

COULDN'T UNDERSTAND.

When the woman motorist was called upon to stop, she asked, indignantly: "What do you want with me?"

"You were travelling at forty miles an hour," answered the police officer."

"Forty miles an hour? Why, I haven't been out an hour," said the woman.

"Go ahead!" said the officer. "That's a new one to me."



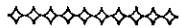
OUT OF ACTION.

An inspector was examining a class in geography, and addressing a small boy in the back row, he asked: "Now, sonny, would it be possible for your father to walk round the earth?"

"No, sir," replied the boy, promptly.

"Why not?" asked the inspector.

"Because he fell down and hurt his leg yesterday."



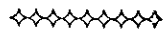
TWO REASONS.

"When one meets one of the modern women one must be careful how one expresses oneself," remarked Binks.

"How do you make that out?" asked Smith.

"Why," replied Binks, "I was proposing to Ethel the other night, and I said, 'My dear, I would go to the ends of the earth with you!'"

"She said, 'No, you wouldn't. I inquired why not, and she added, 'One reason is that I wouldn't go, and another is that there aren't any.'"



SMILE RAISERS.

Teacher: "Now, children, what is 'above par'?"

Johnny: "Please, sir, ma!"



He: "My love for you is like the deep, blue sea."

She: "And I take it with the corresponding amount of salt."



"You told me to put my tongue out, doctor, but you have not looked at it."

"No; I merely wanted time to write your prescription."



Mrs. Gabb (reading): "Do you know, my dear, that there are approximately 700,000 words in the English language?"

Mr. Gabb: "Only 700,000! Why, I thought you used a great deal more than that every day!"



Mamie: "Father, why don't you grow some hair on your head?"

Father: "Why doesn't grass grow on a busy street?"

Mamie: "Oh, I see! It can't get up through the concrete."



Two little girls coming from Sunday school, where reference had been made to his Satanic Majesty, were discussing the lesson.

"Do you believe there is a devil?" asked one.

"No," said the other. "It's just like Santa Claus; it's your father."

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SCIENCE SIFTINGS

By "VOLT"

A Mammoth Map.

The largest map in the world is being erected in San Francisco. It is 600ft long and 18ft wide, and shows all the natural as well as the man-made features of California.

Every mile of the 6,000 highways is shown in clear, white finish, and no railway is too small to be indicated.

The cattle, sheep, and horse-raising areas are indicated by groups of these animals, each half an inch in length, and models of steamers and barges are placed on the rivers.

Above the Snowline.

That animal life ascends the mountains far beyond plant growth is one of the discoveries of the Mount Everest expedition.

"The highest growing plant observed was blue vetch at 18,000ft.," writes Lieut.-Col. E. F. Norton, leader of the expedition. "Yet animals possess permanent habitations as high as 22,000ft. A minute and inconspicuous black spider hops about on the rocky cliffs and hides beneath stones in those bare places which happen to be swept clear of snow by the wind. I cannot think on what it lives at such a height.

"In these altitudes there is no other living thing—nothing but rock and ice. This little spider is worthy of note, being the highest permanent inhabitant of the earth. We therefore find life on the highest mountains far above the permanent snowline."

Romance of Quinine: Valuable Medicine for 300 Years.

Despite the seven-league strides of medicine, quinine, whose powers have been known to civilisation for 300 years, still is the leading curative for malaria and similar fevers (says an exchange). The Countess of Chinchon, wife of a Viceroy of Peru of the early years of the seventeenth century, lying desperately ill with malaria at Lima, determined to take a native bark solution recommended by a subordinate official. He must have obtained the quinine bark from a tribe of Incas. Unlike many unfortunate Spaniards in South American dominions, the Countess survived her malaria attack. Soon the story of her recovery spread. Jesuit missionaries got the bark from Indian tribes and took it back to ague-ridden Europe. Indeed, it was first called "Jesuit's bark," and it is sometimes called Peruvian bark to-day. Quinine's properties made it as valuable as Inca gold. Once it sold at £4 an ounce. To-day the world receives its quinine from Holland, not Peru, and the Dutch get it from their mine of tropic wealth, Java. Ninety-nine per cent. of quinine now comes from Java plateau groves.

Quinine went to the front in 1914. Living in a damp trench is one of the world's easiest way to get fever. The Government liberally supplied men on the line with quinine. They even exhorted them to take the medicine, French posters contrasted the poilu who took quinine with the poilu who did not. The latter was the sickest-looking individual imaginable, with chest caved in, sallow drawn cheeks, ominous circles under his eyes. The poilu who took his quinine wore a smile that told the world he was "fine as a fiddle," as he stepped off down the street with his sweetheart on his arm.

In naming the tree from which quinine comes, the Countess of Chinchon was remembered. Linnaeus, the Swedish botanist, who is responsible for the Latin scientific names assigned to so many plants, labelled it the cinchona tree, through an error in spelling the Countess's name. Cinchona is also the trade name for the tree and bark now. The cinchona tree is a seeker of high altitudes. In Java, as in Peru, it grows on slopes 3000 feet to 9000 feet above sea-level, where it can get ample rainfall. Oxidation of the peculiar alkaloids in the bark makes the surface a brilliant red. High Java hillsides are often distinguished with the trees rising 20 feet to 40 feet high with cherry bark, shiny green leaves, and, in blooming season, white blossoms.

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