

A Few Words to the Boys.

Don't trouble yourselves about the details of your business. Leave small things to small minds. You were born to be at the top, and of course a way will be provided for getting you there.

If you would make your mark in the world, never learn to write. Do you wish to be men? Learn to chew, smoke and drink. It will be hard to distinguish you from the real article.

It is well for you to know that the girls are all dying for you. You cannot but pity them, but then it is not your fault. This should teach you resignation.

Strive to get all the leisure time you can. It will make older and busier persons envy you.

Speak your mind freely. It shows that you possess such an article. Characterize as nonsense everything that you cannot understand. You will find a great deal of nonsense in the world.

When you have anything to do, don't hurry about doing it. Take your own time, or your employer's, which is the same thing. If he discharges you, you will have the satisfaction of knowing that he will be the loser by not having your valuable services.

Shun those who are able to teach you anything in life or business. It is not agreeable to be overshadowed by anybody. Beside, who wants to be in school all his life?

Be above politeness. That will do well enough for women and children; but a man, you know, should despise all such foolishness.

People who talk about sticking to principle are humbugs or nincompoops. Never mind principle where money is to be made.

Never stop to consider. Make up your mind at once. It shows promptitude of decision.

Having once made up your mind, stick to your decision. People may call you an obstinate mule, but words harm nobody. If you are pig-headed, others may suffer, but you never.

Stand up for your rights, especially among women and timid folk. You may yield a point where the other party is stronger than you are.

Fight life's battles in the easiest way. Remember that it is the sultan, and not the soldier, who makes money out of war.

Honor your father and your mother by showing to them how much wiser you are than they. You can do this in no easier way than by rejecting all their counsel and admonition.

Don't go to church, if you can avoid it; but if you must go, take care to show your intelligent contempt for the worship and the worshipers.

Follow these few directions, boys, and you will at least attain a high place in the world. It may be the gallows, but it will be a high place nevertheless.—*Boston Transcript*.

Impurities in Ice.

The popular delusion that water in the process of freezing somehow eliminates any impurity it may contain, or that the vitality of animal or vegetable germs is destroyed by the cold, is now very generally exploded.

An American naturalist has been microscopically examining fragments of ice taken from various canals and ponds. He took only such specimens as appeared clean and were quite transparent to the eye. On melting them and subjecting them to magnifying powers, varying up to nine hundred diameters, he says that vegetable tissue and coniferous growth were in most cases observable at once. He found no instance in which animalcules were present in an active state after feeding, but after being allowed to stand for a while in a moderate temperature, the water presented monads whose movements were easily distinguished with a magnifying power of from two hundred to four hundred diameters. After a while conifers were observed growing and taking form similar to the nests occupied by the young of the Paramecium, common in stagnant water. The result of the observations is to prove beyond question that freezing does not in any way eliminate impurity or prevent the subsequent development of animal or vegetable germs.

This is merely a confirmation of what has already been asserted and proved before, but the matter is of such importance that it is not likely to be urged with unnecessary frequency. Many persons who will look askance at a glass of unfiltered water will not hesitate to cool their drink by dropping a knob of ice into it. That from ponds and canals is, of course, ostensibly gathered for non-dietetic purposes; but it is to be feared that in hot weather ice is ice, and that much risk of mischief is often incurred.—*London Globe*.

Cabinet Recreations.

The members of the Cabinet sometimes have very amusing interviews with ladies; as the following will illustrate:

Young Lady—"Mr. Secretary, I have called to see if you can tell me when Captain — is to be ordered away, and where he will go to?"

Secretary—"I really do not know. Do you wish him ordered away?"

Young Lady—"No, indeed!" (this with a very conscious look and a slight increase in color); "only if you were I would like to know, you know, for you see," pulling out her handkerchief and putting her little gloved finger in her mouth—a la Maggie Mitchell—"you know, Mr. —, now don't you?"

Secretary—"How should I?"

Young Lady—"Then I'll tell you" (this with a look of determination).

"I'm going to marry him, and if you are going to order him off, why are you going to get married before. That is all."

Secretary—"I have not thought of ordering him away, and since he is going to engage in such pleasant business will not."

Young Lady—"Oh! Mr. —, ain't you good? I'm so glad. Now I'll have plenty of time to get ready."

Another young lady sends in her card and is admitted, when the following colloquy takes place:

Young Lady—"I have called to see if you will not give permission to Lieutenant — to come here from A—?"

Secretary—"Any of his near relatives sick?" scanning her closely.

Young Lady—"No, sir. His friends want to see him so much, and you can have him come if you want to."

Secretary—"Oh! I see how it is. If you will say he is your sweetheart he shall come."

Young Lady—"Yes, sir, he is!" saying this with both hands hiding her face.

