WHY

Printer's Assistant Is Known as "Devil"

The original printer's devil operated the ink roller in the days of the hand press, says Pathfinder Magazine. In 1683 Joseph Moxon wrote in "Mechanical Exercises" as follows: "The Press-man sometimes has a Week-Boy to Take Sheets, as they are Printed off the Tympan: These Boys do in a Printing-House, commonly black and Dawb themselves; whence the workmen do jocosely call them Devils; and sometimes Spirits, and sometimes Flies." According to a legend, Aldus Manutius, a printer at Venice in the latter part of the Fifteenth century and the first part of the Sixteenth, employed a negro boy as a helper in his shop.

Those were the days when belief in witchcraft was common, and most of the Venetians were not familiar with the colored race. Many people thought the negro boy was an imp or evil genius and began to clamor for an investigation. When the matter came to the attention of Manutius he issued a statement to the following effect: "I, Aldus Manutius, printer to the Doge and the Holy Church, have this day made public exposure of the printer's devil. All who think he is not flesh and blood are invited to come and pinch him." There is no evidence to prove that the incident, if it actually occurred, was responsible for the origin of "printer's devil" as the name of a printer's helper.

Why Transplanting of Races Is Inadvisable

If black absorbs more heat than white, why can the colored race endure hot weather better than the white race?

In speaking of color, in a test made with the various materials dyed different colors and covering blocks of ice to determine which color absorbed the most heat, the blocks under the white material at the end of a given period were larger than the blocks under the black color. The explanation for this, of course, is that white deflects more rays of the sun than black. In speaking of the negro and dark races and their adaptability to heat, this test does not hold good. With the human element it is largely the question of being acclimated. The negro race, as far back as our records run, was a native of the tropical countries. Consequently the transplanting of this race to Northern climates makes its members just as uncomfortable as it would make an Eskimo, also dark-skinned, to put him in the extreme South.—Washington Star.

Why Bird Is "Turkey"

In view of the fact that the origin of the turkey is clearly traced to North America, some may wonder how this bird obtained its present name, which would suggest its origin as being Asiatic. Turkeys, on being brought to Spain from the New world, were handled and sold by the Hebrew merchants of that country. As the turkey was quite generally confused with the peacock, it was natural, therefore, that the Hebrew traders should apply to it their name for the peacock, or "tukki." More or less common use of this name followed, which easily became in the English language our present name "turkey." Such an explanation seems to be much more probable than that the name arose as a result of an erroneous impression that the bird originated in or near Turkey.

Why Exercise Is Good

Exercise is useful in the treatment of many diseases. It is used in hospitals for mental patients to aid in the reco-ordination of mind and body and in physical therapy departments of general hospitals for general treatment of disease. It corrects postural defects in many cases.

Exercise, therefore, must be indulged in with due regard to one's age and physical condition. A moderate amount is a necessity for a healthy person and it is a method of treating the sick. It is a standard tonic, but like other tonics it has its purpose and proper dosage.—Doctor Nall, Hygiea Magazine.

Why Galleries "Whisper"

Whispering galleries are generally the result of accident. There are two general types—the focusing and the conducting. The dome of St. Paul's cathedral in London is the second type. A whisper close to and along the smooth concave wall is continually deflected inward upon itself by the wall, is prevented from spreading and is thus conducted with only slightly diminished intensity to the other side of the dome. The sound, traveling by great circles, concentrates again at the opposite end of the diameter of which the sound is produced.

Why Freezing Variation

Hot water pipes are reported to burst from freezing more often than cold water pipes. This is not because of a difference of freezing point of the water, but is probably because the water in cold water pipes contains dissolved air, which separates on freezing and forms slushy ice; while when water in a hot water pipe freezes, it is more apt to become undercooled and then freeze rather suddenly, forming compact ice, free from bubbles, which is more apt to break a pipe.

Why Flowers Smell Sweeter

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Ancient Surgical Tools Like Those Now in Use

Surgeons of 2,000 years ago used instruments similar in shape to those of today. This was shown by probes and forceps uncovered in the buried city of Pompeii, and recently exhibited in London. The large number of probes in comparison to other instruments of the collection suggests that cutting was a large part of surgical work before the year 79, when the eruption of Vesuvius buried the city.

While the shapes of the instruments in some cases are almost identical with those of the modern surgical tools, their steel is less flexible. The absence of saws from the collection indicates amputations were rarely attempted, largely because of lack of knowledge about circulation of the blood, says Popular Science Monthly.

Surgery is known to have been practiced at an early date. When Alexander the Great invaded lands east of the Mediterranean in 300 B. C., he found it being practiced by the natives with great skill. There is evidence that surgery was in use in Egypt as early as 5,000 or 6,000 B. C.

Odd Powers Attributed to Gems in Ages Past

While in modern times the value of jewels depends on their use as ornaments and their employment in certain optical and other instruments, the ancients attached a far different significance to them. In their minds gems were endowed with gifts of spiritual and material power and were credited with the ability to cure diseases, avert trouble and drive away the demons, which harassed the imaginations of people of early and medieval times. This conception gave rise to he wearing of amulets, the presiding genius of one's fate being easily carried about in the form of a precious stone.

