CHALK TALKS.

Batch of Clever Suggestions for an Evening's Entertainment.

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A friend of mine who was called upon to take charge of a mission meeting and give an evening's entertainment once came to me in despair.

"The audience," he said, "will consist of a number of boys of all ages from 15 years old to 50, and what I can say that will instruct or amuse them, that will be listened to, that will hold their attention for more than five or ten minutes at most, I am at a loss to conjecture. They are from the worst district in New York City, and will require to be held with a strict hand."

"You have called your prospective audience boys," I replied, "and as far as the self-restraint that comprises one of the chief differences between children and grown-ups is concerned, there are probably none of them adults. Like children, they are easily amused by fun and novelty and like children, they soon tire of being scolded, preached to, or instructed, though they will not object to a lecture, advice or information if it comes naturally; an entertainment that interests them. Speaking from a rather large and somewhat varied experience of entertaining children, I should advise you to give them a chalk talk."

"Yes, that's all very fine," said my friend, "but it is impossible."

"Indeed?"

"Yes, I cannot draw."

"I know you cannot," I replied. "I will draw your pictures and you shall redraw them."

FERGUSON'S CAT.

HOW TO DO IT.

I then showed him what I meant, and, being a bright, intelligent fellow, he immediately caught my idea. The result was a decided success. My friend drew and colored the pictures before the eyes of his audience, being careful to go over the ground rapidly, to make himself intelligible and introduce as many palpable hits as possible. To see the parts of the pictures start from the charcoal as he moved it rapidly over a large sheet of paper, to see apparently unrelated parts easily and dexterously connected, to make a symmetrical whole, to have sprung upon them additional lines, after the drawing seemed complete, giving it by an unexpected turn a new significance and character very different, perhaps, from that it at first had, proved a source of such unfailing and rare new pleasure to the audience, from the hushed expectancy of the beginning to the uproarious applause at the end of the entertainment, that I doubt if one there wished himself away or gave a thought to the resorts he usually frequented in search of amusement.

The secret of the whole affair is as simple as it is effective. It consists in having the outlines of the pictures drawn upon the paper with a hard lead pencil. At night, by artificial light, or even by daylight, the penciling entirely disappears at a little distance, but to one standing near enough it can be seen with ease and the comparatively faint gray lines followed by heavy dark ones from a stick of charcoal or a crayon. The trick, though explained to an audience after the performance, does not seem to make it less interesting or lessen their enjoyment.

A BOY CAN GIVE THE LECTURE.

Such an entertainment is especially adapted to schools, particularly Sunday schools, being in every way unexceptionable and giving opportunity for very effective work in teaching facts and morals. A few plain directions and a skeleton of such a lecture will make it possible for any person of ordinary education and intelligence, however unacquainted with drawing, to give a very enjoyable chalk-talk.

Procure a number of large sheets of light brownish-yellow wrapping paper, the exact number to be regulated by the number of pictures you expect to draw and the size by the number of your audience or their distance from you. In making your drawing, ordinary sheets of about thirty by fifty or sixty inches will do very well, though smaller ones will answer for a single class or a limited audience, of whom none are more distant than fifteen or twenty feet. The paper should be moderately heavy, so that it will bear handling without tearing. Such paper can be had in New York for about 7 cents a pound. Provide yourself with a dozen or so French sticks of charcoal, such as are used by artists in sketching, and a box of such colored chalks or chalk crayons as are used in drawing upon blackboards. You will also require a frame, or stretcher, covered with canvas or heavy muslin, of the same size as the paper upon which you are going to draw, and an easel to support this frame. After the outlines are drawn with a hard pencil upon the sheets, they must be collected in the order in which the pictures drawn upon them are to follow each other in your lecture, securely tacked to the frame, and the frame firmly fastened to the easel. As each picture is completed it is loosed from the lower tacks and thrown over the frame. A small stand or table should be at hand to hold the chalks and crayons.

