

'No, sir; I—I ain't exactly forgotten it.'
 'Well, what do you mean by first telling me that you can not say it, and then that you have not forgotten it? Both answers can not be true, my good boy.'
 'Yes, sir, they are. I never knew it.'

ANSWERED BY THE LAST BOY

The inspector was examining Standard I., and all the class had been specially told beforehand by their master: 'Don't answer unless you are almost certain your answer is correct.'

History was the subject.

'Now, tell me,' said the inspector, 'who was the mother of our great Scottish hero, Robert Bruce?'

He pointed to the top boy, then round the class. There was no answer. Then at last the heart of the teacher of that class leaped with joy. The boy who was standing at the very foot had held up his head.

'Well, my boy,' said the inspector, encouragingly, 'who was she?'

'Please, sir, Mrs. Bruce.'

MEDICAL PHENOMENA

A Philadelphia physician, while making a social visit at the house of a friend, chanced to meet a colleague. After some general conversation, a remark was made that gave a professional turn to the talk. The first physician said: 'You know, one may look into the throat of a child and determine upon which foot it is standing merely by the way in which the blood collects on the other side of the body.'

'A more remarkable fact than that,' observed the second doctor, 'is that by manual training you can actually increase the size of the brain of a stupid child, so that by proper mental exercise it develops a marked degree of intelligence.'

It is probable that the host began to suspect that his medical friends were trying to 'chaff' him; at any rate, he, as a layman, contributed the following extraordinary addition to the stock of medical knowledge:

'Gentlemen,' said he, 'the facts you mention are nothing compared to one coming under my own observation. I have actually seen a man who by looking in his pocket-book could tell you what he was to have for dinner!'

HABIT

This is what our office boy has to say about habit from an etymological point of view, although it might be remarked in passing that his actions do not always square with his philosophy:—'Habit' is hard to remove. If you take away the first letter, 'a bit' is left. If you take off another letter you still have a 'bit' left; while if you take off another letter the whole of 'it' remains. If you remove another, it is not 't' totally used up. All of which goes to show that if you wish to get rid of a bad habit, you must shake it off altogether.'

FAMILY FUN

To Make a Person Choose a Certain Card.—Write on a slip of paper the name of the card you intend to have chosen, fold the paper and give it to some member of the company to keep till the game is ended. Take a pack of cards, and ask the one who is to be willed to choose a certain card to say which colors he prefers, the red or the black. We will suppose that the name of the card you have written is the Queen of Hearts, and consequently is a red card. If the player says he prefers the blacks, then say, 'Very well, that leaves me the reds.' Discard the black suits and keep the red ones. If, however, he chooses the red, then say, 'Very well, we will discard the blacks.' Next ask him which suit he prefers, the hearts or the diamonds. If he says diamonds, you must keep the hearts, but if he says hearts you will say that you will throw away the diamonds, since he prefers hearts. Now spread out the heart suit and ask him to select a card. If by any chance he takes the Queen of Hearts, you say at once, 'That is the card I willed you to choose,' and the game ends. The chances are that he will not draw the card, so you say that you asked him to draw a card because you wished an even number. You then divide the cards, six in each pile, spread them out and ask which half he prefers. If he says the one containing the Queen of Hearts you discard the other six, and divide the remaining cards into two piles of three each. You again ask him to choose, and you discard by the same manner the pile which does not contain the Queen of Hearts. There are then three left, and he is again asked to choose a card, and if he does not choose the Queen, then you throw away the card he chose and ask him which of the two left he will take from the table. If he chooses the Queen, then ask for the slip of paper and say that on it is written the name of the card you willed him to choose, but if he chooses the other you say that the one left on the table is the one you compelled him to choose. This is an amusing trick, and quite mystifying, the player not noticing the manner in which you discard the cards which he chooses. Always bear in mind that the cards containing the card whose value you have already written must be kept in the hands.

All Sorts

'Hallo, Brown, settled in your new house yet?' 'Yes. Everything is unpacked now, except the things we really need.'

'Give me a little time,' said the young man, 'and I will do something to arouse the country.'

