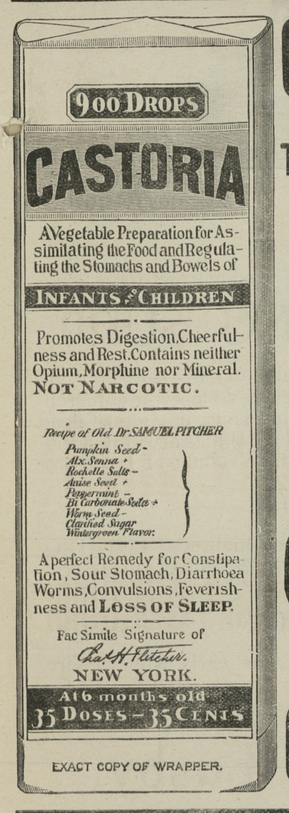

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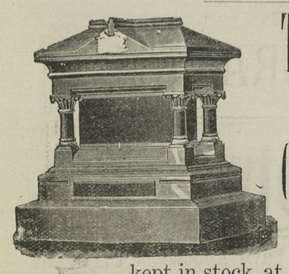

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How Mexicans Test Eggs.

It is a common sight in the plaza to behold a stall woman, who is selling two reals' worth of eggs, pick them up one by one, put one end and then the other to her lips and hand them over to the customer, who repeats the same identical operation. To the inexperienced onlooker it seems as if they were tasting the extremities of the egg. As a matter of fact, they never touch the egg with the tongue. The idea of the performance is that when an egg is fresh one end is distinctly colder than the other. The end which has the air chamber is the warmer of the two. The human lips are exceedingly sensitive to heat and cold, and even the novice at this form of egg testing promptly becomes a capable judge. If both ends of the egg reveal the same temperature, that egg may be counted as bad, as it is a fairly good sign that the air chamber is broken and the contents spread equally within the shell.—Mexican Herald.

A Kissing Festival.

In the old town of Helmagen, in Roumania, an annual fair is held on St. Theodore's day. On this occasion all the newly wedded brides from the surrounding villages throng the town, but the widows who have remarried remain at home.

The young women are generally attended by their mothers-in-law, and in their hands they bear pitchers of wine wreathed with flowers. They salute every one they meet and then present their jugs for a sip to be taken. The person so favored makes the bride a small gift. As it is considered an insult if the proffered wine be refused, the brides are careful to be reserved toward strangers and only kiss those whom they think likely to partake of their wine.

This kissing festival is celebrated in the public streets, in private houses, in the taverns and, in fact, everywhere, but the origin of it is lost in obscurity.

Fruit and Intemperance.

There is but one sure cure for the drinking disease or habit, and that is the simplest of all. The cure consists in eating fruits. That will cure the worst case of inebriety that ever afflicted a person. It will entirely destroy the taste for intoxicants and will make the drunkard return to the thoughts and tastes of his childhood, when he loved the luxuries nature had provided for him and when his appetite had not become contaminated by false, cultivated tastes and attendant false desires and imaginary pleasures. No person ever saw a man or woman who liked fruit and who had an appetite for drink. No person ever saw a man or woman with an appetite for drink who liked fruit. The two tastes are at deadly enmity with each other, and there is no room for both of them in the same human constitution. One will surely destroy the other.—What to Eat.

A Remarkable Grotto.

Fingal's cave is one of the most remarkable natural grottoes in Europe. It is situated on the island of Staffa, about seven miles off the west coast of Mull, Scotland. The cavern is 227 feet deep, 42 feet wide at the entrance and 62 feet high at the opening at time of low tide. Tide has a great deal to do with the size and dimensions of Fingal's cave, because it is eminently a sea grotto.

The ocean's waters are always the floor of the cavern. At time of very lowest tide there is twenty feet of water in the cave. It can be readily entered by means of small boats at all times except at the hour of extreme high tide. In Europe Fingal's cave is considered the greatest British wonder.

About Temperature.

The best authorities on the science of meteorology tell us that without the various changes in the temperature there would be a perfect calm at all times in all parts of the globe. A uniform and unvarying barometric pressure would everywhere prevail and there would be no changes of seasons, no evaporation or condensation, no clouds, no rain. In short, without changes of temperature the atmosphere would soon become poisonous, stagnant and incapable of sustaining human life.

The Diving Bell.

The oldest intelligence respecting the use of the diving bell in Europe is the relation of an exhibit at Holedo before the Emperor Charles V. in the middle of the sixteenth century, when two Greeks, in the presence of several thousand persons, let themselves down in the water in a large inverted kettle with a burning light and came up again without getting wet.

Identification.

"What kind of a looking man is that chap, Gabbleton, you just mentioned? I don't believe I have met him."

"Well, if you see two men off in a corner anywhere and one of them looks bored to death, the other one is Gabbleton."—Puck.

Character.

Each man in his sphere, however narrow or extended, will find that his fellow men weigh his character and his abilities often and unconsciously stamp him with their estimate and that the average resultant of these frequent averages is just.—E. Pierrepont.

The Tired Idle.

