

"Yes, sir; terribly sore," answered the bandsman huskily.

The doctor examined him carefully.

"Yes, it is rather inflamed," said he. "You had better not strain it using it in the band. I shall strike you off duty for a week; come to me again at the end of that time, and in the interval gargle with salt and water."

At the end of the week back came the bandsman fully recovered.

"That's good," said the doctor. "You're fit for duty again, so you can return to your work to-day. By the way, what instrument do you play?"

"The bass drum, sir!" answered Tommy, without the flicker of an eyelid.

HIS NOT TO REASON WHY.

A dear old gentleman noticed a laborer walking along a railway train and diligently tapping the wheels. Having nothing better to do, the old gentleman approached and asked:

"How many years have you been working for this railway, my man?"

"Thirty-eight, sir," replied the laborer, still continuing his work.

"I suppose you have had many varied experiences in your time—plenty of change of occupation, I expect?"

"No, sir, I've always 'ad this same job. I've tapped the wheels of trains for eight-and-thirty years, sir."

"A long time, my man, a very long time: and if I may say so it shows a steady character. And by the way—what is the reason for tapping the wheels? Why do you do it?"

The man stood up, scratched his head, and said, "I'm darned if I know."

SMILE RAISERS.

Well-meaning Hostess (to amateur vocalist who has done his worst): "You must never tell us again that you can't sing, Mr. Smith. We know now!"

Critic: "Well, I'll say this—if that's Art, I'm an ass."

Artist: "Oh, that's Art right enough."

"Does your husband suffer from his rheumatism?"

"Yes, but not half so much as the rest of us do!"

John: "I heard you congratulating Mr. Scribbler on his short stories. What on earth do you find to admire about them?"

Bill: "Their shortness."

The Grocer: "Yes'm, the high price of mustard is due to the scarcity of fuel. You see, people are buying up mustard and are keeping themselves warm with poultices!"

Guide: "This castle was built by Henry the Eighth."

Perspiring tourist: "Well, why the deuce did he build it so far from the railway station?"

Since her husband had become a Government contractor, Mrs. Newton had put on no end of side. Recently she gave a reception, and thought to impress her guests by having the gardener in to help at table.

He managed fairly well except for spilling the tea on the frock of the doctor's wife and treading on the vicar's pet corn.

But he got tired of offering thin bread and butter to one old lady. At the seventh trip he bent down and advised her in husky tones, which rang through the room:

"If ye was to slap two or three pieces together, ma'am, mebber you'd get a mouthful!"

SCIENCE SIFTINGS

(By "VOLT.")

Wireless Wonders.

"We are only just beginning to discover the possibilities of wireless telegraphy."

The member of the Marconi Company who made this statement to a contemporary proceeded to draw a wonderful picture of its future development, which a new device, lately tested with amazing results, now makes possible.

The invention is primarily for the use of ships. At present most vessels fitted with wireless have to employ two or three operators, so that one can be constantly on duty "listening in." Otherwise signals from other vessels would not be picked up. By means of the new apparatus, however, alarm bells will ring on board every ship within the wireless radius, when a message is sent out by another vessel.

When a ship is in distress, the operator will merely press the automatic transmitting key and set the alarm bells ringing on all other vessels within a range of 300 to 1200 miles.

Within the extension of the idea there would be no difficulty in firing a gun from a point 300 miles away, or exploding a mine in New York or Berlin. All that would be necessary would be to leave in the cities a receiver suitably hidden and connected with a mine. The instrument was actually used in an experimental form during the war to fire a fog-gun some 15 miles off the English coast. Instead of sending a party out to the gun during fog it was fired by wireless from the shore.

At a recent demonstration, a small mine of gun-powder was exploded at Chelmsford at a given signal from Cambridge, 30 miles away. In future wars mines will be laid at spots over which enemy troops are likely to pass. An aeroplane will wait till the advancing enemy has reached the spot, and then explode the mine by pressing a button and sending out the wireless current.

The Need of Food We Can Chew.

"Premature tooth-decay has been wonderfully helped along by our modern diet," says an editorial writer in the *New York Medical Journal*.

"We have been taking out of life just as far as possible the necessity for vigorous use of the teeth, and inasmuch as we have done that we have been doing harm rather than good to the mouth. The gums and mucous membranes generally are less healthy when the necessity for vigorous exercise is taken away from them. Nothing will clean the surface of the tongue so well and give a good taste to the mouth in the early morning as chewing on a crust of tough bread or well-done toast. We have been beginning breakfast with mushy cereals which have very little effect on the mucous membranes, and if most of the breakfast is composed of soft materials, eggs, creamed potatoes, and soft rolls following the cereal, then we shall have nothing to renovate the surface of the mouth properly. Manifestly, if we are to preserve the teeth, we must put back into the diet materials that require vigorous chewing and, by their mechanical friction while being chewed, help to cleanse the teeth and reinvigorate the mucous membranes."

PILES

Can be instantly relieved and quickly cured by the use of BAXTER'S PILE OINTMENT. This excellent remedy has been a boon to hundreds of sufferers all over New Zealand. Sent post free on receipt of 2/6 in stamps or postal notes by
WALTER BAXTER :: CHEMIST, TIMARU.

THE MOST OBSTINATE

Corn must quickly yield to BAXTER'S RUBY CORN CURE. Once this remedy is applied there is no escape for the corn—it must give in. Price, 1/-, post free, from BAXTER'S PHARMACY, Theatre Buildings—TIMARU

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