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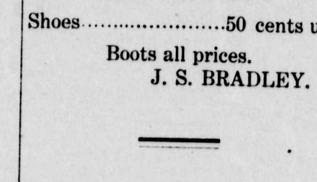
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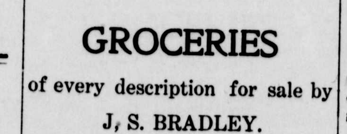
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"DOUSING" RODS.

Art of Divination in the Bowels of the Earth Explained.

There is undoubtedly a practical art of discovering springs. Indians or frontiersmen can find water in the desert when a "tenderfoot" cannot. Mexicans and experienced prospectors can similarly find ore. These arts consist mainly in the recognition of superficial signs which escape the ordinary observer.

It is not necessary that the operator should consciously note these signs separately and reason upon them. No doubt he frequently does so, though he may not give away the secret of his method to others. But in many instances he recognizes by association and memory the presence of a group of indications, great or small, which he has repeatedly found to attend springs or ore deposits. This skill, due to habit, is often almost unerring for a given limited district, but under new conditions it breaks down. Old miners from California or Australia have often made in other regions the most foolish and hopeless attempts to find gold because they thought this or that place "looked just like" some other place in which they had mixed successfully.

Apart from the magnetic minerals there is no proof that ore deposits exhibit their presence and nature by any attraction or other active force. With regard to water, however, there may be an action affecting the temperature and moisture of the overlying surface. Even here, however, it seems more likely that such effects are manifested visibly to a close observer rather than by direct affection of his nervous or muscular system. The favorite fields for water diviners are regions in which water is abundant, but not gathered upon given horizons of impermeable strata underlying porous rocks.—Cassier's Magazine.

ONE CAUSE OF ILLNESS.

Ridiculous Fads That Spring From a Smattering of Knowledge.

A famous physician upon being asked recently what is the chief cause of ill health replied: Thinking and talking about it all the time. This ceaseless introspection in which so many of the rising generation of nervous folk indulge is certainly wearing them out. When they are not worrying as to whether they sleep too much or too little they are fidgeting over the amount of food they take or the quantity of exercise necessary for health. In short, they never give themselves a moment's peace. Our grandfathers did not concern themselves with these questions. They ate, drank, slept, as nature prompted them. Undoubtedly they were healthier in mind and body for their sublime indifference, and if we asked ourselves fewer questions we should have less time to analyze or imagine ailments.

That medical science has made remarkable progress in the last few decades cannot be denied. The fault for some present day undesirable conditions lies not with the doctor, but with the patient. There has been too great a tendency on the part of the laity to acquire a smattering of medical knowledge through the reading of so called "health" magazines and pamphlets and to put into practice on their own account that "little knowledge," which, it cannot be denied, is a "dangerous thing." The following of some most ridiculous fads along the lines of eating, drinking, sleeping and exercise has assisted in swelling the mortality statistics. Our grandfathers would hold up their hands in horror at many of the foolish things we do in the name of "health." A little more of the comfortable nonchalance of our healthy ancestors would do no harm to the rising generation.—Housekeeper.

Half or Two-thirds.

The bishop of Kensington at a prize distribution recently told of a case in which a boy got the better of the examiner. "Suppose," asked the examiner, "I offered you half an orange and two-thirds of an orange, which piece would you take?" "Please, sir, the half!" shouted the lad. "Stupid boy!" exclaimed the examiner. "I shall put a black mark against you for that." Subsequently a deputation of scholars waited on the examiner to convince him that he was wrong. "Why am I wrong?" he inquired. "Because Tommy does not like oranges at all," was the conclusive answer.—St. James' Gazette.

Newspapers.

It has been calculated that, taking the population of the whole world, there is one newspaper to every 82,600 persons. The United States supports 12,500 newspapers, of which 1,000 are dailies, these being round figures. Germany has 5,500 journals, of which 800 are daily. England takes second place in the European record with 3,000 newspapers, of which 809 are daily. France has nearly the same number.

Excuse Made Easy.

"Why do so many actors insist on playing Shakespeare?"

"I suspect," answered Mr. Stormington Barnes, "that it's because they can take all the credit if they succeed and blame the public's lack of literary taste if they fail."—Washington Star.

Not Up to Him.

"Yes," said the fireman, "there were two men in the building playing chess and one of them is in the ruins yet. We couldn't get him out."

"Why, how was that?"

"He insisted that it wasn't his move."

Starting a Row.

Grayce—They tell me she's not a bit pretty. What does she look like, anyhow? Gladys—Well, my dear, she resembles you as much as anybody I know.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

DINING IN JAPAN.

If It's Your First Japanese Meal You Will Have a Trying Time.