The Secretary says that he gave permission to that officer to come, telegraphing to him to that effect within the hour. All Secretaries are not like the one we are speaking of, so young ladies must not presume upon the above incidents, for they might not be as successful as our two fair friends were.

How the Esquimaux Hunt Ducks.

A most novel and interesting method of bird-catching is practiced during the spring and early summer, while the ducks and geese are molting and unable to fly. The Esquimaux puts his kayak—that is, his seal-skin canoe—on his head, like an impenetrable hat, and repairs to the big lake, or the sea-side, where he has seen the helpless birds swimming and feeding in the water. Here he launches his frail bark, and when seated, which is not always accomplished without a ducking, takes his double-bladed oar in his hands, and at once starts in pursuit of the game. Before him, on his kayak, where he can seize it at the proper moment, lies his duck-spear, together with other implements of the chase. Cautiously approaching the featherless flock, he sometimes gets quite near before his presence is observed, but even then, before he is within striking distance, there is a great spluttering in the water, as the band scatters in every direction, vainly beating the water with the curious-looking stumps that soon will wear their plumage and once more do duty as wings. Some dive below the surface and come up a great way off, and always just where you are not looking for them; but as the flock takes alarm, the hunter dashes forward, feeling the necessity for speed rather than for caution. He is soon with in fifteen or twenty feet of the struggling mass, and, seizing a curious-looking spear, with three barbs of unequal length, he poises it for a moment in the air, and then hurls it with unerring aim at the devoted bird, impaling it with a sharpened iron or bone spike in the center of the barbs. The handle of the spear is of wood, and floats on the surface of the water, so that the hunter can recover his weapon and the game at his leisure.

In some sections of the Arctic, the game thus captured forms a great staple of food; for winter use the birds are packed in bales of about three feet in length and two feet square on the ends, looking very much like small bales of cotton that have been tarred and feathered, for it must be remembered that the inside and outside of the birds remain intact when packed away. It is no objection to an Esquimaux palate that they decay before winter freezes the bale as solid as a rock.—*W. H. Gilder, in Scribner's Monthly*.

Capturing Birds by Fascination.

In the interior of the Province Valdivia, South Chili, a species of wood-snipe (*Painayen inc.*) is often caught by the natives in the following manner: When the bird flies into one of the low bushes, which in spots of about three to six meters in diameter are found frequently in the wood-meadows there, two men on horseback go round it in the same direction, swinging their lazos over the bush. After ten or more rounds one man slips down from his horse, while the other continues, leading his companion's horse behind. Carefully then the first man creeps on to the point where the paipayen is sitting, nearly motionless or stupefied with the rider's circular movements, and kills it by a quick blow of a stick. When I first was told so I would not believe it; but in 1853 or 1854 I took part myself in this kind of capture in the hacienda San Juan, in Valdivia, belonging to my chief, Dr. Philippi, now Professor in the University and Director of the Museum in Santiago. I had left the house without gun, accompanied by a native servant, when, in a part of the wood called Quemas, I observed a paipayen falling into a dense but low bush of the above-mentioned kind. Desiring to obtain a good specimen of this not very common bird for our collection I expressed my regret at not having the gun, but the servant replied: "Never mind, if you wish, we will get this bird." And he caught it with my assistance in the above way without injuring it.—*Nature*.

—Prof. Baird's new fish car is to take a large supply of shad and striped bass, early in June, to stock the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers. Experiments have proved that these fish will flourish there.

—A move in the write direction, as the man said when he took up his pen to put the superscription on the letter.

Rotation of Crops.

Why does a farmer change the crops of each field every year, growing first clover and grass and then corn, then oats, and lastly, wheat or rye, and again seeding down to clover and grass? It is because he knows that these crops succeed better when thus grown and that he cannot grow the same crop every year on the same ground, with profit. There is a good reason for this. It is because the nature of each of these different crops is not the same; that one seems to rest the soil, that clover actually leaves the soil better than it was before, besides adding to it in the shape of roots, stems and leaves, a large quantity of valuable plant food for the corn which follows it; that the culture of the corn kills a vast quantity of weeds and cleans the ground, and prepares it for the oats and wheat; that after the oats have been grown the soil has given up to that crop all the strength it possessed, and that it then requires help to restore it. This is given by the manure and fertilizers used to prepare for the wheat or rye and the clover and grass after it, and that by this treatment one can go on year after year, for a whole life-time, growing crops and then leave his farm still fertile and useful for his children, who may do the same, to be followed again by their children.

