

PEPYS, THE DIARIST.

Pronouncing the Name of the Garrulous Old Gossip.

Lovers of Pepys often dispute over the correct pronunciation of his name. The form Peeps is the one that has chief authority on its side, and it is according to analogy in other like spellings, such as Wemyss, pronounced Weems. Peeps still holds good at Cambridge and dates from its bearer's own time. It is also retained by the representatives of Samuel's sister, the Pepys Cockerell family, who are heirs to his fame and some of his property. The late Rev. J. W. Ebsworth, an indefatigable collector and editor of ballads, adopts this pronunciation in his pleasing stanzas on "A Gossip at Deptford."

For instance:

The state has no servant of all whom she keeps
Like my squab little friend, who no labor does shirk,
The pattern of quill driving clerks, Sam Pepys.

A disturbing element in the discussion is that the branch of the family represented by the Earl of Cottenham pronounce the name Peppis.

No bearer of the name has ever been known as Peps, though Ashby Sterry, a respected member of the Pepys club, follows this common but erroneous pronunciation in this excellent epigram, published in the London Graphic November, 1891:

There are people, I'm told—some say there are heaps—
Who speak of the talkative Samuel as Peeps,
And some, so precise and pedantic their step is,
Who call the delightful old diarist Pepys,
But those I think right, and I follow their steps,
Ever mention the garrulous gossip as Peps!

Woes of Translators.

The way of translators is hard, especially where African native languages are concerned. Favorite English hymns, translated for the benefit of the natives, sometimes contain renderings not altogether faultless. "Go labor on, spend and be spent," was given as "Go blunder on," etc. The most extravagant instance, however, was the hymn, "Lord, Dismiss Us With Thy Blessing," which the natives were exhorted to join fervently in singing. Months later the missionaries discovered that what they really had been singing was, "Lord, kick us out, softly, softly."—Glasgow Herald.

To Meet an Emergency.

"Madam, have you any old clothes to give away?"

"I have a suit belonging to my husband, but I fear it is too big for you."

"Oh, that will be all right. You just set me out a square meal and watch me eat enough so that I can fill it."—Washington Times.

Dominos First Played by Monks.

The game of dominos was the invention of two French monks. In the beginning they found amusement by playing at a primitive form of it with small flat stones they had marked with spots to designate them. When the game was finished the winner was wont to declare his victory by reciting the first line of the vespers service—"Dixit Dominus Domino meo." Before long all of the monks in the monastery found recreation in the game, and presently the vespers line was cut down, for brevity's sake, to the one word "Domino," thus furnishing the name which has clung to the game ever since.

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First Aid.

Speaking of the necessity for widespread education in first aid to the injured, the St. Louis Times says:

"Perhaps it will not be taken amiss if we call attention to the obvious fact that nine-tenths of all the trouble in the world is due to ignorance of certain simple things. It might even be said safely that all mishaps of whatever kind—mental, physical and spiritual—are due to a want of experience and training. Accidents of a thousand varieties, from drowning to the taking of a dose from the wrong bottle, are in a majority of cases fatal simply because there was not present some one who knew what to do. Injuries which almost tear the body to pieces are curable if the man of training and experience is at hand. The simplest injuries often prove fatal when they are not properly attended to, when the injured person does not get the benefit of a little simple help."

How a Great Surgeon Died.

While Bichat, the famous surgeon, was dying of typhoid fever he turned to an old colleague who was sitting beside his bed and said to him:

"My friend, I am lost, but it is some consolation to know that my case is very curious. During the last few days I have noticed some odd symptoms, and I am studying them carefully."

"Oh, you may recover yet," said the friend.

"That is impossible," replied Bichat, "and if it were not for one thing I would be quite willing to die."

"What is that?" asked the friend.

"I am exceedingly sorry," answered Bichat, "that I shall not have an opportunity to perform an autopsy on myself after my death, for I know that I would make some wonderful scientific discovery."

An hour later he was dead.

When the World Was Drunk.

Nowhere in all the world today can be found as many confirmed drunkards as there were among the Thracians, the Iberians, the Celts or the Scythians. The man who didn't get drunk every day or two was regarded as queer. The Greeks were moderate drinkers until they began to copy the luxury of the Persian feasts. The Romans imitated the Greeks. Then the whole world went on a mad drunk. It was a saturnalia. Caligula owes his niche in the hall of fame to the drunken banquets with which he made even Rome marvel. The excesses made fashionable by such potentates as Lucullus, Nero, Verres, Tiberius, Caligula, Vitellius and Domitian really began in the days of Pompeii, and they mark the beginning of the end of the republic.—Argonaut.

Shekels and Half Shekels.

The early Biblical references to pieces of silver do not in the original convey the idea of coins, but of weights, shekels. The Mosaic "oblation to God" was a half shekel, and the shekel is explained by Josephus as equal to four Athenian drachmae of the value of about 55½ cents in American money. The first Jewish coinage under authority was, it is believed, struck by Simon, the Maccabee, about the year 140 B. C. It consisted of shekels and half shekels. This coinage had its value signified upon it, "Shekel Israel," in Samaritan characters.

Honor Above All.

Believe it to be the greatest of all infamies to prefer your existence to your honor, and for the sake of life to lose every inducement to live.—Juvenal.