The drawings may be enlarged from the originals given in the present article or any others by means of a pantograph, a cheap instrument made for the purpose to be bought at art emporiums. Be careful in drawing to first go over the outlines of distant points of your picture, as the feet and head, keeping your audience in doubt as long as possible how the parts are to be joined. Rub your colored chalk upon the places you intend shall be colored, with the side rather than the point of the crayon, and blend where blending seems necessary, with a wad of cotton or a piece of chamois skin. Be firm and quick, but not hasty with your drawing, and remember that, though it looks very rough and unfinished to you, distance lends sufficient enchantment to make it appear much better to the spectators. Draw with great broad lines; they can scarcely be too broad. It gives much more vigor and a better effect to the work. Suppose you call your lecture "Transformations."

THE HEATHEN CHINEE.

You may begin by saying it is always the unexpected that happens in chalk-talks. Here you draw a circle about the size of a small orange. A circle is the most universal of symbols. As a circle may be imagined that will include everything, so almost anything may be made of a circle. It may be a wedding ring or a "kingly crown," a target or a tambourine, a clock face or a cart wheel, though as an all-around symbol of such general utility it is not, like a cart wheel, apt to be tired, but may go on to infinity, suggesting objects that may be bounded by its circumference. It is the letter O. Let us see, what circular object does O stand for? Orb? Orange? Let us make an orange of it and give color for so calling it. Here you color your disk with orange colored crayon. We will imagine it has fallen from the tree and lies upon the ground underneath. The ground upon which it lies may be here, there, or anywhere. The orange looks as though it might be one of those thin-skinned, highly-colored Mandarin oranges, so we will fancy, if you please, it lies upon Chinese soil. What becomes of it? Perhaps some animal coming by finds and eats it. While you are saying this, or between the sentences you are changing and adding to the original circle. First add a sort of a triangle at one side near the bottom. Now draw another larger circle, forming a sort of crescent, and so on until you gradually develop the last figure. As you finish the last you move to one side, allowing it to be seen, at the same time saying: "Like so many of the good things in this life it falls in the way of a pig and is immediately appropriated."

Here you begin another change by adding additional lines to the drawing, at the same time saying: "But if pigs are fond of good things, there are folks who are equally fond of pigs, especially roast pigs. Many people, however, like the Jews, will have nothing to do with it. The Buddhists and Brahmins of India not only hold it in greater abhorrence than do the Jews, but they look upon people who eat meat of any kind as we do upon cannibals. Indeed, when a hungry glutton attacks pork, we sometimes cannot help thinking of the Buddhists' idea on the subject." While you are saying something like this and anything else you can think of to the purpose, you are very busy with your chalk and charcoal.

After drawing in the different parts, as shown in accompanying illustrations, you move aside, allowing the meaning of the whole picture to be seen, at the same time saying: "But among all people none are fonder of roast pork than your Chinaman, who may almost be described as a machine constructed for converting rice and roast pork into the queer sort of human nature peculiar to the country he inhabits. Poor Charles Lamb says it took the Chinese 600 years to learn how to roast pork properly."

Tell the story, if you know it, or care to do so. It is to be found in Lamb's works; or if you do not, you can say it is an awful chestnut, and it is perhaps in honor of this story that the Chinese stuff their roast pork with chestnuts to this day. It is worthy of remark, however, that it has not taken the Japs (point out the little figure on the right charging down into the picture with a bayonet) as long to learn to roast the Chinese.

FERGUSON'S CAT.

The circle may be used to show the correspondence between different members of the animal kingdom. Many of the birds occupying places among their kind, answering to that borne by certain mammals among the beasts, have many peculiarities in common with the latter, and bear a noticeable external resemblance to them. Every one, for instance, who has seen a penguin and a seal must have noticed the very obvious likeness they bear to each other, and their habits and manners of life are as much alike as it is possible for those of bird and beast to be; but taking an instance of the kind nearer home, let us contemplate that contemplative fowl, the owl. He is quite and stealthy in his flight and motions, but makes night hideous with his serenades. He is a nocturnal prowler as well as a night howler. He dreads above all else dogs and water. He catches mice and small birds and fluffing out all his feathers, puts his back up like Ferguson's cat when he is angry. Did you ever hear how Ferguson's cat did put up his back? While talking you have with a few strokes changed the owl to a cat, and you now proceed to recite the following poem in dialect:

There was a man named Ferguson,
He lived on Market street,
He had a speckled Thomas cat
That couldn't well be beat.

