

'No, thank you,' the lady replied, 'I prefer to smell the pine boards.' And she was right. If she, or we, can carry this principle through our entire living, we shall have the cheerful heart, the cheerful voice, and the cheerful face. There is in some houses an unconscious atmosphere of domestic and social ozone, which brightens everybody. Wealth cannot give it, nor can poverty take it away.

WHEN MOTHER WHISPERS

Isabella's mother had called her aside for a word in her ear. No one in the company knew what was said in that hurried whisper, for the face of Isabella's mother was smilingly non-committal.

But not so with Isabella's face. Her brow puckered, her lips gathered into a pout, and her upturned eyes were mutely reproachful. Her expression, and nothing else, was responsible for the conclusion reached by her cousin Jack which he announced to her some five minutes later. 'Guess you were getting a scolding. You looked it.'

'Isabella is one of the girls, unfortunately, who do not appreciate the kindly tact which tries to spare their feelings. As a matter of fact, she had been neglecting one of her young guests, and her mother had called her aside to give her a whispered hint to that effect. And instead of appreciating this piece of consideration, Isabella pouted and revealed to everyone the fact that something was wrong.

When mother whispers a little reproof or suggestion, the sensible girl will be grateful for the kindness which spares her feelings, and will co-operate by giving a smiling attention and prompt obedience. If, by her sulkingness, she frustrates her mother's efforts, she shows herself unworthy of the consideration she has received.

SANDWICH MEN

Advertising is pre-eminently a modern business, yet one phase of it, like much of our commercial system, found its origin in Italy of the Middle Ages. The sandwich man made his first appearance in 1346 on the streets of Florence. The wine merchants there were in the habit of hiring indigent individuals to parade the streets dressed to represent straw-covered wine-bottles. Now the custom has spread to all the great cities of the globe. But nowhere, perhaps, is the sandwich man subject to more stringent regulation than in London. He must walk near the curbstone, but not on the pavement, and not within thirty yards of his nearest placarded comrade. In case the sandwich man does not fulfil these rules he may be arrested and fined.

WHAT WAS IN HER HAIR

'Now, Margaret, dear, I'm going to put some vaseline on your hair to take the dandruff out,' said mamma to her small hopeful of five. 'Then you may run out and play.'

'What's in your hair, Margie?' asked her playmate a little later. 'It looks all shiny.'

'Oh, my mamma put some gasoline in it to take the dandelions out!' replied little Margaret wisely.

FAMILY FUN

The Boat Race.—The most exciting, high-speed game, one that is calculated to raise the mirth of the most doleful, and one that is particularly suited to parties, is that known as the boat race game. Any number of players may take part in it, and they must be divided into two sides. The players stand in two rows, facing one another; at one end of the line there is the starter and at the other the umpire. At the word 'Go!' the starter drops a penny into the hands of each of the two men nearest him. These two men then drop it into the outstretched palms of the people next to them, and so the pennies are passed along from one to the other, and the winning side is the one which manages to get the pennies into the hands of the umpire first. A great point which all the players must bear in mind is that on no account must the coin be touched by the fingers. Each player must secure the coin in the palms of his hands placed together, and must drop it into the hands of the man next him by simply opening his palms. This adds greatly to the fun of the game. In the hurry to pass on the coin the excited player will drop the money and pick it up in his fingers, and his side is then disqualified for that game.

Adverbs.—This is another novelty. In this case each player calls him or herself an adverb, such as joyfully, gracefully, calmly, miserly, cruelly, etc. One member of the party then takes up a book and begins to read out a page. As the adverbs occur which are represented by any person present, he or she has to rise and endeavor to express the same by means of gesture or facial expression. This proceeding will be found to cause much amusement.

All Sorts

Men of understanding are instructed by reason, the ignorant by necessity, and beasts by nature.

Compliments are like wine—it only takes a small dose to go to the heads of some people, while others can stand a good deal.

'And what did the doctor pronounce your ailment?' 'Why—er—well—oh, he pronounced it all right, but I can't.'

Clerk: 'This letter is too heavy; you must stick another stamp on.' Country Woman: 'But you'll only make it heavier if you do that.'

The temperature of the cucumber is one degree below that of the surrounding atmosphere. It is therefore apparent that the expression, 'Cool as a cucumber' is scientifically correct.

Hospital Doctor: 'Well, my man, and how did you like the port wine and egg I ordered you?'

Patient: 'Well, doctor, I should have liked it all right if only the port was as old as the egg, and the egg was as new as the port.'

An open-air orator once received this poser: 'I tell you, gentlemen,' he exclaimed—and the experience of a lifetime confirms my statement—that if you want a thing well done you must do it yourself!' 'How about getting your hair cut?' asked a man in the crowd.

Disgusted customer: 'I bought a currant bun here yesterday, and found a fly in it. I want you to exchange the bun for another.' Confectioner: 'Can't do that, sir; but if you will bring me back the fly I'll give you a currant for it.'

Brown (making a call): 'Your neighbor's daughter seems to be quite a singer.' Smythe: 'Ah, I wish I had her voice!' Browne: 'What would you do?' Smythe (fiercely): 'Drown it!'

A new metal has been compounded in Germany, to be known as electron. It is described as an alloy of magnesium which can be cast, drawn, pressed, and rolled. It is lighter than the lightest metal hitherto known. In color it is silver-white, and lends itself to a brilliant polish.

'What's the matter with the train?' asked the lecturer, vexed with the speed they were making.

'If you don't like this train,' the guard retorted, 'you can get out and walk.'

'By Jove!' said the lecturer, 'I'd do it, but a reception committee is to meet me at my destination, and I don't want to get in ahead of time.'

Gustave Ulyatt has a little daughter who hasn't been well recently. The other day a physician was called to the Ulyatt home to see her. He examined the child with the aid of a stethoscope. When her father came home that evening he asked what the doctor had said.

'Nothin',' replied the little girl.

'What did he do?' asked Mr. Ulyatt.

'He just telephoned me all over,' was the child's reply.

Curious among vegetable growths and one which is seldom seen of men is the rootless cactus of the Californian desert. This plant, a round, compact growth, rolls about the level floor of the desert for some eight or nine months of the year, tossed hither and thither by the winds which blow with fierceness over all of California's sand plateaux during those months. At the coming of the rains, or rather the cloudbursts, which sweep the deserts in its springtime, this cactus takes root wherever it happens to have been dropped by the last wind of which it was the plaything and immediately begins to put out all around it small shoots, which in turn become cacti, exactly like the parent plant. The roots do not penetrate the soil deeply, but spread often over a circle whose radius is not less than 10ft. These plants get every bit of moisture and plant food to be had in the territory they cover.

Moles, clumsy and almost blind as they are, become perfect fiends when they quarrel. No one knows what they quarrel about, but when they start fighting one has to die. They will keep on in the presence of any number of spectators, hanging on to each other like bull-dogs, and burying their enormously strong teeth in one another's flesh. Hedgehogs, another type of the quiet, inoffensive-looking animal, not only fight, but always to the death, and when one is killed the other sometimes devours him. Hares, too, are proverbially the most timid of creatures, yet a fight between two hares is a ludicrous sight, as they skip and jump over each other. But a blow from the hind legs of a hare is no joke to his opponent. Among birds, robins are the most pugnacious. Robins become so frantically set on killing each other that they allow themselves to be picked up in the hand of a looker-on without releasing their hold of each other.

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