To those who are employed and busy time flies with great rapidity. Life is tedious only to the idle. Nothing is more monotonous than the ticking of a clock to him who has nothing to do but listen to it.—Anon.

It is a maxim with me that no man was ever written out of a reputation but by himself.—Bentley.

The Isle of Man.

The Isle of Man is situated in the Irish sea, nearly equidistant from England and Ireland and belongs to Great Britain. The government is vested in a lieutenant governor, executive council and house of keys. It was ruled by Northmen from the ninth or tenth to the thirteenth century; was annexed to Scotland by Alexander III. and was afterward ruled by various kings. It was ruled by the Stanley family from the beginning of the fifteenth century to 1735, when it passed to the earls of Athole. In 1765 the British government acquired most of the royal rights of the Athole family, the last rights falling to the crown in 1829. English is generally spoken, and the native Manx is fast disappearing. It has an area of 220 square miles and a population of 56,000. The three legs used on its coins are the emblem of the island and signify "The Isle of Man kneels to England, kicks at Scotland and spurns Ireland."

Lord Liverpool's Rape of the Teapot.

Lord Liverpool, who was traveling incognito, after breakfasting at a hotel in London, ordered his valet, a raw Sussex youth, to clear the table and pack everything in a portmanteau. By this order, of course, was meant Lord Liverpool's letters and papers. But the youth took it to include the silver teapot and spoons. When Lord Liverpool was driving down Oxford street a cry of "Stop thief!" was raised, and the landlord of the hotel arrived in hot pursuit. There in the street the prime minister had the mortification of having his luggage opened, and in it was found the plate. Never would the statesman laugh at the episode even years after, so great was his fear that the story might get into the newspapers.—London Spectator.

A Political Secret.

Before Napoleon III., emperor of France, became interested in the Mexican empire project he had a plan in mind for certain mysterious military operations in Morocco. A writer says: "The German agent of a firm of Liege gunsmiths used to go at dead of night to a private door in the Rue St. Honore, press a button and be received in secret by Louis Napoleon himself. The German was to secure arms to the order of Napoleon, but all was to be secret. Payment was to be made through a Swiss banking house, as part of the capital of a railway in the Grisons. But it all came to nothing. Mexico claimed the horizon and the German and his guns were forgotten, and the secret of it all is still to seek."

A Queer Insect.

The "walking sticks," "walking leaves," etc., are among the most curious forms of insects inhabiting tropical America. They belong to the great family of phasmidaes and are as odd specimens of animated nature as one could well imagine. The type of the family is an elongated creature with a cylindrical brown body, looking exactly like a small limb or twig with the bark on. Some of the branches of this numerous family live in the torrid portions of Africa, where they attain enormous sizes. Vane, the great traveler, said he had seen them so large that "they had the general appearance of great, animated clubs moving up and down the branches and trunks of the gigantic tropical trees."

"Handle With Care."

If you send a package marked "Handle With Care" by freight, the railway employees will take every opportunity to tumble it around and dump it on the depot platform as though it were a bale of hay. We once saw a railroad employee so sick he could scarcely hold up his head, but when his wandering eye happened to fall on a package marked "Handle With Care" he arose with an expiring effort and threw the blamed thing the length of the depot platform, danced upon it, then shrieked and died."—Alma (Kan.) Signal.

Sensitive Nerves.

When the points of a hairpin are passed along the cheek from a point near the eye to the edge of the upper lip they seem to separate. The reason is found in the fact that the nerves of the upper lip are more sensitive than those of the cheek and consequently differentiate the two points. Portions of the back are so little sensitive to the touch that two points three inches apart will create the impression of but one.

The Highest Tides.

The highest tides in all Europe occur in the Bristol channel, where at spring tides there is sometimes a difference of over forty feet between high and low water. The highest tides in the world occur at Fundy bay, Nova Scotia, where the difference is over seventy feet. The lowest tides in the world exist at Lake Michigan, where the difference between high and low water is only three inches.

He Understood.

"How is your guardian on diplomacy? Do you think that he can understand the finer points of a secret alliance like ours?" asked the young man.

"I can answer that question for myself," said a sudden voice. "I am in favor of an open door policy just now—and I believe this is your hat, sir."—Cincinnati Commercial-Tribune.

Economy.

Mrs. Hardpan—Yes, Johnny, yeou kin hev an apple if they be any startin' ter spile. Johnny—An' ef they ain't startin' ter spile? Mrs. Hardpan—Then yeou'll hev ter wait till they dew. Them apples cost too much ter eat 'em fresh.—Chicago News.

Man is a good deal like a fish. You know, the fish would never get into very serious trouble if it kept its mouth shut.

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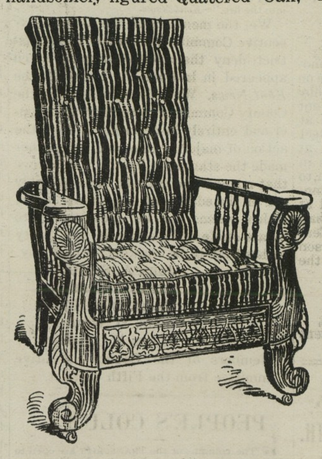

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