We have a cat at home that has a mania for breaking things; not only dishes and glasses, but chairs and furniture generally. She also has an abnormal and tremendous appetite. I have known of her disposing of a whole leg of cold mutton at one sitting. She is very fond of pies, preserves and sweets of all kinds. I once caught her at her nefarious practices. Add a few lines to the cat and step aside, saying: "It is really wonderful how much our cat resembles our cook's cousin. The suggestion in the letter press here given is all the space that can be afforded, but the matter can be varied and enlarged upon to suit the lecture. Make few puns, and only those that seem to grow naturally out of what is said. Humorous verses are always welcome, especially if they are appropriate to the occasion, and well recited. Snappy little anecdotes, if they are quite brief, are appropriate; but it is the pictures, after all, that must be depended on to interest the spectators. Subjects for two sheets have been given as suggestions, the chalk-talkers themselves may add others and comment upon them.

J. CARTER BEARD.

A STUDY IN HATS.

COLLEGE COLORS.

Favorite Emblems of Various American Colleges.

Some rather pretty traditions are connected with the choice of colors by the different colleges. Each has the significance, which should be understood by the boy who pins a bow of Princetonian orange and black to the lapel of his coat, as well as by the damsel who fastens the Yale blue to the corsage of her dress.

For instance, in regard to the crimson which Harvard always displays so conspicuously as its color. It was years ago that it was adopted, the occasion being the annual boat race with Yale.

A young girl presented each member of the Harvard crew with a crimson silk handkerchief. Proudly the brilliant color was flaunted throughout the race. Never did Harvard's sons pull with such a long and steady stroke. Crimson was far in the lead and the men enthusiastically acknowledged allegiance to their winning banner and proclaimed that henceforth crimson should be their chosen color.

The orange, which shines so brightly over all that is Princetonian, was adopted long ago in honor of King William, the Third of the House of Nassau, and black was afterward added to form an effective background.

Yale college is said to have borrowed the dark blue from Oxford; recent years have fixed upon the violet as the precise Yale color and violets are favorite flowers with the sons of good old Eli, and always in evidence at their entertainments.

Blue ranks as a prime favorite, indeed it has been chosen by nearly a third of the colleges and universities in this country, either alone or in combination with other colors.

Among the numbers besides Yale are Washington and Lee universities; Middleburg college; Central college, Fayette, Mo.; Eureka college, and Trinity college, N. C.

Blue and Black—Jefferson's Medical college and Johns Hopkins university.

Blue and Old Gold—Allegheny, Delaware, Franklin and Trinity colleges, West Virginia university and the University of California.

Red and Blue—Antioch college.

Sky Blue and Bright Red—Hiram college and the University of Pennsylvania.

Blue and Silver—Nevada State university.

Blue and Maroon—St. Francis Xavier college.

Brown and Blue—Taft's college.

Maize and Blue—University of Michigan.

Orange and Blue—Pennsylvania college, University of Virginia, Columbian university of Washington.

Pink and Light Blue—Hampton institute, Davidson college, N. C.

Blue and Gray—Georgetown Polytechnic and Roanoke colleges.

Blue and Scarlet—Hanover college.

White is also a pet color with many colleges. Bowdoin college, for instance. In combination with lavender it is the emblem chosen by Adrian college and the Kansas Wesleyan university.

White, Blue and Yellow—Alabama Polytechnic college.

Purple and White—Amherst college, Bishops' college and Furnam university.

Blue and White—Barnard college and Columbia university.

