HIS STRATAGEM WAS COSTLY

It Was Designed to Break Him of Cigarette Habit, but Only Left Him Poorer.

Mac Keene is described by Mrs. Meyer, our landlady, as being a "studium" and "poor as a church mouse." The first appellation is true—he is a student of engineering; the simile is rather baffling, but that he is poor I fear is true also. Mac Keene is a philosopher. Many men of little business, I observe, are philosophers. I became acquainted with Mac Keene when I invited him in one evening to share the warmth from my fire—he having none—and he proved a treasure to me during many long winter evenings. I offered him a smoke, and was instantly attracted to the man by his story of the cunning stratagem he employed to break himself of the habit of smoking to excess.

Mac Keene had devised sundry and divers tricks to accomplish his end, all without success; the latest maneuver against the enemy consisted in his buying the most expensive cigarettes he could find, with the idea in mind that the wanton and profligate extravagance of smoking them up too rapidly would materially reduce his consumption of the weed; then, if the campaign were successful, he would not increase his expense in the long run, but when the habit was more under control he could reduce his expense even below the present by returning to cheaper brands. Such ingenuity as this was deserving of reward, but alas! it failed from the start, and left Mac Keene a poorer and a no more temperate man.—New York Evening Post.

SHOULD BE TAUGHT TO EAT

School Girls and Boys Need Lessons in Mastication for Their Stomachs' Sake.

Nor is it enough that school girls and boys should be taught to cook; they should also learn how to eat. Few learn this at home. They are usually taught to eat silently, and not to take soup off the end of a spoon or to put the knife into the mouth; but the more important art of mastication is ignored. It is a branch of physiology and should be taught by experts in the schools.

If it were, the next generation of mothers and fathers would know that it is a crime to let their children swallow food, particularly milk and cereals and vegetables, before it has been kept for a while in the mouth to be mixed with saliva and made digestible.

If it were indelibly impressed on school children that gluttony is a vice which defeats its own end, that by eating slowly much more pleasure can be got from one mouthful than by bolting a whole plateful, that this pleasure can be vastly increased by consciously exhaling through the nose while eating, and that those who eat in this way will escape the pangs of indigestion—if these truths were impressed on every child mind, two-thirds of the minor ills of mankind would disappear in two generations, and most of the major maladies also; for the stomach is the source of most diseases. As Thomas Walker wrote nearly a century ago, "Content the stomach and the stomach will content you."

The "Fruits" of Ambition.

"If you are ambitious and want to get on in life, don't wait for your opportunity—make it."

So counselled Mr. Kalestick to young Kabbage, whom he had just [illegible]ted to the management of a [illegible]cery stall.

[illegible]day the youth pondered the [illegible]d he still remembered it [illegible] suddenly caught an item [illegible] sporting columns of his favorite paper: "Clodville Football club requires dates for December."

Two minutes later Kabbage was busy with pen, ink and paper, and in ten more minutes he was proudly conning the following note to the Clodville secretary:

"Dear Sir—I beg to inform you that we have a choice lot of dates in stock. Inclose one as a sample, and will be pleased to supply any quantity at twopence a pound, or four pounds for sevenpence ha-penny!"—Ideas.

Pulse Watch.

Among the ingenious devices of the physician may be mentioned a watch, constructed on the "stop" principle, whereby the number of pulse beats per minute may be indicated. A push-button is pressed at the beginning of the count and again at the twentieth pulsation, when the number of beats per minute is shown on a dial without the necessity of calculation. Still another push on the button brings the counter back to the starting point. In the ordinary method of taking the pulse the observer is obliged to do two things at the same time—count the beats and keep his eye on his watch. With the pulse watch only one operation is necessary, the counting of the population up to 20, when the push button is pressed.

He Was on Oath.

"Now, Frank, remember you are on oath. Don't testify to what you can't swear to. Did you really see the prisoner bite the other man's ear off?"

"Well, your Honor, I see de prisoner go up to de odder man an' open his mouf, and place it kinder 'round his ear, an' when he come away de odder gentleman didn't hab no ear. But I wouldn't wane to swear de pris'ner actually done bite dat ear off!"

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BOOK TREASURES OF PAST

Immense Sums Invested in the Copying, Illuminating and Binding of Them by Hand.

The cost of materials and copying, illuminating and binding books by hand made them the treasures of rich collectors and the pride of museums, palaces and convent libraries. Immense sums were invested in them, and a rare or unusually original copy became a gem in value, as well as sentiment. Cicero, whose magnificent library was almost as famous as its owner's eloquence, declared that he had seen a parchment roll containing the entire "Iliad" of Homer, which was compressed between the shells of a nut, a work of extreme skill and patience, which a French savant, M. Huet, has since demonstrated was within the range of possibility. Many such tours de force are said to have demonstrated the skill of ancient copyists and their economy parchment and vellum.

In the eighth century it was with great difficulty that a monk of the rich Abbey of Saint Gall, France, gathered piece by piece sufficient parchment to begin the transcription of a rare work. Later, in 1120, a monk employed to prepare a copy of the Bible could not find in all England sufficient parchment for the purpose.—National Magazine.

CHILD IS A GREAT THINKER

Juvenile Logic Displayed by the Little Girl Who Wanted a Baby Brother.

