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Drilling for "the Seventeenth."
Drill Instructor Casey—Now, mtn, yez will take one stp to the rare, thin one to the front, thin one to the rare agin, an' yez'll be as yez were before yez were as yez are now!—Judge.

Queer Habits of Authors.
Both Dumas and Balzac showed no inclination to pass the wine-bottle. On the other hand, Voltaire drank huge quantities of coffee when engaged in writing. As a matter of fact, over-indulgence in that beverage during a protracted literary effort was the real cause of his death. Schiller also drank coffee "to thaw the frost out of his wits," but he fancied imbibing the infusion while seated with his feet in hot water. This, he believed, stimulated his imagination in sluggish moods, and he refreshed it during work by copious draughts from a flask of Rhenish wine.

LESSON BROUGHT HOME TO HIM.

A Wonderful Child Explains Other People's Viewpoint to Father.

He was a doctor, and not such a young doctor either. That is to say, he had been practicing for nearly ten years. An interesting event happened in his family and he found himself the father of a very fine girl, his first born.

A patient who happened in about three days after the event didn't have a great deal of chance to talk about his particular ailments because the father was very eager to tell all about the child.

"I've helped to bring a lot of children into the world," said the doctor, "and I know a lot about this. But I want to tell you that this is about the finest I've ever seen. Now that may seem to you merely to be the enthusiasm of a father, but really I know it's so." And he went on for some time telling about the merits of his offspring, how she was a finely formed child and embraced all the perfections.

He had turned over the duties of attending to his wife and child to another doctor, as the custom is more or less among physicians. This was the reason for one thing the doctor said.

"One afternoon when the baby was only three days old she sneezed. Some way or another that made me nervous and so I decided to call up the doctor.

"It happened he wasn't at home and nothing would do but I must tell his wife all about it over the telephone. She just laughed at me and that sobered my excitement.

"Afterward I thought how angry I might have been had some one of my patients called me up on a foolish matter like that. It just goes to show that this sort of thing is done right along by folks who ought to know better."

Coming Down Easy.

Inquiries after the welfare of Patrick Conroy were answered by his devoted friend, Terence Dolan, who was at the Conroy's in the double capacity of nurse and cook. "No, he's not dangerously hurt at all," was Mr. Dolan's reply to a solemnly whispered question at the door.

"We heard he had a bad fall and was all broke to pieces," whispered the neighbor.

"Tis a big story you've heard," said Mr. Dolan, in his cheerful roar. "Thru, he fell off'n the roof o' the Brady stables, where he was shingling and he broke his left leg, knocked out a couple of teeth and broke his collar-bone.

"Mind ye, if he'd have fell clear to the ground it might have hurted him bad, but sure there was a big pile of shingles and old lumber that broke his fall."—Youth's Companion.

HORROR OF AFRICAN NIGHT.

Traveler Describes Peculiar Conditions That Exist in Regions of the Dark Continent.

Caroline Kirkland, in her book on "Some African Highways," writes of night in the dark continent: "There is nothing so black as an African night, and I think that it is because the earth, being a deep red, offers no reflection to the faint starlight, such as we get in other lands. Instead it wallows up what slight glow there may be, and gives to the darkness a dense, velvety quality not to be found anywhere else. Overhead the stars glare more brilliantly than in northern latitudes, but they seem to cast no light, and the night is palpable suffocating, appalling and filled with a nameless horror which is quite indescribable."

In a single sentence the same writer gives a forcible idea of the sleeping sickness: "While there is nothing acutely distressing about this manner of dying, nothing to equal the terrors of other vital diseases like cancer or tuberculosis, there is some thing peculiarly sinister in the slow, stealthy, irresistible approach of death, whose course no known remedy can stay or alter."

Of African lions Miss Kirkland writes: "As a rule it is only old lions who attack human beings. They grow too decrepit to be able to catch the more agile antelopes who are their lawful prey, so, goaded by a hunger which age cannot wither or lessen, they pounce on unwary mortals."

Getting into Practice.

It is often pleasanter to theorize than to perform. A young law student, says a writer in the Philadelphia Inquirer, was making a study of certain processes of his future profession. He showed an inclination to sit in the house and speculate idly, instead of doing some of the domestic tasks which stood waiting.

"Deduction is an interesting process," declared the youth to his father. "For example, there is a heap of ashes in the yard. That is evidence that the family has recently had fires."

"Well, John," interrupted his father, "suppose you pursue your studies a little farther by going out and sitting that pile of ashes."—Youth's Companion.

The Young Idea.

"Ma," said a newspaper man's son, "I know why editors call themselves 'we.'" "Why?" "So's the man that doesn't like the article will think there are too many people for him to tackle."—Christian Work and Evangelist.

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