Three months later he had his chance. He was hawking alarm clocks from house to house.

'Isn't there danger,' said the timid man, 'of dropping things from an airship on the people below?'

'That isn't the worst,' answered the candid inventor. 'You're lucky if the whole airship doesn't fall on you.'

'Here I've been talking for half an hour,' exclaimed an auctioneer, 'and I haven't got an offer.' 'Half an hour, indeed!' murmured an elderly maiden; 'what's half an hour to many long, long years—and still no hopes of an offer?'

'Yes,' said Mrs. Wordsworth; 'the family are most interesting. John dances divinely, Tom sings like an angel, David is a famous footballer, Susanne paints with great taste.' 'And Henry?' 'Oh, Henry! Well, he's rather a dull sort of a fellow, you know. He only works and supports the others.'

'Hallo!' exclaimed a coster-monger on meeting an acquaintance. 'Wot damages did yer get for being in that motor-bus accident?' 'Eavy ones, my boy,' was the reply, accompanied by a grin. 'I got twenty pounds for myself and twenty pounds for the missus.' 'The missus! Was she hurt, too?' 'Yes, in course! I 'ad the presence of mind to fetch her one over the 'ead 'fore we was rescued.'

Little Johnnie: 'Solomon may have been the wisest man, but Adam was the luckiest.'

Mamma: 'Why do you think so, Johnnie?'

Little Johnnie: 'Cause he was born a man, and didn't have to go to school.'

'What did the doctor say was the matter with you?'

'He said he didn't know.'

'Well, what doctor are you going to next?'

'None. When a doctor dares to make such an admission as that, he must be about as high in his profession as he can get.'

'There was one man whose life was perfect,' said the Sunday school teacher. 'What one of you can tell me who he was?'

Little Mary Jane's hand went up, and the teacher nodded to her.

'He was mamma's first husband,' she said.

'Say, paw,' queried small Tommy Toddles, 'is a man who loves books a bookworm?'

'He is frequently so called, Tommy,' replied Toddles, sen.

'Then,' continued Tommy, 'I suppose a woman who loves silks is a silkworm, isn't she?'

With a view to testing the intelligence of fishes, some remarkable experiments were made five and thirty years ago by M. Amtsberg, of Stralsund. A large pike in an aquarium was so destructive to other fish in the tank that it was separated from them by a sheet of plate-glass. The sight of its accustomed prey tempted the pike to make the usual dash, only to receive a smart blow on the nose. After about three months of this experience it found this to be such a losing business that it gave up trying, and so firmly convinced was it that these fishes were pastmasters in the art of self-defence that, when the glass was removed at the end of half a year, it left them severely alone. Yet when other fish were introduced they were not spared.

Beekeeping is a valuable aid in the cultivation of fruit and seed crops. Insects which feed on nectar play an important part in the fertilisation of flowers. Fertilisation is effected in other ways, but the agency of insects is the more certain and efficacious, and no other insect is comparable with the honey-bee in this respect. A strong hive contains 10,000 bees in February, 15,000 in March, 40,000 in April, and from 60,000 to 80,000 in May. It has been discovered by skilful observers that the average load of nectar carried to the hive by a bee is about 3.10 of a grain, so that the collection of one pound of nectar requires nearly 23,000 foraging excursions. By means of hives set on balances it has been found that the daily increase of weight in May averages 3.3 pounds. Occasionally, more than eleven pounds is gained in one day; and when the amount consumed by the bees and the loss of weight by evaporation are considered, it appears probable that the average daily quantity of nectar collected is not less than eleven pounds, which would load 250,000 bees. As a bee visits ten flowers on the average in collecting a single load, some 2,500,000 flowers are visited in one day by the bees of a single hive. An additional large number of visits is required for the collection of pollen. These figures explain why many trees and plants bear small crops, in the absence of bees.

Though one man swears by lemonade,
 When it is fifteen in the shade,
 Another may prefer his beer,
 And think the first man's taste is queer;
 Though one may stick to water pure,
 Another patronise the brewer,
 Both will, of course, perforce endorse
 The worth of Woods' Great Peppermint Cure.