Scarlet and White—Bethany and Illinois Wesleyan colleges.

Scarlet and White—Boston university.

Green, White and Blue—Cumberland university.

Red and White—Dickinson and McGill colleges and Miami university.

Orange and White—Geneva, Beaver Falls and William and Mary colleges.

Navy Blue and White—Hillsdale college.

Violet and White—Lincoln university and Nashotah house.

Purple has several devotees; it is the color of Cornell college of Iowa, and of Williams and Racine colleges.

Royal Purple and Gold—Alfred, Elmira and Knox colleges, Northwestern, Portland and Omaha universities, and so on through the whole list.

Cornelian and White—Cornell university. The bright red of the cornelian was at first the sole color; later, in honor of A. D. White, Cornell's first president, white was added to the cornelian red.

ELEANOR LEXINGTON.

PRATTLE OF THE YOUNGSTERS.

In wrath and tears Edith Howlett had gone to bed, relates Harper's Drawer. She had been tucked in once, given a drink twice, kissed good night three times and the lamp had been extinguished, but the spark of rebellion still burned in her childish soul.

"Mamma," she cried.

"Go to sleep, Edith," her mother said, sternly; "I shall not come in there again."

"I want a drink, mamma," Edith pleaded.

"You've had two drinks already. Now go to sleep."

There was a brief silence and then Edith tried again.

"Mamma, come and kiss me good night."

"You've been kissed good night, dear, and I shall not come in again, so go to sleep at once like a good girl."

There was another pause, while the lonely child cudgeled her little brain for a new expedient.

"Mamma," she cried at last, "please come in; I'm so hungry."

"You cannot have anything to eat tonight, and if I come in there again," the mother said, with rising choler, "it will be to give you a good spanking!"

There was a longer pause and just as it began to look as if the evening's battle were over the child's voice was heard again:

"Mamma," she pleaded, "I'm so lonely in here. Please come in and spank me!"

A society young man of this city, relates the Rochester Chronicle, was entertained at cards the other evening in a manner which he will not soon forget. During the evening some cake was passed, and the 6-year-old son of the poetess wished for a second piece.

"No, Johnny, you can't have any more," she said.

"I'll tell on you if you don't give me some," was the youngster's threat.

"Well, you can't have any more cake, anyhow. What is it you have to tell?"

"Oh, nothing much," answered the child, "except that my pants are made out of old curtains."

The company instantly collapsed.

"Oh, papa," said a little 6-year-old girl the other day, pointing to some workmen who were on the roof of a very high building, "see those little brownies up there."

"Those are not brownies," replied the matter-of-fact parent. "Those are big men like me, and they look little because they are up so high."

"If they were up twice as high would they be twice as small?" pursued the little one.

"Yes."

The juvenile brain was at work some seconds before reaching a logical conclusion.

"They won't amount to much when they get 'way up to heaven, will they, papa?"

Harper's Drawer: Auntie—Ethel, you must not be so impatient. Remember that Rome was not made in a day.

Ethel—Why, auntie, how can you say such a thing? It is wicked, really wicked. You know that God made all the world in six days, and He certainly did not spend more than five minutes on Rome!

A SLEEPY-BY SONG.

Eugene Field.

The mill goes toiling slowly round,
With steady and solem creek.
And my little one hears in the kindly sound
The voice of the old mill speak;
While round and round those big white wings
Grimly and ghostlike creep,
My little one hears that the old mill sings:
"Sleep, little tulip, sleep."

Shaggy old Fritz, in slumber sound,
Moans of the stony mart;
Tomorrow how proudly he'll trot you around
Hitched to our new milk cart!
And you shall help me blanket the kine,
And fold the gentle sheep,
And set the herring a-soak in brine;
But, now, little tulip, sleep.

A Dream-One comes to button the eyes
That wearily droop and blink.
While the old mill buffets the frowning skies
And scolds at the stars that wink.
Over your face the misty wings
Of that beautiful Dream-One sweep,
And, rocking your cradle, she softly sings:
"Sleep, little tulip, sleep."

