

## WHAT SHE WANTED.

A customer asked one of the saleswomen at the linen counter for a certain style of handkerchief. The always-pleasant, ever-obliging assistant opened box after box, looked over the stock in the show-case with great care, and then brought forth a reserve stock and looked painstakingly through this—but without finding what was wanted.

Then from a remote corner of one of the shelves she took down another box.

When it was opened the customer exclaimed, "That's it!" and holding up a lace-trimmed handkerchief she asked, "How much is it?"

When told the price she replied, "I didn't want to buy any of them, but a friend gave me one for a present, and I wanted to find out how much she paid for it."



## SETTLING THE ARGUMENT.

Two small boys were discussing the excellencies of their respective parents, and the conversation had reached the personal stage.

"Well," remarked Tommy Stubbs, "you can say what you like, but I reckon on your father's about the meanest man that ever lived. Fancy him letting you walk about in them old boots, and him a bootmaker, too!"

"Garn," replied Bobby Roberts, "my father ain't so mean as your father, anyway. Fancy him being a dentist and your baby only got one tooth!"



## HOW TO DO IT.

The professor was trying to demonstrate a simple experiment in the generation of steam.

"What have I in my hand?" he asked.

"A tin can," came the answer.

"Very true. Is the can an animate or an inanimate object?"

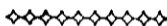
"Inanimate."

"Exactly. Now, can any little boy or girl tell me how, with this tin can, it is possible to generate a surprising amount of speed and power almost beyond control?"

One little boy raised his right hand.

"Well, Tommy?"

"Tie it to a dog's tail!"



## SMILE-RAISERS.

Mother: "Where are you going, Willie?" Willie: "I am going out to spend my pennies. You said I was to save them for a rainy day, and it's raining hard!"



"What is the effect of taking a cold bath every morning?" "The chief one that I've noticed is an unconquerable desire to tell everybody about it!"



Willie (to talkative caller): "Well, now that you've come, I suppose I shall have to go for the doctor." Talkative Caller: "Why, Willie?" Willie: "Father says you always make him ill!"



Mamma had sent little Bessie to the pantry to fetch some sticky fly-paper. She was gone a long time, and finally the mother called:

"Bessie, hurry with the fly-paper. Have you got it?"

There was a pause, and then this in an earnest voice:

"No, mamma, the fly-paper's got me. But—we're both coming!"



A teacher asked her class to write an essay on London. She was surprised to read the following in one attempt:

"The people of London are noted for their stupidity."

The young author was asked how he got that idea.

"Please, miss," was the reply, "it says in the text-books that the population of London is very dense."

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## SCIENCE SIFTINGS

By "VOLT"

## Weather Signs.

In different localities the weather varies so much that the official weather forecasts are only of general application. Here is a simple and reliable way of telling if rain is coming during the day (says the *Pall Mall Gazette*). As early as possible in the morning go out and search the sky for the smallest cloud that is in sight. Keep this under close observation for five minutes or so, and note whether it alters in size. If the cloud gets smaller one can be almost certain of a fine day. On the other hand, if it increases in size, rain will surely come in a few hours. Where the cloud remains the same size no special change in the prevailing weather is likely to take place. If the cloud increases very rapidly thunder is almost a certainty in the summer. Alteration in the size of clouds is connected with the state of the atmosphere. When the air is very dry and rain is unlikely, the clouds soon vanish; if the atmosphere is charged with moisture, the masses of vapor increase, and this will soon be discharged in the form of rain.

## Amateur Wireless: How to Use a Wavemeter.

One of the most useful and interesting accessories to a wireless receiving set, apart from those essential to the working of the set, is a wavemeter (writes E. Blake, A.M.I.E.E., in a London paper). This is an instrument for measuring the length of the waves received or, on a sending station, that of the waves radiated. In the latter instance a wavemeter is a necessity, because the operator must check and alter the tuning adjustments by measuring the waves being radiated, so that these may be of the correct length.

The uses of a wavemeter in connection with a receiving set are as follows:—

(1) To enable one to adjust the tuner beforehand to a certain wave-length, and

(2) To ascertain or check the length of the waves emitted by a transmitting station.

I will illustrate the way in which the instrument is applied to these purposes.

Suppose it is announced that a broadcasting station will send a concert on the waves 390 metres long, and that although you do not know the correct position for this wavelength, you wish to receive the concert from the start without wasting time in turning the tuning handles round. On the wavemeter there will be either a scale and pointer indicating various wavelengths, or you will have a card showing how to set the instrument to the wave-length you require. When the instrument is set to 390 metres, the next step is to start a little electric buzzer working. This is supplied generally with, and connected to, the meter, and is actually a tiny "spark" transmitter, the circuit of the meter being a variable oscillatory circuit.

When the buzzer begins, very weak waves are radiated of the length to which the meter has been set. The whole apparatus is placed near the receiver, which "picks up" the signal sent out by the wavemeter—a continuous buzz. All that remains to be done is to put on the telephones and tune in the buzzer signals until the adjustment which brings in the buzzer signals at maximum strength is found. Your receiver is then adjusted to 390 metres. Write down the figures to which the various pointers point for future reference.

Now let us suppose you have been "searching" with your receiver and have received signals from a station which interests you, and you wish to know the wave-length it is using. You place the wave-meter near your receiver, keeping the adjustments of the latter, unaltered, set the buzzer going, and manipulate the wavemeter until you hear the buzzer signals at maximum strength. You then read off on the wavemeter scale or card the wave-length at which it is set.

It is very interesting to check the alleged wave-lengths of amateur stations in this way.

Apropos my remark that the wavemeter is a feeble transmitter, it may interest you to learn that the writer once connected the buzzer to a large aerial, and with power supplied from a 2s dry cell transmitted signals which were readable at a distance of five miles.

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