

thistle has been held in high esteem ever since, for the part it played in saving that country.

### GRUMBLING STUDENTS

The president of a Western University relates how, on one occasion, when a certain well-known educator was dean of that institution, grave complaints against the college cook were brought to him by one of the undergraduates.

Whereupon the dean summoned the delinquent, duly lectured him upon his shortcomings, and, in short, threatened him with dismissal unless conditions were bettered.

'Good gracious, sir!' exclaimed the cook; 'you oughtn't to place too much importance on what the young men tell you about my meals! Why, sir, they come to me in just the same way and complain about your lectures!'

### WHAT THE BOOK SAID

'Once upon a time,' a library/book was overheard talking to a little boy, who had just borrowed it. The words seemed worth recording, and here they are

'Please don't handle me with dirty hands. I should feel ashamed when the next little boy borrowed me.

'Nor have me out in the rain. Books, as well as children, can catch cold.

'Nor make marks on me with your pen or pencil. It would spoil my looks.

'Nor lean on me with your elbows when reading. It hurts.

'Nor open me and lay me face down on the table. You would not like to be treated so.

'Nor put in between my leaves a pencil or anything thicker than a single sheet of thin paper. It would strain my back.

'Whenever you are through reading me, if you are afraid of losing your place, don't turn down the corner of one of my leaves, but have a neat little book-mark to put in where you stop, and then close me, and lay me on my side, so that I can have a good, comfortable rest.

'Remember that I want to visit a great many other little boys after you are through with me. Besides, I may meet you again some day, and you would be sorry to see me looking old and torn and soiled. Help me to keep fresh and clean, and I will help you to be happy.'

### FAMILY FUN

**The Spelling Bee Trick.**—This is a variation of the alternate card trick which appeared in our issue of July 1. The performer, taking one of the thirteen cards as before, begins to spell 'O-n-e, one,' passing one card underneath for each letter, and turning up the fourth, which is an ace. He then spells 'T-w-o, two,' passing three cards more beneath, and turning up the next in succession, which proves to be a two. 'T-h-r-e-e, three,' and so on. The order of arrangement for producing the cards as above is as follows: Three, eight, seven, ace, king, six, four, two, queen, knave, ten, nine, five. If it is desired to produce, as is sometimes done, the card with the last letter of the word spelt, instead of immediately after it, the formula will in such case be: Knave, four, ace, eight, queen, two, seven, five, ten, king, three, six, nine.

**The Trick of 'Thirty-one.'**—This is in form a game of cards, though it partakes a good deal of the nature of a trick. It depends upon a certain 'key,' or secret, the possessor of which will infallibly get the better of his un-instructed adversary. From an ordinary pack the aces, twos, threes, fours, fives, and sixes are selected, and laid face upwards on the table. The players then begin to draw or turn down cards alternately, the object of each being, after the manner of cribbage, to either reach the number thirty-one, or to get so near it that the other player cannot turn down any other card without overpassing that number. The secret is to bear in mind the numbers 3, 10, 17, and 24, and to aim at making those numbers in succession. Thus, if the one player has marked 24, it is obvious that whatever number the other plays he cannot on the one hand reach 31, or on the other prevent the first marking that number, when it is again his turn to play. In like manner the player who marks 17 has a similar command of the number 24 at his next turn. Ten gives a like command of 17, and 3 of 10. If your adversary is a tyro, you may safely play indifferent numbers at the outset, trusting to his ignorance to let you mark 17 or 24, but as his knowledge of the game increases he will gradually get to realise that 24 is a critical number, and to play for it accordingly, and you will have to secure your position earlier in the game. If both the players are acquainted with the secret, the first to play must necessarily be the winner, as he will, as a matter of course, begin with 3, which gives him the command of the whole game.

## All Sorts

Keep your eye on the coal supply. There may be a large supply of cold-storage weather still in stock.

If some people were to think twice before speaking they would probably forget what they wanted to say.

Teacher: 'What is the highest form of animal life?'

Scholar: 'The giraffe.'

The first illumination with gas was in Cornwall, England, 1792; in the United States, at Boston, 1822.

One pound of cork is sufficient to support a man of ordinary size in the water.

Five and a half miles is the height of the loftiest mountain-peak in the world, while the greatest known depth of the ocean is six miles.

The first printing press in America was set up in the city of Mexico at the request of Archbishop Zumarraga in January, 1536.

'What sorter confuses me,' said Uncle Eben, 'is dat after I gits a lot of advice I's got to go around an' git a lot mo' advice 'bout which advice I's g'ineter take.'

'Yes,' said Mrs. Smith, 'Johnny's all right now. When he was bitten by that strange dog I took him to a doctor's and had the wound ostracised right away.'

The largest steam turbine yet undertaken is the one of 24,000 h.p. that is being built at Mannheim for the Krupp ironworks in Rheinhausen.

Java supplies the greater part of the cinchona bark from which the world's supply of quinine is made. There are about 25,000 acres of this island devoted to its cultivation.

A hospital superintendent says that a baby, to be healthful, should cry three or four times in the day at least. This is interesting, for the reader will observe he carefully leaves the night unmentioned.

'It is claimed by some scientists,' said the school teacher, 'that men have descended from the monkeys, and I want to know from what have the monkeys descended?' Smart boy: 'From the trees, sir.'

'And now,' said the teacher, 'we come to Germany, which is governed by the Kaiser. Tommy Jones, what is a Kaiser?' 'Please, 'm,' answered Tommy Jones, 'a stream o' hot water springin' up an' diturbin' the earth.'

'Why are articles on how to raise children usually written by people who have not families of their own?'

'Probably,' answered the worried mother, 'it's because people who have children are too busy to write articles.'

Mistress: 'Look here, Susan, I can write my name in the dust upon this table.'

Susan: 'Ah, mum, there's nothing like eddication, is there, mum?'

'Are you fond of works of imagination?' said the romantic young lady. 'Very,' replied the matter-of-fact lawyer, 'I read the weather reports in the newspapers every day.'

Little Mary went into the country on a visit to her grandmother. Walking in the garden, she chanced to spy a peacock, a bird she had never seen. She ran quickly into the house and cried out: 'Oh, grandma, come out and see! There's an old chicken in bloom!'

Concrete itself is, of course, very old. The concrete stairs of Colchester and Rochester castles still show the marks of the encasing boards; the dome of Agrippa's pantheon, which is 142ft in diameter, is of concrete; and fragments of concrete buildings are found in Mexico and Peru.

In the reign of Edward III. there were at Bristol three brothers who were eminent clothiers and woollen weavers, and whose family name was Blanket. They were the first persons who manufactured that comfortable material which has ever since been called by their name, and which was then used for peasants' clothing.

Many words of most august sound prove to be of quite commonplace ancestry when traced to their origins. 'Finance' is really only 'settling up.' Literally, it is just 'ending,' and was formerly used in that very simple sense in the English language. Then it came to signify settling up with a creditor, and acquired the special sense of ransom.

A strange comedy and tragedy was woven into the lives of Ibsen and Bjornson. As young men they were great friends; then politics flung them apart; they quarrelled, and never met for years and years. Strange fate brought the children of these two great writers together; and Bjornson's daughter married Ibsen's only child. The fathers met after a quarter of a century of separation at the wedding of their children.