AN AMERICAN GIRL.

G. E. Montgomery in Harper's Weekly.

With strong, clear eyes and dauntless face,
With firm-poised figure free and bold,
Mettle in mind for any race,
Proud of her right to dare and hold,
I watch her on her joyous way—
This girl with an imperial sway.

Gentle? Ah! yes, I've seen her so,
Gentle as any mating dove,
And full of heart and tender glow
That brightens to a siren's love,
While all her blossoming soul is rife
With the sweet fellowship of life.

Yet dignity and will are hers,
And fearlessness is bitter hours;
What wonder that her worshipers
Swear by her words, her smiles, her flowers?
Yet, I who fell her radiant youth,
Swear by her virtue and her truth.

An Affidavit.

This is to certify that on May 11th, I walked to Melick's drug store on a pair of crutches and bought a bottle of Chamberlain's Pain Balm for inflammatory rheumatism, which had crippled me up. After using three bottles I am completely cured. I can cheerfully recommend it—Charles H. Wetzel, Sunbury, Pa.

Sworn and subscribed to before me on August 10, 1894, Walter Shipman, J. P. For sale at 50 cents per bottle by druggists.

THE FIELD OF ELECTRICITY

Important Experiments to Be Made at the New York Exposition.

TESLA TESTS ELECTRICAL OSCILLATION

Brooklyn Man Survives a Shock of 3,500 Volts—Electricity in Dentistry—Developments in Other Directions.

The public will have an opportunity to witness the new method of photographing through solids at the electrical exposition to be held in New York City in May in connection with the nineteenth convention of the National Electric Light association. Mr. Edison has generously offered to send to the exposition his most powerful and improved apparatus for making shadowgraphs and his own corps of laboratory assistants to operate the same. Mr. Edison has succeeded in making a picture through eight inches of yellow pine, and he anticipates no trouble whatever in making instantaneous shadowgraphs.

Mr. Edison will also send to the exposition his large collection of experimental apparatus and designs pertaining to his numerous inventions, much of which has never yet been shown to the public.

Nicola Tesla has written an interesting letter to the Detroit Free Press in answer to a question concerning his experiments with electrical oscillation. It is as follows:

"During the past few weeks I have received so many letters concerning the same subject that it was entirely beyond my power to answer all of them individually. In view of this I hope that I shall be excused for the delay, which I much regret, in acknowledging the receipt, and also for addressing this general communication in answer to all inquiries.

"The many pressing demands which have been made upon me in consequence of exaggerated statements of the journals have painfully impressed me with the fact that there are a great many sufferers, and furthermore that nothing finds a more powerful echo than a promise held out to improve the condition of the unfortunate ones.

"The members of the medical fraternity are naturally more deeply interested in the task of relieving the suffering from their pain, and, as might be expected, a great many communications have been addressed to me by physicians. To these chiefly this brief statement of the actual facts is addressed.

"Some journals have confounded the physiological effects of electrical oscillations with those of mechanical vibrations, this being probably due to the circumstance that a few years ago I brought to the attention of scientific men some novel methods and apparatus for the production of electrical oscillations which, I learn, are now largely used in some modification or other in electrotherapeutic treatment and otherwise. To dispel this erroneous idea I wish to state that the effects of purely mechanical vibrations which I have more recently observed have nothing to do with the former.

"Mechanical vibrations have often been employed locally with pronounced results in the treatment of diseases, but it seems that the effects I refer to have either not been noted at all, or, if so, only in a small degree, evidently because of the insufficiency of the means which have eventually been employed in the investigations.

MECHANICAL VIBRATIONS.

"While experimenting with a novel contrivance, constituting in its simplest form a vibrating mechanical system, in which from the nature of the construction the applied force is always in resonance with the natural period, I frequently exposed my body to continued mechanical vibrations. As the elastic force can be made as large as desired and the applied force need be very small, great weight, half a dozen persons, for instance, may be vibrated with great rapidity by a comparatively small apparatus.

