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A MIND READER.

His Analysis of the Character of the New Boarder.

"I can tell you all about yourself," said the boarding house Sherlock Holmes to the new boarder after the landlady had introduced them across the roast mutton.

The boarding house sleuth prided himself on his keen observation of human nature and his ability to make deductions therefrom.

"You're a mind reader, are you?" asked the new boarder.

"To a great extent," replied the sleuth. "For instance, I never met you before, but I know you are from the east."

"Good guess," said the new boarder.

"You come from a family of extraordinary ability and good antecedents, although none of your family possesses great wealth."

The new boarder smiled his approval.

"A peculiar thing about you is that your beard is of remarkable toughness. Your face, on the contrary, is very tender, so that you experience great difficulty in shaving. Few razors are made of fine enough steel to overcome the texture of your beard."

"True again," said the new boarder, "although I don't know how you guessed it, but my beard is the toughest I have ever encountered."

"Also you are a rough and ready humorist, able to snap out a funny remark in almost any situation that can arise."

"Say," said the new boarder, "you make me feel uncanny. How do you do this stunt of character reading?"

The boarding house Sherlock smiled broadly and speared a "French fried."

"It's this way," he elucidated. "Simple enough when explained, like all really great detective work. I knew you were from the east by the way you worked the salt shaker. Westerners pick up the salt shaker with the right hand and plunge it at the food. Easterners seize the shaker with the left hand, invert it and tap it briskly on the bottom with the right hand."

The boarders gasped in admiration of the sleuth's genius.

"I knew you came from a remarkable family because that's the kind we all come from. I concluded your relatives were not overburdened with wealth or you wouldn't be living in this hashery. I knew your whiskers were remarkably tough, for every man living thinks he has the toughest whiskers going. The barber tells him so. Somehow or other a man takes it as a high compliment to be told his whiskers are the toughest the barber ever tackled. Then it helps reconcile the victim to having his face torn off.

"Lastly, I knew you were a humorist on the same broad and general principle. Every American thinks he is a second Bill Nye with additions and improvements. The small boy at the ball game yells 'Get a basket!' when a ball is fumbled. When the street car conductor says, 'Plenty of room up in front!' half a dozen wits reply, 'Plenty of room, but it's all taken.' When you find a citizen of this great republic who doesn't think he's a jolly wag, you've discovered something."

The new boarder was silent in mental cogitation.—Kansas City Star.

Crocodile Worship.

It was in the very ferocity and terribleness of the crocodile that the Egyptians found the inspiration for the cult they devoted to him. They were mightily afraid of the monster and therefore instituted in his honor the supposedly appeasing worship as though they had said, "Be good enough not to eat us and we will build temples to you and bow down to you as to a god." The students of early history have clearly proved that the earliest worships of every sort took the shape of offerings intended to appease the elementary forces of nature, or the real or imaginary beings of whom men were afraid.—New York American.

Curious Russian Law.

Russia has a law which to outside observers seems almost to put a premium on theft by which stolen goods become the property of the thief if he can prove that he has had possession of them for over five years. In the thieves' market—which is, of course, licensed by the police—goods that admittedly have been stolen (more than five years before) are openly offered for sale, and the place is a veritable Mecca for the light fingered gentry and their enterprising friends, as also for the more honest members of society, who secure many a tempting bargain.

Constant Squeezing.

"Now, Algernon," said Miss Fussanfeather, as she was tightly held in the embrace of her fiance, "they tell me that men get tired of squeezing after they are married. Will you promise me not to give it up after we are man and wife?"

"Oh, I assure you it is not necessary to make any such promises," replied the young man. "I guarantee you'll have all the squeezing you want to do to get along on $7 a week."—Exchange.

Flattered Him.

Magistrate (about to commit for trial)—You certainly effected the robbery in a remarkably ingenious way. In fact, with quite exceptional cunning.

Prisoner (deprecatingly)—No flattery yer honor; no flattery. I begs on yer.—London Fun.

Unruffled.

Master—Mary, I wish you would be more careful. I'm sorry to hear my wife has to scold you so often.

Mary—Oh, it's all right, sir. I seldom takes any notice of her.—London Telegraph.

Black care sits behind the rich man on horseback.—Horace.

