

ticed over a doorway the sign, "Dairy and Confectioner." Wishing to give the young lady a treat, the youth entered the shop and asked for chocolate creams. "I dinna sell chocolate creams on the Sabbath," said the old lady behind the counter severely. "But ye sell sweeties to the woman that has just gane oot," said the young fellow, who indeed had seen the transaction through the window. "Ay, some ecclesiastical confectionery, but nae chocolate creams," said the lady, and went on to explain: "Ecclesiastical confectionery is peppermint draps, pan draps, and ginger lozengers, but nae chocolate creams."

HIS LOGIC.

A colored preacher had just concluded a sermon on "Salvation Am Free," and announced that a collection would be taken up for the benefit of the parson and his family. A member in the audience objected to the paradoxical nature of the proceedings, and received this bit of negro logic in response:

"S'pose yo' was thirsty an' come to a river. Yo' could kneel right down an' drink your fill, couldn't yo'? An' it wouldn't cost yo' nothin'. Dat water would be free. But s'posin' yo' was to have dat water piped to yo' house, yo'd have to pay, wouldn't you? Waal, brudder, so it is wid salvation. De salvation am free, but it's de habin' it piped to yo' dat yo' got to pay for."

THEIR BAD SPELLING.

A country politician in Ohio was elected school commissioner. One day he visited a school and told the teacher he desired to examine the boys and girls. A spelling class was just then at work, so the commissioner said he would inquire into the proficiency of that organisation. The teacher gave him a spelling-book, and the pupils lined up in front of the mighty man. He thumbed the book; then pointing at the first boy he said: "Spell eggpit." "E-g-g-p-i-t," spelled the boy. "Wrong," said the commissioner; and pointing to the next boy, said, "You spell eggpit." "E-g-g-p-i-t," spelled the boy. "Wrong. You spell it." The next boy spelled it the same way, and the next, and the next. "Bad spellers," commented the commissioner to the distressed teacher. "Why, sir," she protested, "they have all spelled 'eggpit' correctly." "They have not." "Will you let me see the word in the book?" the teacher asked. "I am sure they have." "Here it is," said the commissioner, and he pointed to the word "Egypt."

SMILE RAISERS.

"I say, Sandy," said Jack, handing back his friend's photograph: "when ye had those photos taken why didn't ye smile?"

"And those pictures costing me twa dollars a dozen!" replied Sandy. "Are ye crazy, mon?"

"Ma," said a newspaper man's son. "I know why editors call themselves 'we'."

"So's the man that doesn't like the article will think there are too many people for him to tackle."

"Don't you think Miss Howler has wonderful control of her voice?"

"No, I don't. She sings every time anyone asks her to."

"Six days or six shillings," said the judge sternly.

"I'll take the six shillings," said the prisoner. "I've got enough time on my hands as it is."

Irritated Lady: "No, it doesn't fit, and I expect my money back."

Merchant: "But, good gracious, lady—"

Irritated Lady: "Your advertisement says, 'Money refunded if not approved.'"

Merchant: "So it does, my dear madam; but your money was approved. It was very good money."

SCIENCE SIFTINGS

By "VOLT."

Not Real Mahogany.

The name "mahogany" is applied commercially to more than 50 different woods. Perhaps half the lumber now sold under that name is not true mahogany, for the demand greatly exceeds the supply (states *Popular Science Monthly*). The tree is only native to the limited area between southern Florida and northern South America. Nowhere else does it really flourish. But the public will have mahogany. Women want it for furniture, business men prefer it for office fixtures, and teak and mahogany are rivals in the affections of ship-builders. Therefore substitutes flourish. It is not surprising that the real wood is so expensive when it is learned that it takes from one hundred to one hundred and fifty years for a mahogany tree to reach merchantable size. Most of the substitutes bear little more than a general resemblance to the genuine wood, but skilful finishing makes them very much alike. Experts can usually distinguish between them by the aid of an ordinary pocket lens. The efforts of the superficial, however, to judge the wood by its appearance, weight, grain, and color often lead them astray.

A Geographical Problem.

Evidences of the elevation of New Zealand within recent geographical times were discussed by Dr. J. Henderson in a paper read before the Wellington Philosophical Institute recently. Dr. Henderson expressed the opinion that New Zealand as a whole had changed its level at various times. There had been periods when the level had fallen, but he did not think that there had been much local variation. The raised beaches that were found all around New Zealand proved, in his opinion that the whole country had risen and fallen. He drew attention specially to levels that might be called the 100ft., 250ft., and 500ft. strand lines, and mentioned that there was evidence of a small rise, a few feet only, within quite recent times. He quoted a mass of evidence bearing on the subject. Dr. C. A. Cotton, in the course of the discussion that followed the reading of the paper, said he disagreed with Dr. Henderson regarding the nature of the movement that had taken place. He believed that there had been a great deal of differential movement. His observations had led him to believe that the levels of the raised beaches were by no means regular. Mr. G. Hogben said it was hard to believe that so large an area of land could rise and fall without local variations. He mentioned the evidence that the big earthquake of 1855 raised the level of the land in Wellington and neighboring districts. Later Mr. Hogben read a paper dealing with the earthquakes experienced in New Zealand during the years 1914 to 1917 inclusive. He said that the movements all had their origin in fault lines situated beneath the ocean from 180 to 250 miles east of New Zealand, and extending roughly from the longitude of Kaikoura to that of East Cape. The disturbances must have been very severe to make themselves felt in New Zealand.

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