This method of culture is called the rotation of crops, and the usual rotation consists of the four crops mentioned, viz.: clover and grass, corn, oats and wheat. This is called the four-course system. Some farmers add other crops, and so lengthen the course with great benefit to the soil; because in the four-course system there is too much grain and too little fodder for feeding cattle and making manure, without which good crops cannot be grown. There are also not enough of the renovating crops, as those are called, in which either the soil is manured or rested, and restored, or in fact renewed in strength and power to produce the other crops which take more from the soil, and are therefore called exhaustive. For the principle at the bottom of this system of rotation is chiefly this: that the farmer must follow an exhaustive crop with a renovating one; that is, one that is hard or difficult to grow with one that is easy, and so give the soil an opportunity to recover before its strength is taxed too much.

Much injury has been done to many farms by an unwise neglect of this precaution, and crops of wheat and corn have been grown year after year, until the soil has been made unable to produce enough to pay the farmer for his labor, or to support him and his family with comfort. It is in this way that farms have been worn out, and people have been forced to go further west to get new land, that the same wasteful practice may be followed. Now, that the West is becoming filled up, and the best lands are occupied, this can no longer be done, and farmers are obliged to follow a more skillful practice, and are forced to study more carefully the nature of their business, that they may make their farms more productive.

The feeding of cattle and sheep is the most important part of the farm work and the growing of feeding crops therefore needs to be made a special study by the young farmer. A rotation then which can be made to include the largest number of feeding crops is the best. A seven-course rotation is sometimes practiced in which clover and grass are grown one year for hay and a second year for pasture, followed by corn, oats, roots (either turnips or mangels) barley, clover for hay, and wheat on the clover sod, followed by grass. This rotation has many advantages. It has two cultivated or cleaning crops, corn and roots; two sods plowed under, and four feeding crops, viz., corn, roots and two hay crops. Where it can be followed it enables the farmer to keep a flock of sheep or to keep cows and a dairy which is one of the most profitable and pleasant parts of farming, and gives the girls an agreeable opportunity of adding to the income of the farm and to their own resources by making butter, as well as finds employment for the boys which is not so laborious as the constant raising of grain. When the rotation is chosen, the farm is divided into fields to suit the course, five for the four-course, in which there are two in grass at the same time; and eight for the seven-course rotation.—*Henry Stewart, in Rural New Yorker*.

Some Queer Physiological Ideas.

The London Globe gives a ludicrous illustration of the results of physiological teaching in the girls' schools of the English metropolis. It seems that the National Health Society, laudably desirous of promoting the increase of practical physiological intelligence, offered prizes to be competed for by the pupils of the girls' schools under the control of the London School Board. The response, however, was not very lively. Out of two hundred and thirty-four schools only eleven sent competitors, it being presumed that in the other schools physiology is either not taught at all, or so poorly taught that there was no emulation. The eleven schools which were represented in the examination, we are to suppose, were the best girls' school under the jurisdiction of the Board. Two hundred and fifteen girls attended and competed for the prizes, the examination being conducted by Mr. McWilliam, who reported the result to the London School Board.

The Globe says: "Many of the children appear to have been utterly unable to understand the terms of the questions. Mention any occupations which you consider to be injurious to health, giving reasons for your answer." This question, Mr. McWilliams says, especially appears to

have puzzled them. One girl's complete answer to this question is, "When you have a illness it makes your health bad, as well as having a disease." Another says, "Occupations which are injurious to health are carbolic acid gas which is impure blood." Another complete answer is, "We ought to go in the country for a few weeks to take plenty of fresh air to make us healthy and strong every year." Another complete answer is, "Why the heart, lungs, blood, which is very dangerous." The word 'function' was also a great puzzle. Very many answered that the skin discharges a function called perspiration. One girl says, "The function of the heart is between the lungs." Another says: "What is the function of the heart? Thorax." Another girl, in answer to the sixth question, says, "The process of digestion is: We should never eat fat, because the food does not digest."

"Another class of errors is that of exaggerated statements, one girl answering, 'A stone-mason's work is injurious, because when he is chipping he breathes in all the little chips, and then they are taken into the lungs.' Another says, 'A bootmaker's trade is very injurious, because the bootmakers always press the boots against the thorax, and therefore it presses the thorax in and it touches the heart, and if they do not die they are cripples for life.' Several girls insist that every carpenter or mason should wear a pad over the mouth; and one girl says that, if a sawyer does not wear spectacles, he will be sure to lose his eyesight. Finally, one girl declares that 'all mechanical work is injurious to health. Another child says that 'in impure air there is not any oxygen, it is all carbonic acid gas.' Another says that if we do not wash ourselves 'in one or two days all the perspiration will turn into sores.'

"One girl states that 'when food is swallowed it passes through the wind-pipe and stops at the right side, and what it goes to make blood, and what is not wanted passes into the alimentary canal.' Another girl from the same school says, 'Venous blood is of a dark black color, and when it reaches the heart it is made by the heart a bright red color.' Several girls from the same school repeat this last error. Another girl says, 'The chyle flows up the middle of the backbone and reaches the heart, where it meets the oxygen and is purified.' Another says, 'The work of the heart is to repair the different organs in about half a minute.' Another says: 'We have an upper and a lower skin; the lower skin moves at its will, and the upper skin moves when we do.'—*Popular Science Monthly*.