POWDER ON PEANUTS

Used to Make the Goobers Look Clean and Pretty.

LONG AND CAREFUL TOILET.

Besides Being Powdered, the Nuts Are Brushed and Polished and Sized Before They Are Roasted—Cooked at the Mill by Experts.

There is not much to a peanut, to look at it. It grows on a farm and is ready to eat after it has been roasted. A careless deduction would link up the farmer, the commission merchant, then the grocer or Michelangelo. That would be a mighty careless deduction, though. The first time a lot of unroasted peanuts are encountered rub one on a piece of dark cloth and observe the white mark it leaves. That is talcum powder. They powder peanuts to make them look pretty, which is just why sister powders her face, and in that particular peanuts and girls are both alike.

Any farmer can grow peanuts, but no farmer can sell them to the consumer. The peanut he grows is not fit to put on a stand, at least not until it has been touched up. Look at the peanuts on the next push cart and see how even they run as to size. They have all been sorted. Observe how clean they are and how white this lot is, how gray that lot is and how uniform all the different lots are. They have been sorted.

When the peanut is grown it is gathered and carried to a miller, who puts it in a great bin and later carries it over to his mill, where he has a contrivance just chock full of brushes. These brushes get almost every fleck of sand and dirt out of the peanuts, which is more than the farmer could have done if he had spent the summer trying. The, the brushed peanuts go on to another sort of mill, and by being tossed about they get their hulls polished, and while that is being done they are peppered with talcum powder, so that by the time they come out of this machine they are as white as they are to appear in public.

But the peanut is not ready for market yet. It is alongside a lot of larger or smaller ones, hurting the appearance of the larger ones, while it does not enhance the value of the smaller ones. To even up matters the output of the talcum powder polishing machine is run out on to a great canvas belt, which travels for fifty feet or more slowly. On either side of this belt are boys and girls. These sort the peanuts as they pass; this squad picking out the biggest, that squad taking the next largest, and so on down till the smallest are left. Shells that have dodged the powder rag are thrown back into the mill, and broken hulls are thrown away.

That is about all for the peanut now, excepting the roasting. It has to be roasted. There is a popular superstition that the Italian vender roasts the peanuts in his little push cart. All he does is keep them hot. They are roasted at the mill, tons at a time, cooked to a nicety by experienced men, who have thermometers and all sorts of appliances to show them when a peanut is "done." This roasted product is the one that the Italian buys, and when he gets it he pops it into his little fake roaster and warms it over. It takes a long time and a lot of work and hosts of boys and girls to get the nickel's worth of hot roasted peanuts in the red and blue striped bag, but there is a reason for it all, and the reason is that a sack of even run small sized peanuts will find a buyer quicker than a sack of big and little ones all mixed up together. The stomach likes the eye to make a good report and the peanut commission merchant understands that a shining shell, with indentations filled with talcum, pleases the eyes, and he has no compunctions about the powder box, because he has found out that in roasting the heat drives off the surplus talcum, so that is why if one wants to find out for true about this trick of the trade it will be necessary to get hold of an unroasted and not a roasted peanut.

By way of good measure it might be added that the shelled peanuts, generally sold salted, have been run through a thrashing machine, which breaks the hull and blows it out of the way. Only "Spanish shell" nuts can be so treated. The tougher hulls have to go to Signor Italiano.—Kansas City Journal.

The Long Lived Pear.

The pear is really more hardy than the apple and needs less cosseting. There are trees still standing near Monroe, in the state of Michigan, which were planted by the French settlers before Penn founded Philadelphia. Pear trees can be kept in good bearing condition for 300 years and apples for at least 150 years. I have an apple tree 115 years old and its annual fruitage is as perfect as it was sixty years ago.—E. P. Powell in Outing Magazine.

The Comparison.

Towne—Yes, my wife is able to dress on comparatively little money.

Browne—Oh, come now! Comparatively little?

Towne—I mean a little compared with what she thinks she ought to have.—Exchange.

On a Big Liner.

"Let's go forward to the main deck."

"All right. Steward, call us a taxicab."—Washington Herald.

Nothing is farther from earth than heaven; nothing is nearer than heaven to earth.—Hare.

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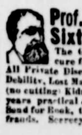

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