

NOT AT ALL NICE.

Mr. William Huggins was angry, and he certainly appeared to have some justification for wrath.

"Liza," he expostulated, "don't I always tell you I won't 'ave the kids bringin' in the coals from the shed in my best 'at. It ain't nice, Liza."

"Just listen to reason, if you please, Bill," said his wife coldly. "You have spoilt the shape of that hat with your funny head, and, as you're working coal all day at the wharf, what can a little extra coal-dust in your hat matter?"

"You don't see the point, Liza," said William, with dignity. "I only wear that 'at in the hevenin's, an' if while I'm hout I takes it horf my head it leaves a black band round my forehead. Wot's the consequence? Why, I gits accused o' washing' my face with my 'at on. And it ain't nice, Liza."

ART—AND ITS USES.

The man, whose magnificent car stood in the roadway, approached the shabby-looking artist, who was painting for dear life, depicting on his canvas the sunset in all its flaming glory.

The opulent one stared at the picture, then said: "I'll give you a quid for that picture just as it is."

The artist flushed, and tried not to look too pleased and as though he were used to dashing off little unfinished things and selling them on the nail.

"But why not wait until the picture is finished?" he asked. "I have nearly done."

"Can't," said the opulent one. "I need the canvas at once to mend my tyre!"

SMILE RAISERS.

Schoolmaster: "So you admit the unfortunate lad was carried to the pump and there drenched with water? Now, sir, what part did you take in this disgraceful affair?"

Jones (meekly): "The left leg, sir."

Robert: "Mother, was Robinson Crusoe an acrobat?"

Mother: "I don't know. Why?"

Robert: "Well, this book says that after he had finished his day's work he sat down on his chest."

Young Lady: "You say you were on a raft for six weeks after you were torpedoed, and had nothing to eat but mutton. Where did you get the mutton from?"

Bored Sailor: "Well, you see, miss, the sea was very choppy."

An amateur authoress who had submitted a story to a magazine, after waiting several weeks without hearing from the editor concerning it, finally sent him a note requesting an early decision, as she stated "she had other irons in the fire."

Shortly after came the editor's reply: "Dear madam,—I have read your story, and I should advise you to put it with the other irons."

A SHORTHAND REVOLUTION

Mr. Wm. Wheatcroft, one of the foremost authorities on PITMAN'S Shorthand, Editor and Author of the new editions of the "Teacher," the "Primers," etc., after a close study of

GREGG SHORTHAND

and writing 80 WORDS a minute
after less than 6 WEEKS' study,
writes:—

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Modern Aeroplane is to the Gas Balloon."

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SCIENCE SIFTINGS

By "VOLT."

Electricity in the Treatment of Disease.

Electricity, as is well known, plays a large part in the treatment of disease, but its usefulness in diagnosing faults and breakdowns in the human machine is less familiar, except in the case of X-rays for the detection of fractures and foreign bodies. Several ingenious electric instruments have been invented and manufactured in Great Britain for giving accurate records of the heart's action and of the temperature of the body. When a current of electricity is passed through the body between the extremities of the limbs, the contraction of the heart alters the strength of the current; by an ingenious arrangement this alteration is made to record itself on a photographic plate. A "cardiogram" is thus secured which gives a diagrammatic account of the heart's action, and enables the physician to detect conditions which might escape other means of detection. In taking temperatures, the usual method is to insert a thermometer at intervals and to "chart" the record, drawing straight lines between the points ascertained. With the electric method, the record is continuous, showing the slightest variation from minute to minute.

Kauri Oil Industry.

An industry that may be said to be a direct development of the war is the kauri oil industry. The Parenga Gumfields, Ltd., was formed in 1910, and secured an extensive area of gum lands, the intention being to lease the land in suitable areas to gumdiggers, and so obtain a revenue. The war cleared the diggers out, and the company was without revenue. Something had to be done, and this something was done. The company experimented with the soil, or dirt, known as puka. This consists of kauri leaves, twigs, bark, etc., which by the lapse of time have become mixed with the soil, and this dirt yields a very rich oil. Before the war this puka was put into bags and sold at 12s per bag for export to Germany, and, of course, this business ceased when war was declared. What the Germans did with puka is somewhat of a mystery, but it is believed that it was used partly for high explosives, and partly in the manufacture of linoleum. The company experimented with the dirt. A retort was built, and 18 gallons of oil were extracted from a ton of puka, and, further experiments following this initial success, resulted in 76 to 110 gallons being obtained. The discovery was later found not to be new, for a similar process was discovered in France before the war for the extraction of oils other than kauri oil. The company having assured itself of the success of the new process, is now installing machinery which will be in position in a few weeks, and will then be capable of producing 4500 gallons of oil, which, when refined, would be worth from 7s 6d to 10s per gallon, because of its extreme richness. If this industry proves a commercial success, as it is expected to be, there will be a tremendous opening for legitimate enterprise. There are vast tracts of this oil-impregnated soil. Puka is found just below a thin layer of sand, and is from one foot to three feet thick, and very many acres in extent. It is below the puka strata that the gumdiggers look for the coarse kauri gum, which is found in lumps.

If thou wouldst conquer thy weakness, thou must never gratify it. No man is compelled to evil: his consent only makes it his.—William Penn.

PILES

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