A Reporter's Work.

It is generally supposed by the world at large, says a sympathetic contemporary, that the lot of a reporter is happiness itself. He is envied by the rich and the poor, and especially by the boys during circus time, as he is supposed to "git in for nuthin'," which is a big thing in the eye of the gamins. There are those besides the gamins who think he wears a magic slipper that carries him safely past all doorkeepers and ticket sellers; that he sports a charm about his throat that brings forth free beer and bud juice ad libitum; that he has brass-plated cheeks which are passports even into the skeleton closet of the household, and that his conscience is pliable and his disposition so mercenary that it is but necessary to cross his palm with a few paltry shekels to turn his calamity into praise and his facts into fancies.

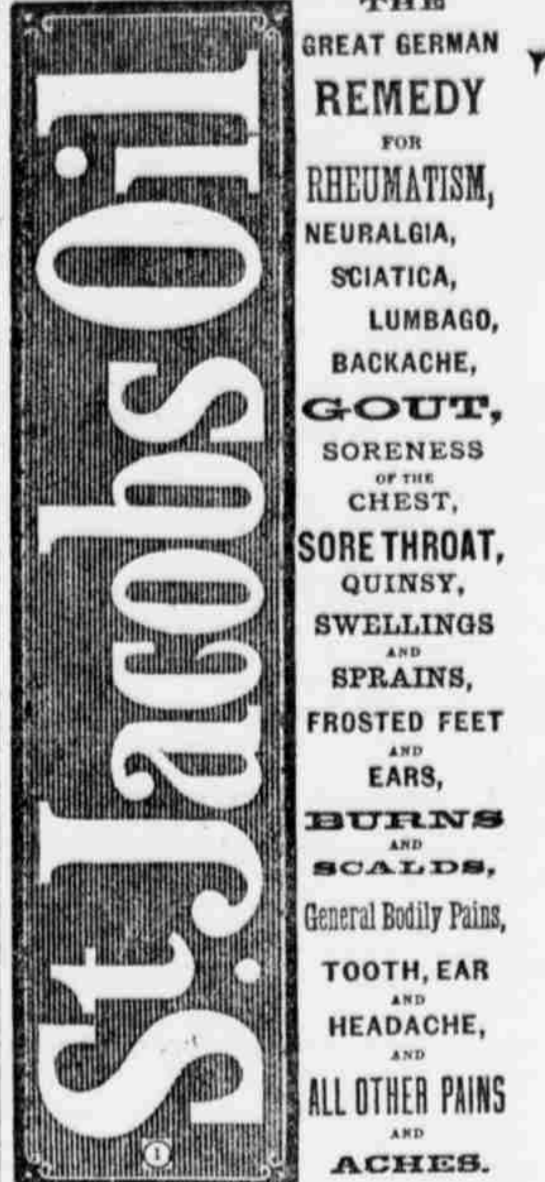
But alas and alack! Truth, stripped of the imagery with which it is frequently clothed, oftentimes would not be recognized by its own mother. Behold the naked truth.

In order to get the facts with which to construct his numerous articles, he must travel on an average of five miles a day, or an aggregate of 1,500 miles a year. During these perambulations he asks several thousand civil questions and gets several thousand uncivil answers; gets fired out of offices and houses; has dozens of doors slammed in his face; is asked 10,000 questions and returns as many short but civil answers; gets in the circus once on a promise to give it a big send-off; is button-holed 1,300 times by parties who desire to impart a good item about themselves; is let into several political secrets by candidates, which are bare-faced boasts; is boosted by the same candidate because he didn't publish the secret; is welcomed wherever his pencil will put money into people's pockets or give them a little notoriety. However, he pays five cents a glass for beer, full rates for board, top prices for clothes, either walks or pays full fare on the street cars. While others are enjoying the opera, the social party, the circus, prayer-meetings, lectures, a game of poker, a turn on the roller skates or marching with a political club, the reporter is wrestling with a mass of chaotic facts and endeavoring to get them into shape for you to read while you quietly dispatch your good, warm breakfast.

He gets to bed at six o'clock in the morning, and, between the annoyances of flies, noisy chambermaids and pencils of sunlight boring into his eyes he does well to get seven hours' sleep by the time he is aroused at noon to get his breakfast. At two o'clock he reports at the office and begins the same old round of duties. But, taking one consideration with another, the life of a reporter is not much worse than that of a street-car driver after all.—*Oil City Derrick*.

—Mrs. Van Pelt of Nannet, Rockland County, N. Y., has just presented her husband with the sixth pair of twins in succession.

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