If it's your first Japanese dinner you're having a dreadfully hard time. In the first place you must sit on the floor, for they don't have any chairs in Japan. You kneel down, and then you turn your toes in till one laps over the other, and then you sit back between your heels. At first you are quite proud to find how well you do it, and you don't think it's so very uncomfortable. But pretty soon you get cramped, and your legs ache as if you had a toothache in them. You don't say anything, because you think that if the Japanese can sit this way all day long you ought to be able to stand it a few minutes. Finally both your feet go to sleep, and then you can't bear it a moment longer, and you have to get up and stamp around the room to drive the prickles out of your feet, and all the little dancing girls giggle at you. This isn't your only trouble either. All you have to eat with is a pair of chopsticks, and you're in terror lest you spill something on the dainty white matting floor. Now the floor of a Japanese house isn't just the floor; it's the chairs and sofas and tables and beds as well. At home it would be mortifying enough to go out to dinner and spill something on the floor, but in Japan, where people sit and sleep on the floor, it seems even worse. So you are unhappy till your little nesan (who is the waitress and almost as prettily dressed as the dancing girls, but not quite) comes laughing to your aid and shows you how to hold your chopsticks. After that you manage nicely the rice and the omelet, but the fish and the chicken you can't contrive to shred apart without dropping your chopsticks all the time. So between dances the maiko—the little girls about twelve years old—kneel down beside you and help you. They can't keep from giggling at your awkwardness, but you don't mind; you just giggle, too, and everybody giggles and has a lovely time.—St. Nicholas.

LOST IN THE AIR.

Birds at Times Get Confused and Lose Their Bearings.

Boys are frequently lost in the woods, and it is a singular fact that birds are sometimes lost in the air. This might seem strange to almost any one, but the average man is a superficial observer of little things.

In the far north, and particularly along the ocean coasts, birds are frequently storm driven and lose their bearings, so that many of them are lost at sea. They keep floating in the air, aimlessly striving to live until exhaustion compels them to drop into the angry waves, which engulf them.

There is a well authenticated case on record of an ocean liner bringing into New York on a winter's day a large white owl which had dropped to one of the forward spars in an exhausted condition more than 800 miles off the coast of Newfoundland. It was nearly dead from cold and hunger and almost too weak to eat anything. It had become much emaciated and trembled in its distress when it tried to swallow the first morsel of meat which was placed within its beak. The captain and sailors were all interested in it, and under their nourishing care it slowly recovered and became entirely well and healthy and strong. It willingly remained with the ship afterward.

It was evidently a land bird which had been blown off from the coast of Newfoundland by strong west winds, had become lost, merely drifted before the gales, kept out of the water, almost starved to death and made its last intelligent effort to reach the ship and there fell in exhaustion and collapse.

Old sailors narrate many other instances of finding birds that have been lost in the air.—St. Louis Republic.

No Paupers In Japan.

With all our high wages and boasted civilization the fact remains that you will see more wretchedly poor in any of our great cities in a day than you will see in Japan in a lifetime. In other words, you will see no destitution in Japan. Though some are very poor, yet all seem to be well fed, clothed and housed and are invariably cheerful and, what is more surprising, invariably clean. There are no paupers in Japan and therefore no workhouses or poorhouses, though there are many hospitals where the sick are healed gratuitously. Practically every one can earn a living. Would that we could say the same!—Pall Mall Gazette.

Dust and Consumption.

Dusty work seems to be responsible for consumption to a marked degree. In 2,161 cases of consumption treated at the sixty institutions of the German empire 1,095 patients had been employed in a dusty environment. The kind of dust was not stated in 431 cases; in 182 cases it was metal dust; in 129, stone, coal or glass dust; in 116, wood dust; in 111, wool dust, and in 126, various other kinds of dust.

He Had Use For It.

"Now, sir," began the agent, "this book"—

"Ain't got no use for it!" snapped the busy merchant.

"Oh, yes, you have! Look at the title, 'The Art of Conversation and Correct Speech.'"—Philadelphia Ledger.

Precedence.

"Don't you know, sir, that it is impolite to swear before a lady?" The Irishman looked dazed for a moment and then replied: "Sure, mum, I beg yer pardon. But Oi didn't know ye wanted to shwear first."

While petty thieves are hanged, people take off their hats to great ones.—Old German Proverb.



A mother's love starts a man or woman on the right path. The right remedy at the right time fits a mother for the ordeal. Motherhood is often looked forward to with feelings of great dread by most women. At such a time when she is nervous, dyspeptic, irritable and in need of a uterine tonic—something which will calm the nervous system through the special organs, and a strength builder, she will find Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription just what is needed. Here is a medicine that has stood the test of a third of a century with approval, in that time it has sold more largely than any other remedy put up specially for woman's weaknesses. It is guaranteed by the proprietors not to contain a particle of alcohol—which could only do harm to a sensitive system.

The World's Dispensary Medical Association, of Buffalo, N. Y., proprietors of Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription, offer a $500 reward for women who cannot be cured of Leucorrhea, Female Weakness, Prolapsus, or Falling of Womb. All they ask is a fair and reasonable trial of their means of cure.

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