

ance of the nail-studded door, and told his father so. "Well," said the father, "now every time you are obedient or speak a kind word I'll draw one of the nails out." So it went on for some time till at last the son, with a good, glad heart, called his father to draw the last nail. Out it came. "Oh, I'm so glad father," said the boy, and then, the pitted-looking door catching his eye, he added a little sadly: "But the marks are there!" "Yes," said his father, "and so it is with our evil deeds—they leave marks that linger long upon our characters and lives. We ought to try to escape not only the wounds but the scars that are left. The only way to do this is to avoid the wounds."

#### WAITING FOR THE PARTY.

The manager of the village football club asked the captain to postpone play for half an hour.

"Just had a wire," he explained, "to say that a party of between sixty and seventy won't be able to get here until three-thirty. We can't afford to lose 'em."

"Right-o!" replied the captain. "We'll wait."

At half-past three an elderly man appeared.

"Got my wire?" asked the man.

"Yes," answered the manager. "Of course, it is unusual to delay the start of a match, but as the party is between sixty and seventy, we decided to make an exception."

"Thanks!" said the elderly man. "Very good of you."

"Er—where is the party?" asked the manager.

"Where? Here!" said the elderly man, pointing benignly to himself. "I'm sixty-five to-day."

#### THEN HE DIDN'T LAUGH.

A young man was wandering up and down the platform of the railway station, intent on finding an empty carriage in the train, which was almost due to start. But in vain. Assuming an official air, he stalked up to the last carriage, and cried in a stentorian voice: "All change here; this carriage isn't going."

There were exclamations low but deep from the occupants of the crowded compartment; but they hurried out of the carriage and packed themselves away in other parts of the train. The smile on the face of the young man was childlike as he settled himself comfortably.

"Ah," he murmured, "it's a grand thing for me that I was born clever! I wish they'd hurry up and start."

By and by the stationmaster appeared at the door and said: "I suppose you're the smart young man who said this carriage wasn't going?"

"Yes," said the clever one, and he smiled.

"Well," said the stationmaster, with a grin, "it isn't. The porter heard what you said, and so he uncoupled it. He thought you were a director!"

#### SMILE RAISERS.

His Reverence: "Well, Matthew, how's the wife to-day?"

Matthew: "Her's no better nor no worse, sir, an' the doctor, e' don't give no encouragement neither way!"

A man asked a friend to dinner, and amongst the vegetables served were boiled onions.

The friend, wishing to say something pleasing, exclaimed:—

"If there's one thing I like more than another, it is oiled bunions!"

Jack: "You know the apples in the cupboard that you told me not to eat?"

Father: "Yes."

Jack: "You know you said they'd make me ill if I ate them, didn't you?"

Father: "Yes."

Jack: "Well, they didn't."

#### 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.**

## SCIENCE SIFTINGS

(By "VOLT.")

### Age and Eyesight.

The condition of the eyes has much to do with the health of the body. Hence, it is important that you should do your work in a good light, and that you should preserve your eyesight by wearing the proper glasses. When he is approaching fifty years of age, virtually every person with normal eyes needs glasses for reading. Many people then imagine that their sight is "failing." Such a mistake is absurd. All that has happened is that the crystalline lens of each eye has grown gradually harder with advancing life. In early childhood it is like jelly in consistency; now it is like wax, and the focus muscle, which controls its shape, needs the help that glasses can give.

### Wooden Stockings.

The popularity of silk stockings has had an important influence on the shortage of paper, for these very different articles are both made from wood pulp (says London *Tit-Bits*).

A German professor invented an "imitation" silk made in this way, and the American stocking manufacturers were quick to see the possibilities of the invention, with the result that every year millions of pairs of "wooden" stockings are made in the United States.

Crepe-de-Chine is another material that is often made from wood pulp, and some "weights" of this are made heavy by being "leaded," or mixed with minute particles of lead during the process of manufacture.

Taffeta silk, or some qualities of it, is also made from wood pulp; in fact, most, if not all, of the cheap silks on the market owe their origin, not to the silk worm, but to the forest tree, and to the mixing of lead with the raw materials to make the different weights. Means have just been discovered of making men's felt hats from wood.

### A Priest's Discovery.

Some interesting discoveries as to the causes of slow and rapid reading are disclosed in the report of an investigation conducted by the Rev. John A. O'Brien, F.H. D., Chaplain to the Catholic students at the University of Illinois. Father O'Brien, working in conjunction with the Bureau of Educational Research, studied the factors conditioning the development of speed in the silent reading of 1,400 pupils in ten cities in Illinois, U.S.A. As the result of psychological experimentation, methods of training were devised which increased the speed of the pupils' reading from 30 per cent to 125 per cent without any impairment of the comprehension.

The investigation discloses the striking fact that no reading occurs while the eyes are moving along a printed line, but only during infinitesimally brief pauses of which the reader is usually unconscious. A unique feature contained in the published work is a number of photographic records of the eye movements of the readers, which were taken in the psychological laboratory at the University of Chicago. The photographic records reveal that the readers who increased their speed, did so by lessening the number and duration of their eye-pauses.

The results which have just been published in Dr. O'Brien's book, *Silent Reading*, have attracted wide attention from psychologists and educators throughout the country. An entire chapter of the Year-book of the National Society for the Study of Education was devoted to the presentation of these findings. Professor Buckingham, former president of the National Association of Directors of Educational Research, styles the study the most significant contribution to methods of teaching silent reading that has yet been made. The work is expected to cause a shift of emphasis from oral to silent reading and to stimulate markedly the teaching of the latter as the more economical.

The work has been recommended by the educational authorities of several states for adoption in the reading circles of the public school teachers in those states. In recognition of the scientific character of the research and the important results obtained for the advancement of educational methods, the University of Illinois has conferred upon Father O'Brien the degree of Doctor of Philosophy.