kennel as Lord Bute. He was valued at $3,000.—Cor. New York Sun.

Ducks Killed by the Falls.

"Large numbers of ducks are being caught in the rapids and carried over Niagara falls. They are either killed or so shocked that hunters in boats below the falls easily secure them." Commenting on this, Mr. John B. Sage writes: "I have heard nothing of it, but you may be sure that it's a mistake. I don't believe a duck was ever carried over the falls, unless he was wounded so that he couldn't fly. It is, however, a common occurrence for ducks and other birds to fly up the river from Lake Ontario on foggy nights and fly right into the falls, and thus be killed or injured so that they are picked up in the river, and this is probably how the story originated."—Forest and Stream.

Killing Off Squirrels.

The following novel plan of ridding farms of squirrels is being tried in portions of Asotin county, Wash. Several furrows are plowed in the field nearest where the squirrels are thickest, and at a distance of about every thirty or forty feet holes to a depth of about twenty inches are sunk with a posthole digger. The squirrels, it is asserted, will take possession of the furrows as a playground, and while running after one another will tumble into these holes, from which they cannot emerge, but die. Several farmers who have tried it say it works admirably.—Asotin (Wash.) Sentinel.

The New Paris Bridge.

The new bridge in Paris, called the Pont Mirabeau, is to be constructed somewhat on the cantalever principle, since it will rest upon two piers and meet in the center. Its stability, however, will depend upon an adjustment of weight like that of a huge crane. The long arm meeting in the center will be of light construction, and to compensate for its weight the short arm received by the abutment will be specially heavy.—New York Times.

The Lawyer Won.

The ownership of a dog was contested by a lawyer and a farmer in Moberly, Mo. The dog was worth about ten cents, but the costs of the suit amounted to over $100. These the farmer had to pay, as the law gave the dog to the other claimant. The farmer was mad, but the dog didn't seem at all displeased as he went off with the lawyer.—Yankee Blade.

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CHRISTIAN.—Corner Locust and Eigl Services morning and evening. Eld Galloway pastor. Sunday School 10 A

EPISCOPAL.—St. Luke's Church, corne and Vine. Rev. H B. Burgess, pastor vices: 11 A. M. and 7:30 P. M. Sunday at 2:30 P. M.

GERMAN METHODIST.—Corner Sixth Granite. Rev. Hirt, Pastor. Services and 7:30 P. M. Sunday School 10:30 A

PRESBYTERIAN.—Services in new chu ner Sixth and Granite sts. Rev. J. T pastor. Sunday-school at 9:30; Pr at 11 a. m. and 8 p. m.
The Y. P. S. C. E of this church mee Sabbath evening at 7:15 in the basem the church. All are invited to atten meetings.

FIRST METHODIST.—Sixth St., betwe and Pearl, Rev. L. F. Britt, D. D Services: 11 A. M., 8:00 P. M Sunday 9:30 A. M. Prayer meeting Wednesd ing.

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