"I observed that such intense mechanical vibrations produce remarkable physiological effects. They affect powerfully the condition of the stomach, undoubtedly promoting the process of digestion and relieving the feeling of distress often experienced in consequence of the imperfect function of the organs concerned in the process of digestion. They have a strong influence upon the liver, causing it to discharge freely, similarly to an application of a cathartic. They also seem to affect the glandular system, notably in the limbs; also the kidneys and bladder, and more or less influence the whole body. When applied for a longer period they produce a feeling of immense fatigue, so that a profound sleep is induced.

"The excessive tiring of the body is generally accompanied by nervous relaxation, but there seems to be, besides, a specific action on the nerves.

"These observations, though incomplete, are, in my own limited judgment, nevertheless positive and unmistakable, and in view of this and of the importance of further investigation of the subject by competent men I prepared about a year ago a machine with suitable adjustments for varying the frequency and amplitude of the vibrations, intending to give it to some medical faculty for investigation. This machine, together with other apparatus, was unfortunately destroyed by a fire a year ago, but will be reconstructed as soon as possible.

"In making the above statements I wish to disconnect myself with the extraordinary opinions expressed in some journals, which I have never authorized, and which, though they may have been made with good intent, cannot fail to be hurtful by giving rise to visionary expectations. Yours very truly,

"N. TESLA."

A TREMENDOUS SHOCK.

How many volts can the human body stand without instant death is a question that is still keeping men of science who have made electricity a life study guessing. To witness a man undergo a shock of 3,500 volts without any serious injury to himself is, indeed, a novelty. Such a thing occurred in the laboratory of Dr. Kolle, at No. 263 Prospect avenue, Brooklyn, last week, and those present thought they would pick up a corpse from the floor.

The doctor at present is experimenting with X rays, and employs two twenty kilowat Edison dynamos, which are in charge of Ira Partelow, an electrical engineer residing at No. 310 Fourteenth street, Brooklyn. Mr. Partelow is an expert in his business. While adjusting the spark coil, which is supposed to stand a 4,000 voltage, to the lamp the doctor was using, Partelow accidentally placed his left hand on a cast-iron frame which is fastened around the working table, thereby making a short ground circuit. He was lifted off his feet about the length of himself and fell insensible to the floor. He remained unconscious for several minutes, and when he came to he apparently suffered no injury.

When asked to describe the sensations he experienced Partelow said:

"It is an experience that very few people would care to go through. If I thought it would benefit science any I stand ready to go before any body of electrical experts and take the same number of volts to satisfy them that the alternations are so rapid that it seems to have no power to cause muscular contraction."

Dr. Kolle laughed and remarked: "That man almost eats electricity. He thinks nothing of standing a shock of 1,000 volts, and will play with the fluid as you and I would at a game of checkers. You will understand that a man with hard muscles who is in good bodily health, might, when arising in the morning, be able to stand a shock of 2,500 volts. After working a few hours his muscles become flabby and his body gets into a state of perspiration. In that condition half the voltage he may have stood in the morning would kill at night. Mr. Partelow is a study, and we may find the secret through him later on."

ELECTRICITY IN DENTISTRY.