These ideas, now so ridiculous to us, had their origin in the philosophy of India and are related to the belief in the transmigration of the soul. It was believed that the soul which, at death, had not reached a state of absolute purity, had to undergo various transmigrations until it became purified, and that consequently it entered into plants, animals and even mineral bodies in the process. Therefore, gems were considered living beings. Being of incomparable physical purity, they were regarded as the highest expression of natural perfection, and hence upposed to possess talismanic and other powerful properties.—Exchange.

Tides of Great Lakes

The waters of lakes and inland seas are influenced by the attraction of the sun and moon in the same manner as the waters of the ocean. There are tides in the Great Lakes but owing to the comparatively small extent of water they are scarcely noticeable, except by refined measurements. Observations made by the United States survey have shown that Lake Michigan has a tide with an amplitude of one and one-half inches for the neap tide and three inches for the spring tide.

Road Check On Peninsula

A check based on the distribution of new highway maps issued by the Del-Mar-Va Eastern Shore Association to tourists visiting the Peninsula over the week end and Labor Day holiday, gives evidence that the total number of visitors from states other than Delaware, Maryland and Virginia exceeded 20,000.

Thru cooperation of the various Chambers of Commerce, other civic organizations and business leaders in the principal communities thruout the Peninsula, the new map was distributed. In some instances local Police Officers placed the map, with a post card of welcome and a request for information as to what first attracted the visitor to Del-Mar-Va, in parked foreign licensed cars. Boy Scouts also aided at various points and at larger resorts reliable help was employed.

Allowing for duplication where visitors parked in more than one community, it was announced at Association headquarters today that reports show more than 6000 maps to have been placed. On the basis that each of the visiting cars contained an average of 4 persons, which is accepted as being very conservative, the total number would reach approximately 24,000.

At several of the leading resorts and in one or two larger communities, the supply of maps and cards was exhausted before the Holiday had ended. Comment created by this wide distribution of a map which is accurate by the checking of the State Highway departments of the Peninsula, is most favorable. The map, thru the assistance of the State Highway Departments shows the permanently improved highways now complete and those under construction which will be completed by January 1st. This was a revision of the map issued by the Association about a year ago and is generally accepted as being the most complete of the Del-Mar-Va Peninsula ever issued.

Because of the value which the map will have for residents of Del-Mar-Va as well as visitors, a small surplus at the Association headquarters, Salisbury, will be distributed to those making application. The maps include not only the highway systems but all other means of transportation, including railroads, bus lines and boat service.

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Male Critic Severe on Work of Women Poets

If an effort were made to determine what elements constitute feminine poetry, one would name first its chief characteristic — subjectivity. When a woman writes poetry her emotions generally center around herself and she is only interested in the world as something that reflects favorably or unfavorably on her own individuality. It is usually favorable and when unfavorable, wailingly agonized, writes Herbert G. Brunchen, in the North American Review.

As an artist it is rarely that a woman can translate her emotions objectively; in other words to comprehend the world and the human beings that are part of it, not as they touch herself, but as they affect the great lot of humanity.

Feminine poetry, moreover, when it is cheerful, is generally so in a superficial way; it is too often over-refined through an erroneous and typically feminine conception of the difference between refinement and truth. It is embroidery poetry, very apt to be sentimental and cloyingly sweet.

And only in rare instances does one find a poem written by a woman where the unpleasantness and even tragic truths of human relationships have not been carefully censored or glossed over.

Cultivate Serenity to Fight Mental Fatigue

Mental fatigue cuts down efficiency and spoils happiness. American life with its high-power speed for both work and play produces an unusual amount of mental fatigue. To aid in the cultivation of more serene habits, Dr. Lauren H. Smith, writing in Hygeia Magazine, makes the following sugestions:

1. When we work, let us keep our interest in it and make it pleasurable.
2. When we play, let us enter into it for all it is worth without regard for anything else.
3. When we rest and sleep, let us turn the mind and body loose to themselves and let them do what they will. Learn to rest the mind by leaving the mind alone.
4. When we think, let us make a decision and carry it out. If we decide incorrectly it can be reconsidered later.
5. When we are very tired, let us not permit a temporary or extreme emotional reaction to drive us into an act that will have permanent results.

Nation's Honey Production

In the United States the greater part of the honey produced is alfalfa honey from the western states, where several million dollars' worth is sold every year. Sweet clover, white sage and other mountain flowers, also contribute to the western supply. In the central states it is white clover, sweet clover, Spanish needle and heartsease honey. In the southern states, cotton, mesquite, horsemint and sweet clover, and in the eastern states, northern states and Canada, buckwheat and white clover are the leading honey flowers. Orange blossoms, cleome, aster and basswood complete the list.

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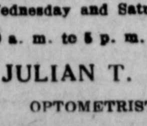
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