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How to Become a Conversationalist.

In answer to the question, "Is it possible, by study, to become a good general conversationalist?" I would answer—Yes.

Of course, conversationalist, like artists, poets, orators and diplomats, differ in ability. There are men and women who can talk only fairly well, and others yet who can talk amazingly well.

I do not mean that any one can become a Goethe, a Coleridge, a Crabb Robinson, a Carlyle, or a De Quincy in the divine art of of expression, but I firmly believe that any person of good sense can acquire the ability to converse in a way that will be respectable.

But it is well, on the start, to bear in mind the good old saying that "You cannot get blood out of a turnip."

In order to converse one must have something to converse about. The talk that is all talk is not conversation. It is mere twaddle, as insipid as it is senseless.

The grand prerequisite, then, to the good conversationalist is knowledge. Before one can talk about things one must know about them. But, the knowledge being present, the expression of it is easy.

Having your facts clearly outlined in the mind, you ought to find no diffculty in setting them forth provided you keep cool and attend stictly to the business in hand.

Of course, conversation implies a party of two, or more, and means a longer or shorter series of questions and answers; hence the parties to the conversation must of necessity be attentive to each other's remarks.

Inattention means irrelevant talk—and irrelevant talk is not conversation. To the person who would become a "good general conversationalist," no sort of knowlege can come amiss—the more knowledge, and the more varied knowledge, the better.

If you know nothing about art, how can you converse with the painter or the musican? If you know nothing about agriculture, how can you talk with the farmer? If you know nothing of politics, how can you talk with the politician? If you are ignornant of constitutions, governments and laws, how can you converse with the statesman?

The question is sometimes raised, "Which is better, to know one thing thoroughly or many things only in a part?" The answer is: Strive to know as much as you can about all things—or, at any rate, about several things.

"A little learning" may be "a dangerous thing," but it is a danger that every youn man and woman should not be afraid of.

There are so many lines of human thought these days it is impossible to follow them all to the end, but along them all you can go at least part of the way, learning something which shall be of use to you, not only as a conversationalist, but as a contestant for the prizes of life.—New York American.

Bust of Admiral Schley.

A bronze bust of Admiral Winfield Scott Schley was placed in position in the rotunda of the State House at Annapolis, recently. The bust was provided for by resolution introduced by State Senator M. V. Brewington, of Wicomico county, and passed at the last session of the General Assembly of Maryland.

The bust is by Ernest Wise Keyser, the sculptor, who is of the Maryland family of that name. It is three feet two inches in height and stands upon a pedestal of highly polished Tennessee marble. The inscriptions: "Winfield Scott Schley," "Port Hudson, 1863,"; "Cincha Island, 1865"; "Korea, 1871"; "Greely Relief Expedition, 1884; "Valparaiso, 1891"; "Santiago, 1898."

Below the inscription and across the base of the pedestal is the following; "Erected by the State of Maryland." On the right side of the pedestal is a bas-relief representation of the United States ship Brooklyn, in the Santiago fight. Below this is the inscription: "U. S. S. Brooklyn, Santiago, July 3, 1898." Balancing this on the opposite side of the pedestal is a similar representation of the Uuited States ship Thetis, with the incription, U. S. S. Thetis, Greely Relief 1884."

The bust is a strikingly good likeness of Admiral Schley.

Question of Politeness, Not Opinion.

Representative Cooper of Texas tells a story about Gen. Sam Houston of his State and a practising physican who did not like the old General, being strenuouly opposed to him politically. One day, after a heated political discussion, the physican said:

"General, I like you well enough socially, but politically I would not believe you on oath."

"I would belie you, Doctor," was the quiet reply of the General.

"Then, sir," vehemently exclaimed the doctor, You have a much better opinion of me than I have of you."

"Not a better opinion, Doctor, but I simply have a little more politeness than you have."—Nashville Banner.

Icreasing the Size of Fruit.

