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QUEER SUPERSTITIONS.

Some Medicines, Cures and Omens of Former Generations.

A sure cure for the ague, according to an old time specific, was to rub a live spider in butter and then eat it. The late Vincent Stuckey Lane, who died in England after spending much of his life in the collection of folk lore, gives many other instances of the medicines of former generations. To rub a dried mole to powder and to swallow as much of it as would lie on a shilling for nine days in succession was another cure for ague. A hare's foot carried on the person prevented colic, eels applied to the ears were a specific against deafness, and epilepsy yielded to a gentle treatment of toadstools gathered just as they were forcing their way through the ground and swallowed in claret at midnight. There were many ways of curing fits, but the simplest plan was to go into a church at midnight and walk three times round the communion table. A snake's skin worn round the temples was good for the headache, but if that failed the sufferer might try moss grown on a human skull, then powdered and taken as snuff.

Whooping cough could never be caught by a child who had ridden a bear, but if no bear was handy the child might be soundly thrashed or drawn backward through a bramble bush. The subject of signs and omens fills a number of pages of Mr. Lane's five volumes. Under the heading "Good and Ill Luck In Marriage" he shows on how trifling a matter the marital happiness or unhappiness of our ancestors could turn. It was unlucky, for example, to receive a present of doves, to marry on the anniversary of birth, to tread on the tail of a cat, to put on one's stockings wrong side out or to try the wedding ring on before marriage.

On the wedding day the happy couple had to redouble their vigilance, as a horse looking at them through a gateway, a pig running across their path on the way to church, a dog running between them or the clock striking during the ceremony might wreck their happiness. For the bride to look in the glass after she was attired in her wedding finery was sure to bring ill luck. On the other hand, it was lucky to be followed by a strange dog when going courting, to be touched by the wing of a bat or for the bride to hear a cat sneeze on the eve of her wedding.

OLD GEM SUPERSTITIONS.

The diamond extinguishes intermittent fevers when attached somewhere about the person.

The amethyst stills headaches, makes drunkards abstemious and sober; hence its name.

The hematite or bloodstone heals disease of the eye.

The carbuncle is said to cure headache if given to the sick in solution.

The jasper eases inflammation of the head and prevents nightmares and is a preservative against pestilence and epilepsy.

The onyx, dissolved, keeps off nightmare and phantasms, and when powdered is good for toothache.

The jacinth stops coughs, heals hernia and is good against melancholy if drunk with vinegar.

The chalcedony, worn round the person, heals the wound from the scorpion's bite.

The topaz, powdered and drunk, brings persons raving mad back to their state. If it is worn on the person it is also helpful in this case.

Consumption's Roll of Honor.

Dr. John B. Huber, writing on the history of consumption in the Medical Record, mentions the following more or less great persons who have died as its victims: Marie Bashkirtseff, Xavier Bichat, H. C. Bunner, Friedrich Chopin, Stephen Crane, John Godman, John Paul Jones, John Keats, Dr. Rene T. H. Laennae, Sidney Lanier, Jules Bastien Lepage, Ethelbert Nevin, Henry Purcell, Elizabeth Felix Rachel, Friedrich Schiller, John Sterling, Laurence Sterne, Robert Louis Stevenson, Henry Timrod, Carl Maria von Weber, Artemus Ward, Henry Kirk White and Baruch Spinoza.

Recipe Wanted.

Young Mrs. Vinton looked over the fence that separates her back yard from Mrs. Hardy's, and her pretty face was troubled, says the Chicago News.

"Mrs. Hardy!" she called softly.

"Yes. What is it?" and Mrs. Hardy's matronly figure appeared in her kitchen door.

"I'm so sorry to trouble you," Mrs. Vinton went on, "but will you tell me some good way to cook clay pigeons? Jimmy has just sent me word that he is going out to shoot some. He's bound to bring a lot home, and I haven't the remotest idea how to prepare them."

His Greatest Need.

"What d'ye want?" asked the coachman at the kitchen door.

"De boss o' de house sent me round here," replied the tramp, "an' said you was ter gimme anything I needed."

"All roight. Come out to the stable, an' Oi'll turn the hose on ye."—Philadelphia Ledger.

Saved!

Columbus was gazing at the approaching storm.

"Call the cook," he commanded, "and I'll have him save the ship. I read in the papers that if you boil the water it won't hurt you."—Cleveland Leader.

But Lived to Tell It.

Upgardson—What on earth used you up like that, old fellow? Been kicked by a mule or run over by an automobile? Atom—Both. The one kicked me in the way of the other.—Chicago Tribune.

PREYER'S PREDICAMENT.

A Ludicrous Incident In the Life of the Famous Painter.

