

## A SCIENTIFIC EXPLANATION

The scientist had given a very scientific lecture, and at the end he said, beaming down on his audience condescendingly:

'Now, if there is any scientific question that any of my friends would like to ask, I beg them not to hesitate. I shall be only too happy to answer any inquiry in my power.'

An old lady, in spectacles that gave her a severe, stern look, rose and said:

'Why do wet tea-leaves kill cockroaches?'

The scientist did not know wet tea-leaves did anything of the kind, much less the cause of the phenomenon; but, never at a loss, he replied:

'Because, madam, when a cockroach comes across a wet tea-leaf, he says, "Hallo! here's a blanket!" and wraps himself up in it, catches cold, and dies.'

## ODDS AND ENDS

'You have three pairs of glasses, professor.'

'Yes, I use one to read with, one to see at a distance, and the third to find the other two.'

'How does your daughter like Chopin?' asked the visitor of Mrs. Smithers.

'Just splendid! We had some for dinner to-day. I think it's lovely boiled, don't you?'

A little fellow of six years, hearing his parents talk of wedding cakes, suddenly exclaimed: 'Papa, when I get married, I shan't send you any of my wedding cake.'

'Why?' asked the parent.

'Because, papa, you did not send me any of yours,' was the artless reply.

'I suppose,' said the talkative man, 'a good many of your patrons find it cheaper to move than pay rent.' 'Very likely,' replied the house and land agent, 'and we often find it cheaper to keep them moving rather than make the repairs they ask for.'

## FAMILY FUN

Old Man of the Woods Game Has Flavor of Mystery.—One of the company gets himself up to represent the old man of the woods. The rest take the names of various animals—such as lion, tiger, leopard, and so on. The players seat themselves around the room, and the old man, standing in the centre, tells them that some of their number have committed a crime and he is about to question them in order that he may discover the guilty ones. He then begins: 'Now, Mr. Lion, where have you been hunting, and what have you eaten to-day?' 'I hunted in the forest and caught an antelope.' 'Then you are twice guilty and must pay two forfeits,' says the old man. And the lion must pay his forfeit without being told the crime he has committed. The old man passes on to a polar bear. 'Where did you hunt and what have you eaten?' he asks. 'I hunted in the water and had a fine fish to eat.' The polar bear is pronounced innocent. The secret of the game is that no animal may bring in the letter 'o' either in his hunting round or the food he eats. 'Forest' and 'antelope' both have an 'o' in them, so the lion has to pay two forfeits, while 'water' and 'fish, having no 'o' the bear was declared innocent. The fun is for the old man to keep the secret of 'guilty' or 'innocent' to himself and let the player try to solve the puzzle and where the catch comes in.

How does a big railway time table resemble human life?—It has many 'ups' and 'downs.'

What is that which is often brought to the table, always cut, but never eaten?—A pack of cards.

Which is more valuable, a pound note or a sovereign?—A pound note, because when you put it in your pocket you double it, and when you take it out you see it in creases.

Why is the conundrumist like a dog's tail?—Because he is bent on being waggish.

How many insects does it take to make a landlord?—Ten-ants.

Why is a nearly burned out candle like a country in Ireland?—Because it is Wicklow.

## All Sorts

The fairest rose may have the largest thorns.

Experience gives us knowledge, but it costs us ideals.

Appearances are not deceitful enough to suit some people.

Vanity sometimes assumes the guise of modesty for a purpose.

You might as well talk to an echo as to a person who always agrees with you.

If a man's ideal woman is a good nurse, it is a sure sign he's getting along in years.

An experiment has shown that 1000 tons of soot settle yearly on the 10 square miles of London's area.

Germany is now making 1,800,000 tons of beet sugar yearly, and exporting more than 1,000,000 tons.

In Madagascar silk is the only fabric used in the manufacture of clothing. It is cheaper than linen in Ireland.

'Fiasco' means a bottle or flask. When the Italian glass-blowers detected flaws in the vase they were blowing they made an ordinary bottle of the failure, and hence the name.

Little girl of four (standing entranced before window of a toyshop): 'Oh, mother, if you was my little girl, wouldn't I take you in and buy you some of those lovely things!'

Lady: 'Do you know where Johnny Tucker lives, my little boy?' Little Boy: 'He ain't home, but if you give me a penny I'll find him for you.' Lady: 'All right. Now, where is he?' Little Boy: 'Thanks. I'm him.'

The oldest invention for measuring time which history records was the clepsydra, or water clock. The clepsydra was a glass cylinder graduated into twelve equal parts, and having at the bottom an opening through which the water escaped in twelve hours.

The largest churches in Europe will contain the following numbers:—St. Peter's, Rome, 54,000; Milan Cathedral, 37,000; St. Paul's, London, 25,000; St. Sophia, Constantinople, 23,000; Notre Dame, Paris, 21,000; Pisa Cathedral, 13,000; St. Mark's, Venice, 7000.

Francis Scott Key, who wrote 'The Star-spangled Banner' on the back of an old envelope during the bombardment of Fort McHenry, was a Catholic, married into the family of Chief Justice Taney, another Catholic, and whose descendants to-day in Maryland are all Catholics.

The Japanese House of Representatives consists of 300 members, elected by ballot, each member receiving a salary. Its House of Peers consists of members of the Royal Family, princes and marquises, counts, viscounts, and barons elected as representatives of the several orders, and persons elected for seven years by and from the fifteen highest taxpayers in each city and prefecture.

The two sides of a person's face are never alike. The eyes are out of line in two cases out of five, and one eye is stronger than the other in seven persons out of ten. The right eye is also as a rule higher than the left. Only one person in fifteen has perfect eyes, the large percentage of defect prevailing among fair-haired people. The smallest interval of sound can be distinguished better with one ear than with both. The nails of two fingers never grow with the same rapidity, that of the middle finger growing the fastest, while that of the thumb grows slowest. In fifty-four cases out of a hundred the left leg is shorter than the right.

Mr. W. Wagstaffe, who has been a member of the London City Guardians for forty-three years, and who was presented recently with an address and a piece of plate, as chairman of the Assessment Committee, made a remarkable statement about the city's wealth. He said that, though the East London and West London Union was incorporated with the City Guardians in 1869, and though they had only jurisdiction over an area covered by one square mile, the annual rateable value had risen from £2,120,400 until it stood to-day at £6,736,995—an increase of £4,616,595, or a capitalised value of 140 millions. As a matter of fact, the capitalised value of property in the city to-day was 250 millions sterling, and he ventured to say that no other area in the world could claim such a record.

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