Good sized and large fruit brings a better price and sells more readily in market than small sized fruit. In fact, small sized fruit is not always sold at far below its real value. There are three chief things, says Farmers' Review, that the orchardist can do to help his trees to produce large fruit.

One of these things is to give good cultivation. The system of cultivation should be thorough and should be continued year after year and as often each season as it is neccessary to keep the weeds down. It is surprising how quickly the weeds will take possession of a young orchard after the cultivator has stopped its work. In an old orchard the weeds do not bother so much, as the shade of the trees does not encourage their growth.

The best method is to plow the land in the spring, if the orchard is young. Then put in the cultivator and later the harrow, keeping up the the cultivation till the middle of the summer at least. During this time the fruit is increasing in size and so are the buds for the fruit crop next year. The land being kept free from weeds will be in shape to receive the air and the moisture, and the roots will get the benefit of both. The fruit on the tree will therefore have supplied it to the plant food in the soil to the extent that the roots can take it up, with the assistance of the water. Later in the season cow peas or even field peas or soy beans should be planted. If vetches can be grown so much the better, but the seed of the vetch is expensive. In the spring this winter covering should be plowed under and the old regime recommended. Unless the land is very rich stable manure should be used, as this will help keep up the supply of plant food in the soil, which must go into the fruit.

The second good means of increasing the size of the fruit is pruning. This is a matter that is too much neglected. Nearly all orchardists prune, but a good deal of the work is done in a very unscientific manner. The work can be done in the winter or at any time when the tree is dormant. A mild day in the late fall is a very good time. Cold days in winter are hardly suitable in which to climb about among the limbs of trees. Our pruning is generally too mild. In the care of apple trees about one-half of the last year's growth should be removed and the terminal shoots should be cut back. In the case of peach trees the pruning will have to be even more severe. The tops of the trees should be thinned, so that the sun can get in to color each individual fruit and add flavor to it.

The third great means of improving the fruit is thinning. This is coming extensively into use with our tree fruits where it is desired to produce fruit of good size and appearance. The thinning of plums and apples has been practiced to some extent by the horticulturists at our agricultural colleges and has given good results. The practice has not, howeverer, become common with the people. It is otherwise with peaches. They have other fruit and with greater returns. The peach is largely water anyway and the taking away of half the crop on a tree results in the very pronounced development of the remaining part.

Odd Southern Remedies.

What is one man's food is another man's poison, but it is vouched for by an old southerner that the following remedies will benefit seven out of ten persons:

For alcholis try buttermilk. It will kill the desire for whisky.

Whey will greatly relieve dropsy.

Calomel applied to cuts or sores relieves pain and heals wounds. Not too much and don't get wet.

Kerosene will cure sore throat. Consumptives should try it. Take a tablespoonful at a time. Hold nose.

Bathing head in cold water every morning will prevent one from taking cold easily. Better commence in the summer time.

Ice applied between shoulders and back of head will stop bleeding at the nose.

Balsam apple applied to dog bite wil carry relief.

Keep cut onions in all sickrooms. Onions will turn black where contagious diseases exist and disinfect the room.

Surprise and Donation.

A very delightful surprise and donation was given Rev. Edwin Gardner and wife recently, by the congregation of Millington church. Good things in abundance were brought in from the country, and the town folks patronized the stores to make their part of the program complete. The church is prospering grandly under Bro. Gardner's administration; and the people have shown their appreciation of his services by inviting him to return for the coming year. The recent conflagration did much to hurt the church in many ways, but the congregations are now larger than they have been for years, and the benevolences are all in hand and equal the amount raised last year.

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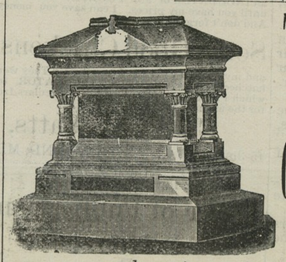

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Respectfully,

J. D. BACCHUS,

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