

FOR THE CHILDREN

Talking Dogs.

Away back in the seventeenth century a boy of Saxony owned a mastiff which had a peculiar bark. The boy thought that there was a resemblance in the sounds made by it to some German words, and he determined that he would teach the animal to speak. The task was a difficult one, but the boy had great patience and finally taught the dog to speak thirty words, a few of them French, but the majority German. The words were simply uttered by the dog after the boy had repeated them.

It is said that in the year 1718 a dog was exhibited in Holland which could pronounce all the letters of the alphabet except l, m and n. In the year 1719 there was a speaking dog at Berlin, and the "Bibliothèque Germanique" for 1720 asserts that there was then a dog which could speak sixty words and that it showed a preference for short words, never attempting to speak a word of more than three syllables.

These cases are, of course, remarkable, and yet it cannot be said that the dogs employed speech in the real sense of the term, for there is no evidence that thought determined them in the choice of words. They simply imitated the human voice.

Conundrums.

Why are spiders good correspondents? Because they drop a line by every post at every house.

What does a girl become when she ceases to be pensive? Expensive.

What is the sure sign of an early spring? A cat watching a bird on a tree.

A lady asked a gentleman how old he was. He answered, "My age is what you do in everything." How old was he? XL (exceh).

What beneficent word is a combination of a chair and a table? Charitable.

Why is it that whenever you are looking for anything you always find it in the last place you look? Because you always stop looking when you find it.

Why is the world like a cat's tail? Because it is fur to the end of it.

What is the most difficult lock to pick? One from the bald head.

How would a pig build his own house? Tie a knot in his tail and call it a pig's tie.

Why is snow like a maple tree? Because it leaves in the spring.

The Game of Queriés.

This interesting game may be made instructive or merely amusing, as the players may prefer. Each player is furnished with a sheet of paper and a pencil and is told to write at the top of the sheet a question of a historical nature or one that is pure nonsense. At the extreme bottom of the sheet he must write the correct answer and then fold the bottom over so that the answer cannot be seen. The papers are then passed to the right, and the players receiving them must write an answer just above the folded answer and then fold the paper down so that it cannot be seen. The papers are then passed again to the right, and answers are written and folded down as before until every player has written an answer. The papers are then collected, and the questions and answers are read aloud for the information or amusement of the company.

A Curious Barometer.

The goldfish, which is distributed

over nearly all parts of the world, is one of the most interesting members of the finny tribe. It apparently is very susceptible to the atmospheric changes, and any one who takes the trouble to note its actions in the aquarium will be astonished to find that the beautiful little fish is a true prophet in matters relating to changes in the weather.

When an area of lower temperature, with rain or snow, is approaching, the goldfish remains near the surface of the water, while, if clear, sunshiny weather is expected it will almost always be found near the center of the reservoir. This seems very strange, but a little observation will prove the statement to be correct.

The Game of Scandal.

Any number of persons may sit in a row or circle. One of them begins by whispering a story in the ear of his next neighbor, and he in turn whispers it to the next, and so on till it reaches the last, who relates it aloud. The first player then gives it as it was told in the beginning, and it will generally be found that the two stories are quite different. Instead of a story a single sentence, spoken very fast, may be used. It is called scandal because it shows how stories are often changed in passing from mouth to mouth.

Take Hold, Boys.

It was found the other day that out of 150 boys in a public school in New Orleans not one single one of them could sharpen a pocketknife. A boy who can't sharpen a knife, sew on a button, mend a chair, paint a door, set a pane of glass or fix up an old clock had best get right to work and take some lessons.

The Catspaw.

"He won't hurt you," said little Ted
As baby sister on he led
To the cattle shed.
And when before a great new calf
They stood in fear
In most endearing tones he said,
"You pat him, dear."
—Youth's Companion.

The Pepper Vine.

The most common and widely used of all spices is pepper. It is a native of the East Indies, but is now cultivated in various parts of the tropical belt of this hemisphere. The plant is a climber and has a smooth stem sometimes twelve feet long. The fruit is about the size of a pea and when ripe is of a bright red color. In cultivation the plant is supported by poles. In some localities small trees are used instead of poles, for the best pepper is grown in a certain degree of shade.

The Gentle Art.

"I adore intelligence!" she cried.
"So do I," said he. "All the same, though, beauty and intellect never go together."
"And do you think me intellectual?" she faltered.
"No," he confessed frankly.
With a faint blush she murmured, "Flatterer!"—Los Angeles Examiner.

Light on Ma.

Little Brother—Mr. Poseyboy, won't you go and stand before the window? Poseyboy—Certainly, my little man. But why? Little Brother—Oh, ma says she can see through you. I want to see if I can.

Concentration of Trades.

The concentration of kindred trades goes steadily forward in Germany. In May last three large unions—transport workers (96,623), dockers (22,036) and seamen and firemen (10,604)—at congresses held in Hamburg decided to amalgamate.

A LITTLE AT A TIME

"Trifles make perfection, and perfection is no trifle."

"Tall oaks from little acorns grow."

"Take care of the pennies; the dollars will take care of themselves."

"Ten cents make one dime;

"Ten dimes make one dollar;

"Ten dollars make one eagle."

"Thrift is the mother of independence."

Begin now and form the habit of thrift by saving a certain portion of your wages each week or month and depositing with us. We pay 4 per cent interest on deposits. Let us explain our system to you. A record of ten years successful business is our guarantee.

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