

ring is on the hand of the third person, and it is the left hand (2), that the ring is on the thumb (1), and on the first joint (1) of that thumb.—*Ave Maria.*

### HISTORY OF ALMANACS.

The first almanacs—that is to say the first historical—were of Arabian origin, and reflected the local genius of the people in a very striking way. They served as models in other countries for hundreds of years.

The oldest known copy of such a work is preserved in the British Museum and dates back to the times of Rameses the Great of Egypt, who lived 1200 years before the Birth of Christ. It is written on papyrus, in red ink, and covers a period of six years. The entries relate to religious ceremonies, to the fates of children born on given days, and to the regulation of business enterprises in accordance with planetary influences.

'Do nothing at all this day,' is one of the warnings. 'If thou seest anything at all this day it will be fortunate,' is another entry. 'Look not at a rat this day.' 'Wash not with water this day.' 'Go out not before the daylight this day,' are some of the additional cautions.

This almanac was found in an old tomb and is supposed to have been buried with its Egyptian owner when he was converted into a mummy for future explorers to dig up and dissect in the interest of science and literature. Next after this in point of age among the existing specimens of ancient almanacs are some composed in the fourth century. They are Catholic Church calendars, giving the names of the saints and other religious information.

The Baltic nations, who were not versed in papyrus making, had calendars engraved on walking sticks and other articles of personal use. The days were notched with a broad mark for Sunday and the saints' days were symbolised in various devices, such as a harp for St. David's, a gridiron for St. Lawrence's, a lover's knot for St. Valentine's, and so on. The Saxon almanacs are numerous and contain historical as well as ecclesiastical entries.

It is possible to trace in these curious records all the changes of popular belief and taste. They were prepared to meet the current demand and to constitute a systematic story of what took place in successive periods and how knowledge increased with the revolving years.

### A CENTRAL AFRICAN FABLE.

One day the rabbit was out walking when he met a rhino.

'Well, my boy, where have you come from?' said the rhino.

'Why do you call me "boy"?' said the rabbit. 'I am just as big as you are, and if you tug with me you will see that I shall beat you.'

The rhino agreed to try, and so the rabbit ran away and fetched a long rope and gave one end to the rhino.

'Now I shall go far off,' he said, 'and when you feel me pull, then begin to tug.'

The rabbit then ran down to the lake shore where he saw a hippo. The hippo said: 'Well, my boy, where have you come from?'

'Why do you call me "boy"?' said the rabbit. 'I am as big as you are, and if you tug with me you will see that I shall beat you.'

The hippo agreed to try, and so the rabbit gave him the other end of the rope. 'Now I shall go far away,' said he, 'and when you feel me pull then begin to tug.'

Then the rabbit ran quickly to the middle of the rope, where neither animal could see him and pulled. When the rhino and the hippo felt the pull they began to tug with all their might and each was very much astonished when he felt the powerful tug at the other end. So they tugged and tugged till they were quite tired out.

Then the rabbit ran to the rhino and said, 'Do you agree now that I am as strong as you are?' The rhino agreed.

Then the rabbit ran to the hippo and said, 'Well, do you agree now that I am as strong as you are?' and the hippo, too, agreed.

So the rabbit went on his way, laughing to himself.

### THE MODEST JUVENILE.

The small boy was dressed in football costume and, with a jaunty air, he walked into the local newspaper office and handed to the editor a dirty scrap of paper. On it was a brief account of a juvenile football match which had taken place that afternoon.

Glancing at the report, the editorial eye caught the words:

'Jones kicked a magnificent goal, the finest ever seen on the ground.'

'Who is Jones?' asked the editor.

The youngster turned the thumb of his right hand proudly to his breast.

'I'm Jones,' he said calmly.

### IT DEPENDS ON THE DOCTOR.

Among the patients in a certain hospital there was one disposed to take a dark view of his chances of recovery.

'Cheer up, old man,' admonished the youthful medico attached to the ward wherein the patient lay. 'Your symptoms are identical with those of my own case four years ago. I was just as ill as you are. Look at me now.'

The patient ran his eyes over the physician's stalwart frame.

'Yes, but what doctor did you have?' he finally asked, feebly.

### MAGGIE'S MISTAKE.

Maggie was a maid in the employ of a Kensington family. One afternoon two lady visitors rang the bell, and, telling them to be seated, Maggie went into another part of the house to see if her mistress was in.

'I am very sorry,' said the maid, returning a minute later, 'but Mrs. Brown went out and won't be back till dinner time.'

'That's too bad,' exclaimed one of the ladies, as the callers started for the door. 'And to think, too, that I have forgotten my cards. I will have to—'

'Never mind the cards, ma'am,' interjected Maggie, with a kindly-disposed smile; 'I told the mistress your names when I went upstairs.'

### WHO DISCOVERED AMERICA.

Historical controversies are creeping into the schools. In a New York public institution attended by many races, during an examination in history the teacher asked a little chap, 'Who discovered America?'

He was evidently thrown into a panic and hesitated, much to the teacher's surprise, to make any reply.

'Oh, please, ma'am,' he finally stammered, 'ask me somethin' else!'

'Something else, Jimmy?' Why should I do that?'

'The fellers was talkin' 'bout it yesterday,' replied Jimmy. 'Pat McGee said it was discovered by an Irish saint. Olaf, he said it was a sailor from Norway, and Giovanni said it was Columbus, an' if you'd 'a' seen what happened you wouldn't ask a little feller like me.'

## VERY IMPORTANT

To those who study their health, that WATSON'S NO. 10 is the finest Liquor that comes from Scotland. See that you get it. Obtainable at all good houses.

**Your Friends**

Can buy anything you can give them except your photograph. Get that taken by

**Gaze & Co., Hamilton**