John W. Preyer, the famous painter of still life, was a remarkably small specimen of the genus homo, differing, however, from ordinary dwarfs in the symmetry and exact proportion of all the parts of his diminutive frame. When between twenty and thirty years of age his fresh, ruddy and beardless face and the shrill and boyish tone of his voice caused people to take him for a child of about eight at the most. This illusion was still further heightened by his dress, a short black velvet jacket with a large turndown collar, over which his smoothly parted hair hung in thick clusters. When about this age Preyer paid a visit to Munich in order to inspect the art treasures in that city and also to visit his old patron, Master Cornelius, a former president of the Dusseldorf academy. When Preyer called at the house of the latter he had gone out, and the servant who had answered the door ran to tell her mistress that a little boy was waiting outside to see the master. The lady went to speak to the visitor.

"What is it you want, my child?" she asked the painter, who at the approach of the lady took off his velvet cap and made a deep bow, saying in a shrill voice:

"I wish to speak to Mr. Cornelius."

"He is not at home at present, but if you will step inside you can wait for him. He will not be long."

So saying, she took the little fellow into the parlor and offered him a stool to sit on. In a short time the fair hostess became quite charmed with her youthful visitor, and at last she lifted him on her lap and listened with intense delight to the innocent prattle of the clever "child." Suddenly the door opened, and Cornelius himself appeared. Taking in the situation at a glance, he cried:

"Ah, good morning, Mr. Preyer. How on earth did you get here?"

"Mr. Preyer!" And with a shriek Mrs. Cornelius jumped up, tumbled Preyer on the floor and fled into the next room, while Cornelius and Preyer, after the latter had picked himself up again, laughed till the tears streamed down their cheeks. The former had some difficulty in getting his wife to come back again. At last she mustered sufficient courage to allow herself to be formally introduced to the strange visitor, who was retained as a guest to dinner, over which the amiable hostess presently regained her former self possession.

Mistakes In Stamps.

By a simple error in the printing of a set of stamps the value is enormously increased to collectors. A short time ago a Dutch stamp was printed yellow instead of blue. A week later these stamps were sold at a great premium. A New Zealand stamp some years ago was printed upside down, and it is now worth a large sum. Among English stamps the old red penny, with the plate No. 255, is valued by collectors, and the small pink halfpenny, with plate No. 9, is not worth less than $20. It is said that the plate of the latter was broken soon after it came into use and was never replaced; hence the value of the few stamps printed from it. It is always a question with amateurs whether to buy their stamps used or unused. But it is safe on a great occasion, such as a jubilee or exposition year, to buy them with the postmark.

To Work Is Honorable.

There has existed and still exists to some extent a false sentiment that labor is degrading or belittling. The contrary is true. An ideal condition of society can come only when every member of it recognizes that he is bound to exercise whatever skill or strength or faculty he possesses to its full capacity not selfishly or for the sake of gain merely, but for his own happiness and development and for the benefit of all. And there should be no restriction on any one, either legal or social or through association, in regard to his labor or its fruits. If by patient application or natural endowment a man possesses more skill than his fellow or if he chooses to be more industrious he is entitled to the full benefit of it.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

A Wonderful Memory.

Some years ago there was a strolling player at Edinburgh of the name of William Lyon, who had a most astonishing memory. He one evening made a bet of a bowl of punch that he would at the rehearsal next morning repeat the whole of the Daily Advertiser from beginning to end. Being called on the next day, he handed the newspaper to a gentleman present to see that he repeated every word correctly. This task he accomplished without making the slightest error, through all the varieties of advertisements, price of stocks, accidents, etc.

Nothing Doing.

"Dear," said the poet's wife, noticing his abstracted look, "you are worried about something."

"Well—er—yes," replied the poet.

"Tell me. What have you on your mind?"

"Nothing. That's what worries me."—Exchange.

Prediction Fulfilled.

Farmer Whiffletree—Bill Perkins' son Dan has got a political job. Farmer Medders—Gosh. I allers said that feller 'd grow up ter be a loafer!—Puck.

Helping the Cook.

Boarding Mistress—What are those boarders grumbling about now? Servant—They're roasting the beef.—New York Press.

Sin has many tools, but a lie is the handle which fits them all.—Holmes.

10c. a copy. $1.00 a year.

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Special Offer

Send $1.00 before January 31, 1905, for a subscription for the year 1905 and we will send you free the November and December numbers of 1904—fourteen months for $1,00 or the price of twelve. Address McCLURE'S, 48-59 East 23d Street, New York City. Write for agents' terms.

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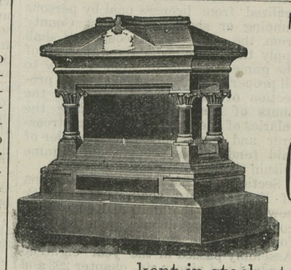
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Respectfully,

J. D. BACCHUS,

Sept. 17, 1904. CHESTERTOWN, MD.

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