

### HE 'THINKED' RIGHT

Professor George Porter, principal of the Hallsville schools, has continually told the pupils that they should think twice before they speak. One cold morning recently Professor Porter backed up to the stove, after having given expression to his famous adage, when a little boy on the front seat, after having been given permission to talk, said:

'Professor Porter, I've thought once.'

'Think again,' he replied.

'I've thought twice,' said the youngster.

'Then speak.'

'Yes, sir, I thought your coat tail was a scorchin', now I think it is ablaze,' replied the obedient urchin.

### WHAT HE LACKED

It is related of a South American general, who was extremely well pleased with himself, that once when about to sally forth to a grand dance he surveyed himself contentedly in the mirror and then soliloquised thus:

'Ah! Thou hast all—bravery, wealth, position, good looks. Ah, what dost thou lack?'

Whereupon his orderly, who, unknown to the general, was close at hand, remarked:

'Sense, general, sense!'

### AN UNSYMPATHETIC STUDENT

Dr. Blank (says an exchange), about twenty years a professor in the University of Virginia, was on the eve of a trip to Europe, to be absent two years. In pathetic and rather harrowing tones he made his farewell address to his class:

'Yes, I am about to part from you. This is more than distressing to me. Would that there was a window in my breast, my dear boys, that you might see the innermost recesses of my heart.'

A stripling in the rear, seized with a happy thought, shouted:

'Professor, would a pain in the stomach do?'

### FAMILY FUN

To Light a Snowball with a Match.—Provide yourself with a piece of camphor gum, and manage to turn the conversation to some of the wonderful discoveries of recent times, such as the properties of radium, or even of X-rays. Then say that even freshly fallen snow has strange properties and will burn freely if properly lighted. Have some snow brought in on a plate, take the piece of gum camphor in the hand, and, when making up the snow into a ball, slip the camphor into the end of the ball, leaving the point protruding. Light a match, hold it to the ball of snow where the camphor is concealed. The camphor will take fire, and, to the surprise of the beholders, the snow is evidently burning.

An Amusing Trick.—Say to a person, 'If you will stand on a chair in this room I can make you come down the very first time I tell you.' The person will probably say you can do nothing of the sort. However, he will get on the chair just to show you that he doesn't mean to come down directly he's told. As soon as he is up on the chair say, 'Come down.' He will, of course, say, 'I shan't do anything of the sort.' Then you answer, 'Very well, then; unless you wish to remain there for the rest of your life you will have to come down off that chair the first time I tell you, because I do not intend to tell you a second time.'

Interesting Experiments with Candle Smoke.—For your first experiment let the candle burn until the wick is quite long, having placed it where there is no draught. Now blow the candle out, and a stream of smoke will rise from it. This smoke is the gas, the burning of which makes the flame. To show that it is gas put a lighted match to it immediately after blowing out the candle, and it will ignite and run down and relight the candle. The match should be held about half an inch above the wick. Again letting the candle burn until the wick is long and quickly blowing out the flame as before, hold a piece of wire gauze, such as is used for window screens, down over the wick so that the smoke will rise through the meshes. Apply a lighted match to the smoke half an inch above the gauze, and the gas of which the smoke is composed will at once ignite, but the flame will not go below the gauze, for the reason that has already been given.

## All Sorts

Kauri wood lasts perfectly under ground for twenty-five years. Jarrah, an Australian timber, has been tested for thirty-three years beneath the sea, and found sound at the end of that time.

The teeth 'on edge' is a very common and most unpleasant state of affairs. Acid fruits, over-indulgence in lemonade, etc., may cause it. Sometimes it is brought about by a chill. Chewing cinnamon bark will give relief.

The death plant of Java has flowers which give off a perfume so powerful as to overcome if inhaled for any length of time a full-grown man, and which kills all forms of insect life that come under its influence.

Over 50 kinds of bark are now used in the manufacture of paper. Banana skins, pea vines, cocoanut fibre, hay, straw, water weeds, leaves, shavings, corn husks and hop plants are used for the same purpose.

'You say you were in the hotel at the time of the assault referred to in the complaint?' asked the lawyer. 'I was, sir.' 'Did you take cognisance of the barman at the time?' 'I don't know what he called it, but I took what the rest of them did.'

Old Gentleman (pointing to lanky youth at his side in the tramcar): 'How much for this boy—half fare, I suppose?' Conductor: 'Well, no. He looks as if he were kept on half fare at home, and needs a change. Full fare, please.'

The office boy, using the telephone for the first time in his life, and not knowing how to use it, was told that, when the bell rang, he was to answer it.

When he heard it ring he picked up the receiver and shouted, 'Hello! Who's there?'

The answer came back, 'I'm one hundred and five.'

'Go on,' said the boy. 'It's time you got an old age pension.'

Two Irishmen were discussing the various books they had read.

'Have you read the "Eternal City"?''

'I have.'

'Have you read Marie Corelli's works?'

'I have that.'

'Have you read "Looking Backwards"?''

'How on earth could I do that?'

It would seem that a building 9000ft above sea-level should be protected by lightning rods, but the astronomical observatory at Mount Etna has not and does not need such protection. The observatory is near the summit of the volcano, and the stream of vapor constantly rising from the crater acts as a natural conductor, draining the electricity out of the clouds, so that lightning is seldom seen there.

A certain Irish police inspector was reviewing an R.I.C. station, the sergeant of which was a very bad speller. Looking through the books he came upon an entry: 'Found, a pig wondering on the public road.'

'Sergeant,' said he, 'what was the pig wondering at?'

'I don't know, sir,' said the bewildered man.

'Well,' said the inspector grimly, 'I do. He must have been wondering why I promoted you!'

China is preparing to take a census of her 400,000,000 people. The understanding is to be a most thorough one, and after it is done the facts and figures are to be kept pretty well up to date. One provision of the regulations reads: 'After the completion of this census all births, deaths, marriages, and adoptions must be reported by the head of the family to the local census office or police station; the records of families must be revised every two months and records of individuals every six months, and reports must be made annually to the board of the interior by the directors general of the census from the various provinces.'

The 'secretary bird' is one of the most precious birds in South Africa. It is royal game, and any person destroying one is liable to a fine of £50. Majestic-looking birds, they stand about 3ft high, and generally go in pairs. They are of drab color, with black, feathery legs, and are valued for their propensity for killing snakes. Where the secretary bird is seen there are sure to be many reptiles about. The bird beats down its adversary first with one wing and then with the other, at the same time trampling on it with its feet until the snake is sufficiently stunned to catch it by the head with its claws. Then the bird rises far up in the air and drops its victim to the ground, to be killed. By this means thousands of venomous reptiles are destroyed.

For Children's Hacking Cough at night  
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