

## WHO'D BE A TEACHER?

"B—e—d spells bed," said the teacher for the twentieth time to her backward pupil. "Now do you understand, Tommy?"

"Yes," said Tommy, glibly.

"Well, c—a—t spells cat, d—o—g spells dog, and b—e—d spells—what did I tell you b—e—d spells?"

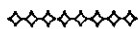
"I—I've forgot, miss," whispered Tommy, contritely.

"What, you don't know what b—e—d spells after all I've told you?"

Tommy shook his head.

"Well, once more, b—e—d spells what you sleep in. Now, what do you sleep in?"

"My shirt!"



## A TOTAL ECLIPSE.

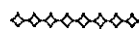
The young dramatist walked nervously into the manager's office.

"Might I ask if my three-act play has been read yet?" he asked. "And if it has been read may I inquire whether you have accepted it for production?"

"Three different people have read it," answered the manager, "and each thinks it will do with one act cut."

"I'm glad to hear that it is no worse," replied the other, with a sigh of relief.

"But," continued the manager, "each wants to cut out a different act."



## SMILE RAISERS.

"Jack Newlyrich seems to have quite a lot of common sense."

"Don't let his mother hear you say that; she hates anything common."



Proud Old Lady (whose daughter has just sung a song): "You know, Mr. Smith, my daughter has had her voice trained."

Mr. Smith (somewhat deaf): "Yes, badly strained, I should imagine."



Two charwomen were discussing the distressing baldness of the son of the house.

"They say 'is farther went boid, too, just about 'is age," remarked one.

"Yes," said the other; "it's wot they call airy-ditty."



"My dear, the doctor says a brisk walk before going to bed will cure my insomnia."

"Well," returned his wife, "I'll clear the room so that you can walk, and you may as well take the baby with you."



He had been looking over the Christmas cards on the counter for some time when the saleswoman suggested: "Here's a lovely sentiment: 'To the Only Girl I Ever Loved.'"

"That's fine," he said, brightening. "I'll take five—no, six of those, please."



"The last speaker," said the chairman of the Health Congress, "is a striking example of the efficacy of the doctrines he so eloquently advocates. Hale and hearty at eighty years of age, he could tire out many a man younger than himself."

A voice from the audience: "He did."

## Science Siftings

By "Volt"

## World's Strongest Wire.

Twenty-five thousand miles of wire, the strongest of its kind ever made, will be used in the two cables supporting the world's longest suspension bridge now being erected across the Delaware River at Philadelphia.

The wire, long enough to girdle the earth, is shown by tests to have a stretching strength of 223,000lb per square inch. After assembly into the cables it will hold against a pull of 36,000,000lb. The total length of the Delaware River bridge, including plazas, is 9760 feet.

## The First Tramway.

It is recorded that the ninth Duke of Norfolk laid a tramway with wooden rails in 1774, with a view to assisting and cheapening the transport of coal. The local people did not appreciate the innovation, and serious riots occurred, in the course of which the lines were damaged. They were afterwards replaced by iron rails, and it is contended that this was the first tramway in the country to be so constructed.

James Outram's cast-iron track plates laid on wooden cross sleepers, which were afterwards replaced by cast-iron boxes and then by stone blocks, were "Outram ways," but it seems probable that the similarity between this term and "tramways" is only a coincidence.

## The One-man Tram.

A new type of tramcar is to be put into service in London. It is controlled entirely by one man, who combines the jobs of driver and conductor.

To make this one-man control possible, a number of ingenious mechanical devices are used. The car holds thirty passengers, who pay their fares as they enter, dropping the coins into a fare-box. The driver issues the tickets, which are cancelled by a foot-operated punch. A machine which gives change is another feature.

"Safety first" is the motto in a number of other interesting devices. For instance, the air-brake handle is fitted with a "dead man grip," and the doors cannot be opened while the car is in motion.

## How Camphor is Made.

As a perfume, camphor has been known and valued by the people of China and Japan for centuries. Originally obtained from gum deposits occasionally found in old camphor trees, it is now extracted from the wood itself, which after being sawn through lengthwise, is reduced to chips and heated in a still.

The vapor given off in this way passes through bamboo pipes into a cooling chamber, where it condenses in crystal form, known as "flowers." These crystals are collected and exported to Europe, where they are further purified by being mixed with lime and charcoal and refined in special retorts. The oil thus obtained should not be confused with camphorated oil, which consists of camphor dissolved in olive oil.

## Voice From a Fan.

The latest gramophone has no horn, no tonearm, and no sound-box. In place of these there is a plated upright diaphragm fourteen inches in diameter. At the bottom of this fan is a needle-holder, very like the ordinary one, into which the needle is fitted and set going on the record in the usual way.

This simple apparatus is said to reproduce a voice so well that if the gramophone is placed behind a screen it is impossible to say whether a human being is there or a machine.

The inventor is a Frenchman, M. Lumière, who was making investigations into acoustics when he was surprised to hear a strange noise coming from the centre of a fan of plated paper with which he was experimenting.

## A River That Gets Rusty.

Can you imagine a river that gets rusty? There is one which is subject to this phenomenon—the River Ob, which falls into the Arctic Ocean and runs through the north of Siberia.

The Ob contains a great amount of iron. Every year when it freezes over the iron is cut off from the air. The result is that the metal precipitates, or in other words, instead of being dissolved in the water, becomes a solid.

The whole underside of the ice is covered thickly with rust, and even the fish and other creatures become rusty. In the lower reaches, where ice does not form, the water, ordinarily quite clear, becomes cloudy and discolored. The whole river, 2300 miles long, becomes poisonous.

People living near it have to quench their thirst with melted snow, and most of the fish leave the river and seek safety in the sea. They are told by instinct when the time arrives for their annual exodus.

In the spring the ice thaws and the air renders the river free from poison. The fish immediately return. They swim up the stream in such vast numbers that they are packed tightly together. Any boat that tries to navigate the river at this time loses thousands of fish on to the flat banks, where the natives kill them with sticks.

## SKIN CONTAGION.

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