Within the last twelve months there has been a remarkable turning to electricity on the part of the dentists of this country. Probably one of the most important elements in this movement was the introduction of a method of obtunding or anaesthetizing sensitive dentine, by an electrical process. This process, which is termed cataphoresis, consists of a driving in of the anaesthetic drug to be administered, by means of an electric current, has opened the way to a real "painless dentistry." A piece of cotton, saturated with cocaine or other anaesthetic, is placed in a tooth which it is desired to remove or to operate on in any way. On either side of the tooth, or on one side of the tooth and outside of the cheek are electrodes, which are connected to an "adapter," a newly designed machine for administering electric current in very minute quantities. Formerly, the difficulty was to give the current to a sensitive patient without shocking. Now, the current can be given so gradually that the patient is hardly conscious of it, and in from four to five minutes the tooth to be operated upon is so benumbed that it can be excavated, filled, or even taken out without the slightest pain to the patient. This epoch-making and beneficent discovery has proved such a source of stimulation to the dental profession that quite a number of beautiful adaptations of electricity to dentistry have recently appeared. One of these is the use of the sinusoidal current, which, unlike the current ordinarily used, has soft, wave-like impulses, which are restful and refreshing. Dentists, find this current a great help to them, as most patients who are under its soothing influence will face any ordinary operation with but little fear or nervousness. Severe hemorrhage of the gums after an extraction is now stopped by the application of the negative pole of a galvanic current, which causes instant coagulation. New developments in the implantation and transplantation of teeth by electricity are now being perfected by some progressive members of the profession, while others are devoting themselves to bringing out the possibilities of the translumination of soft tissue by means of the new "etheric light." The fact has never before now been made public that some time ago Mr. Tesla received a letter from a German physician, who stated that not only had he killed the bacilli of tuberculosis by subjecting them to the "Tesla glow" in his laboratory, but had by the same agency actually arrested tubercular developments in the human subject. This letter, unfortunately, was burnt up in the fire at the laboratory, and Mr. Tesla has never been able to find the writer of it. One of the most baneful and hitherto hopeless diseases with which the dentist has to cope is "pyorrhoea alveolaris," in which the teeth gradually loosen in the gums and at last drop out. If etheric light will kill one microbe it will probably kill others, and dentists are now experimenting in the use of higher candle powers and looking forward hopefully to being able to purify and sterilize the cavity of the mouth by light alone, and to sweep out with a brush of glowing phosphorescence every noxious germ that lurks within it. The Roentgen rays, too, have naturally opened a new field. Cathodic pictures are now being taken of the teeth of patients. As the rays pass more easily through bone than through metal, every bit of old stopping in any part of the tooth is made manifest for the guidance of the operator who has a new patient. The Roentgen rays are also to be passed inside the mouth, with a plate on the cheek, and thus ostitis, deformations, pus deposits will be shown and the whole of the hideous pathology of the teeth and gums will be revealed.

THE UNDERGROUND TROLLEY.

The underground electric trolley road, operated on Ninth street, in Washington, by the Metropolitan Railroad company, which was opened last July, has proved so satisfactory that thirteen and one-half miles of road on a more important street are being equipped with the same system. The track is much like that for cable roads. There is a concrete conduit between the rails, in which are placed conductors having the same function as the trolley wire of the overhead line construction. A plate having shoes which press lightly against the conductors projects from the car into the conduit and serves the same purpose as a trolley pole and wheel in the usual form of electric car. In such a road it is, of course, particularly necessary to keep the insulation of the conductors as perfect as possible, and for this purpose some special apparatus has been set up in the power house, which otherwise contains only common types of steam and electric machinery. At the present time there are twenty-six trains in daily service on the line, each train consisting of a motor car and a trailer. The operating expenses during the month of November amounted to 4½ cents per car mile, which sum includes salaries, wages, repairs, power, maintenance of way, lighting, repairs to building and a small amount for sundires, but excludes taxes, accidents and insurance. When the road was started up there were a number of interruptions of service, such as are common to all new roads, but there has been no accident to diminish the faith of the engineers in the serviceability of the system. It has not been severely tried by snow yet, but it has been shown repeatedly that the operation of the road does not have to be suspended by the complete flooding of comparatively long sections of the conduit. It was believed formerly that such floods would stop the running of the cars entirely, but they have been robbed of their terror by the apparatus in the power house. No serious accident thus far has occurred to the burning out of some special forms of insulators; the design of these appliances has been improved, and it is believed that no further trouble will be caused by them.

MEDICAL APPLICATIONS.

