

'Now, children,' he said, 'can any of you tell me what a diamond is?'

'Carbon,' was the prompt reply that issued from every throat in the class.

'Yes,' the teacher explained, 'a diamond is pure carbon; but you must remember that coal is also carbon. That was taught in our lesson, wasn't it?'

'Yes, sir.'

'Well, then, how could you be sure to tell the difference between the two kinds of carbon?'

'Ask the price!' lustily piped a little fellow in the front seat, who will most likely make his mark in business some day.

HOW HE WON THE PRIZE

At a twenty-first birthday party a mother was praising the talents of her son, and asked him to show the company the prizes he had won.

One of the guests, picking up the best article, said:

'And what did he win this prize for?'

'Oh, that was for running,' said the proud mother.

'And who presented it to him?' asked the guest.

'We did,' said the mother.

The guest looked surprised.

'You see,' said the proud mother, 'he'd have won, but he didn't hear the pistol go off.'

AN APPROPRIATE LANGUAGE

A countrywoman was taking her son to school for the first time, and, after impressing the schoolmaster with the necessity of giving him a thorough good education, finished up by saying:

'Be sure he learns Latin.'

'But, my dear woman,' said the schoolmaster, 'Latin is a dead language.'

'So much the better,' replied the woman. 'Ye ken, he's gaun tae be an undertaker.'

FAMILY FUN

To Name a Card at any Position in the Pack.—Having become acquainted with the bottom card in the pack, you take the pack in your left hand, face downwards, between the thumb and fingers. Suppose the bottom card to be the ace of hearts. Under cover of the right hand, the right thumb draws back this card about half an inch. With the ends of the first and second fingers you draw back the cards one at a time from the top of the pack, in view of the audience, about the same distance, requesting the company to tell you when to stop. The word being given, you draw off the upper cards with the fingers of the right hand, and the thumb draws off from under the ace of hearts, which at once becomes the bottom card of those withdrawn from the top. Holding them towards the audience, you say, 'This must be the ace of hearts.' Replacing them on top, take a glance at the next bottom card, and repeat if desired.

The Affectionate Kings.—For the purpose of this trick you must pick out the four kings, and exhibit them fan-wise, concealing behind the third in order two other court cards of any description. Having shown them in a careless manner, square them together, and place them on the top of the pack. Then commence a more or less eloquent dissertation on the affectionate disposition of the four kings, and the pleasure they take in each other's society, and which leads them always to come together, however widely they may be separated. By way of illustration, you take off the uppermost, showing it with apparent carelessness, and place it underneath the pack. Then take off the second card, which the spectators suppose to be a king also, and introduce it into the pack about halfway down. Place the next card a little higher up, and, after showing the fourth, which again is really a king, replace it on the top. Request the company to observe that the kings are now as far apart as they well can be; that one is at the top, one at the bottom, and the other two in different parts of the pack (the fact being that there are three at the top and one at the bottom). Invite some one to cut, and proceed to deal the cards one by one face upwards; when the kings will be found to appear together, in accordance with your preliminary observations. This trick, though performed by such simple means, generally gains for the performer the credit of having executed some wholly impossible piece of sleight-of-hand.

All Sorts

Many a girl thinks she has broken her heart when she has only sprained her imagination.

There are many strange things in nature. For instance, the day breaks without any apparent cause, whilst night falls but receives no injury.

It has been calculated that if all the newspapers which are published daily throughout the world were piled together their height would surpass Mont Blanc.

Glass was made in Egypt 3000 B.C.; earliest date of transparent glass, 719 B.C.; glass windows were introduced into England in the eighth century.

'Anyoné,' remarked the old gentleman, 'can build up a fortune if he has plenty of push.'

'That depends upon the way the push is applied,' rejoined the wise youth. 'There isn't much money in pushing a gocart or a lawn mower.'

The science of electricity owes its name to an observation attributed by Diogenes Laertius to Thales, who flourished as the Franklin of the period about 500 B.C. The observation in question was that when amber was rubbed it acquired the power of attracting light bodies, and from the Greek name of amber comes our electricity.

'Pardon my ignorance,' said the lady passenger to the captain of the big ship, 'but how do you manage to find your way across the trackless ocean?'

'By means of the compass, madam,' answered the captain. 'The needle invariably points to the north.'

'But,' queried the lady passenger, 'suppose you wish to go south?'

The first needles that were made in England were fabricated in Cheapside, in the time of Queen Mary, by a negro from Spain; but as he would not impart the secret, it was lost at his death, and not recovered again till 1566, in the reign of Elizabeth, when Elias Gowse, a German, taught the art to the English, who have since brought it to the highest degree of perfection.

At the Garrick Club, not very long ago, an old actor, Mr. Smith, and a young actor, Mr. Brown, were discussing the art of acting. Young Mr. Brown put forward an idea which greatly annoyed old Mr. Smith. During the heated argument Mr. Smith went so far as to call Mr. Brown 'an ass.' Next day poor Mr. Brown hunted up Mr. Brookfield for advice. After telling him the whole story, he said, 'And Smith ended with calling me an ass! What am I to do now?' Brookfield pondered for a moment. 'Consult a vet,' was his answer.

Acting on the advice of a prisoner, for whom he was appearing, a barrister challenged four or five jurymen on the ground that they were prejudiced against his client. When at last the swearing of the jury was completed, the prisoner leaned over the dock and whispered to his advocate:

'The jury's all right now, I think, but I want you to challenge the judge. I've been convicted under him three times already, and maybe he's beginning to have a prejudice against me.'

Said a prominent veterinarian: 'Animals when sick are the most helpless and appreciative of all creatures, and the way of administering relief and medicine in many instances is as novel as it is effective. The most savage and revengeful animals during spells of severe pain are, as a rule, as docile and tractable as a child. Relief must come from a human being, and come quickly, and they seem to know it. The most vicious horse, when groaning with pain, would allow a mere child to administer relief, and many of the wild animals when in sickness seem to forget their savage instincts.'

An interesting compilation of the dates of the founding of the great Universities of the world has been made as follows:—The University of Oxford was founded by King Alfred in 872; the first college of the University of Cambridge was founded by Hugo, Bishop of Ely, in 1257; the University of Paris was founded by King Philip II. about 1200; the first University of the German Empire was at Prague, Bohemia, 1348; Trinity College, Dublin, was incorporated by Royal charter in 1591; the University of Edinburgh, the youngest in Scotland, was founded in 1582 by a charter by King James IV. of Scotland, 171 years after St. Andrews, the most ancient; Harvard University had its beginning at Newton, afterwards Cambridge, Mass., in 1636; Yale University had its beginning at Saybrook, Conn., in 1700, and was removed to New Haven, in 1716, and the William and Mary College was started in 1617, and was chartered at Williamsburg, Va., in 1693.

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