Those who call children thoughtless merely prove that they do not know the child nature. Children, as a matter of fact, are great thinkers. They only seem lacking in thought to such of their elders as fail to comprehend that the childish mind works differently from that of the adult. Juvenile logic, for instance, frequently is faulty judged by grown-up standards, but just as frequently it is sound and incontrovertible from its own point of view.

A thoughtful little girl, for example, recently put to rout her mother, a young widow, by a searching fire of questions founded on the request:

"Oh, mamma, won't you buy me a baby brother?"

"You won't understand why I can't do that for you," the mother finally remarked, driven into a corner, "but little girls who have no fathers cannot have little brothers and sisters."

"Well, it seems very unreasonable," said the child, after a few moments of reflection. "Little girls without fathers are pretty sure to be lonely, and that seems all the more reason why they should have other children in the family, doesn't it?"

Rules for Talking Weather.

The English are as insensible to their weather as they are to a vast number of other things. They talk of nothing else; but there is yet an artificiality about the conversation that denotes it to be a standardized topic. If genuine feeling and emotion are expressed regarding it by an outsider they become suddenly touchy, and what seemed neutral ground on which differing temperaments could meet with perfect amiability is seen to be no better than a bank of bristling thistles. It is here that the rules of the weather game are seen more clearly. You may talk of it to the exclusion of everything else; you are regarded as difficult if you have an aversion to a certain amount of speech about it, and yet there are certain things you must never say about it, or, if you do, you must say them as though in spite of everything you would not exchange it for any other weather in the world, and you would defend it with your last breath.—Florida Pier in Harper's Weekly.

Pole's Passion for Gambling.

The trial at Crakow of a Polish advocate named Steinfeld who has come to grief through gambling has been the occasion of some curious revelations about the hold which this vice has on business men in Austrian Poland.

Dr. Steinfeld's wife in her endeavor to keep her husband out of temptation tried the plan of never leaving him out of her sight even when he went to his office. The lawyer then made a practice of going to bed early and rising at 4 in the morning before his wife was awake in order to hurry off to the so-called "Monte Carlo" at Crakow, which he would find still in full swing at that hour. When staying at hotels during the summer he would arrange meetings with other card players in the bathroom and play there for hours, while he told his wife that he was taking a cold water cure.

In Sox Signo Vinces.

Judge—Jones answered an advertisement and sent a dollar for four pairs of socks. When they arrived, Jones looked them over and then wrote the advertiser:

"Socks received. The patterns are vile. I wouldn't be seen on the street with them on."

Back came the answer:

"What are you kicking about? Didn't we guarantee that you wouldn't wear them out?"

Useless.

"Your wife has filed suit for divorce. Are you going to contest it?"

"No. It wouldn't do me any good. I've lost every argument I ever had with her."—Detroit Free Press.

Difference of Decree.

"What is the difference," asked a dear and trusting sister of Deacon Philander of Osborne the other day, "between the probate judge and the district judge?"

"Well," replied old Philander, with one of his rare smiles, "you tell the probate judge you can't live without her and you tell the district judge you can't live with her."—New Orleans Picayune.

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Not a Bad Precedent.

Some of the beauties of ancient Rome had marble busts sculptured of themselves, on which were placed different wigs corresponding to the changes of style and coloring. If modern woman followed suit there would be fewer atrocious coiffures.

A mirror should reveal unbecomingness, but it does not seem to do so. A bust of oneself, bedecked with chignon, psyche, Greek coils or the present daguerreotype disfigurations, could not fail to be a convincing proof of ourselves as others see us.

The greatest beauty cannot afford to trifle with her hairdressing. It is only the plain woman who boldly defies looks to be in the style.

Linguistic Donnybrook.

"I observe that the natives of Terre Haute are indulging in a controversy over the proper pronunciation of the name of their fair city," said the commercial traveler. "Some insist upon the good old home flavored 'Terry Hut,' while the more cultured, affecting horror at such provincialism, declare it should be 'Tear-ah-Hote,' and still others prefer 'Tear-Hautay.'

"I see oportunities for extensive trouble in this discussion. What if other places which have suffered by rank Anglicizing in their names should follow the example of the Indiana town? The result would be a linguistic Donnybrook. Consider the possibilities of these common methods of pronunciation.

"Baton Rouge, Batten Ruge; Bellefountaine, Belfountain; Boise, Boys; Charleroi, Charley Roy; Des Moines, Dee-moyne; Detroit, Dee-troite; Dubois, Duboys; Fond du Lac, Fondelak; Gallipolis, Gal-police; Montpelier, Montpeelier, and Prairie du Chien, Prairie doo-Sheen."

Ducks and Geese.

With such fast growing birds as goslings and ducklings, especially if these latter be of the large breed, care must be had that they get enough bone and muscle building material in their rations, otherwise they will suffer from leg weakness, says a writer in an exchange. I very much favor the addition of lime to water for live stock of any kind. It keeps tanks clean and sweet, furnishes bone build-

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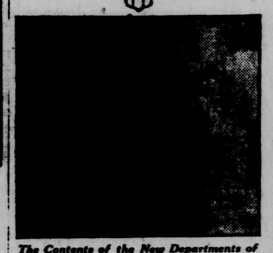

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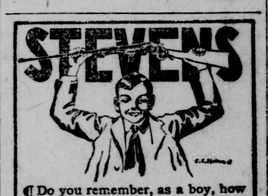

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