A case of phonic spasm, or "stammering of the chords," has been successfully treated by electricity in England. The patient had suffered from the complaint a year. It had come on gradually and was at first only apparent when he spoke publicly under exciting or nervous conditions. After a while it occurred more frequently and more persistently, till at last any duties involving public speaking became most irksome. In ordinary conversation it was only occasionally noticeable, while singing could be performed without inconvenience. The patient described the effort to speak as being most distressing, as, though articulation proceeded, he was unable to produce any sound for an interval varying from one to two minutes. A careful examination with the laryngoscope revealed no abnormality of any kind and the general health appeared perfect. After every treatment that was thought likely to be efficacious had been tried the aid of electricity was resorted to. The constant current was used for from fifteen to twenty minutes every day for a fortnight, after which progress was so favorable that the treatment was given only three times weekly. Sponge electrodes were placed first on either side of the larynx, and later in each sitting the anodal electrode was held over the larynx and the cathodal sponge on the back of the neck. The strength of the current used varied from two to three milliamperes and the case was treated for nearly six weeks, improvement becoming more and more marked. It ended in the disappearance of the patient's malady. The physician who conducted the treatment says that in neuralgic cases he frequently obtains the best results from the constant current, the drawback to which—the tendency to irritation of the skin—he obviates by changing the position of the electrode or reducing the current.

PROPOSAL OF THE FUTURE.

Munsey's Magazine.

When she proposed my heart beat fast;
My blushes came, with eyes downcast
I listened while she told her love,
While earth below and heaven above
Had seemed to meet at last, at last!

She begged me not her hope to blast,
And showed the wealth she had amassed
Was for us twain more than enough,
When she proposed.

I could not turn from love so vast,
When I was as an angel classed,
And caught and kissed and called her "dove,"
So while I thrilled with joy thereof,
A trembling "yes" from my lips passed,
When she proposed.

Washington Irving's "History of New York" was published under the name of "Diedrich Knickerbocker." For years many persons supposed that this was the real name of the author, and even now this mistake is occasionally made by persons in inquiring for the book.

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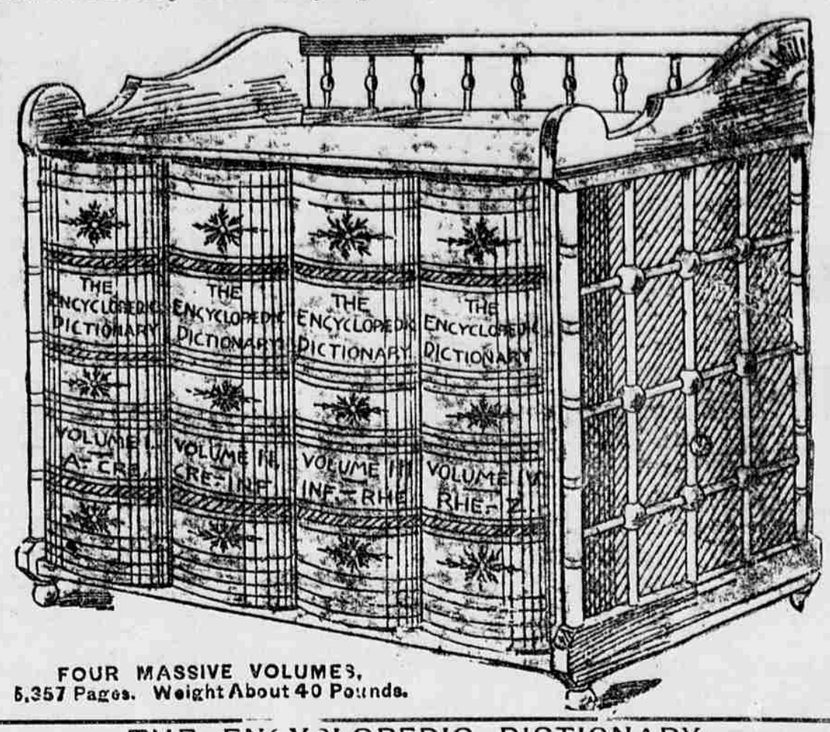

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