

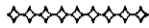
QUITE SATISFIED.

A young Negro walked into a post-office and asked to use the telephone. He left the door of the box open, and the postmistress overheard the following:

"Dat yoh, Mist' Johnson? Ah've bin wonderin' if yoh need a boy ter cut yoh grass an' help arund de house? . . . Yoh got a boy does it? . . . You puffically satisfied with him? Uh-huh, all right, Mist' Johnson."

The postmistress said to him, when he was going: "I can give you a job. We need someone useful."

"Much oblige'," said the Negro. "But Ah've got a job. Ah works for Mist' Johnson. Ah jus' bin checkin' mahsel' up."



101 PER CENT.

This happened at a conference of Negro preachers. A visiting bishop was looking at the various examination papers, and came upon one marked 101 per cent.

"See here, Brother Jones," he asked the worthy who was conducting the test, "What basis does yo' base yo' answers on?"

"One hundred per cent.," advised the minister.

"But how does this man come to be marked 101 per cent.?"

"Oh, yo' see, suh," answered the examiner, "he answered one question we didn't ask."



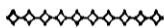
HER ADVANTAGE.

The wife of a certain very parsimonious man has always experienced great difficulty in inducing him to part with any change. One day she followed him to the door and quietly asked:

"Henry, can't you let me have a couple of pounds? I want to—"

"There you go again!" exclaimed Henry. "It's always money, money, money! When I am dead you will probably have to beg for it."

"Well," said the wife, "I shall be a whole lot better off than some poor women who have never had any practice."



SMILE-RAISERS.

Shopwalker: "She complains that you didn't show her common civility."

Shop Girl: "I showed her everything in my department, sir."

Mrs. Motorist: "Why don't you ask someone where we are?"

Mr. Motorist: "What the deuce difference would it make? Five minutes from now we won't be anywhere near here."

Passenger (ship on the rocks): "Captain, is there no hope—no hope whatever?"

Capt'n: "None at all, sir—no hope at all!"

Passenger: "Just my luck! And I wouldn't eat any cucumbers for dinner for fear I'd have indigestion!"

Jack: "You've no need to get angry when I ask you a question. How long has Jim been dead?"

Sara (a little excited by the previous conversation): "Well, if he had lived till to-morrow he would have been dead a fortnight."

The candidate looked as brave as he could, while his election agent waxed wildly enthusiastic on his behalf.

"Look at the man for whom you are asked to vote," roared the speaker. "Where, gentlemen, where, I ask, could you find a more vacant candidate for this worthy seat?"

It's tough to miss a train—

As you may often do,

But it is luck, you bet,

When the same train misses you.

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.

SCIENCE SIFTINGS

By "VOLT"

Saving Lives with Seaweed.

Hitherto (says *Tit-Bits*, London) many of us have regarded that common marine plant, the seaweed, as valuable only as a manure, our farmers having used it as such for generations.

Now the scientist has shown us the many wonderful products which can be made from seaweed. In Scotland iodine is being successfully manufactured from it, and preparations are afoot for the making of agar-agar, or katan, as some call it.

This is a pearly-white shiny product, invaluable to the medical profession, and an important food adjunct. It is used extensively throughout the world as a thickener in jellies and soups. It is also largely employed in the sizing of textiles, for stiffening the warp of silks, for clarifying beer, wines, and coffee, and in the making of moulds in plaster of Paris.

Our hospitals use it in large quantities as a culture medium for bacteria. In this respect it has no equal, being the only gelatine-like substance that can stand the necessary temperature. The medical profession declare that its chemical properties are such that it will displace many drugs, which leave a harmful after-effect.

Up to the present the whole world has had to rely upon Japan for its agar-agar. We took over a hundred tons last year, paying for it at the rate of 1s 3d per pound. There are over 600 factories turning out this product in Japan.

The Japanese product is dealt with by hand, and the present price of labor is such that we could not compete with the low wages of the Orient. Now, however, special machinery has been devised which will enable us to manufacture the coveted article much cheaper than we can import it.

But iodine and agar-agar do not exhaust the list of articles that can be made from seaweed. For instance, from the kelps, the most abundant of the seaweeds, an isinglass superior to the vegetable article can be made, as well as adhesive plasters, photographic films, potash, and algin.

Algin is a substance capable of a variety of applications in the arts and sciences. It possesses 14 times the viscosity of starch and 37 times that of gum arabic. As a sizing for fabrics it supplies the long-felt want of a soluble gum of great elasticity and flexibility. From it lozenges and jujubes can be made.

At the present time the Scottish factories are obtaining most of the raw material which they are converting into iodine from the west coast of Ireland. Here the peasants gather the seaweed, or kelp, and stack it on the beach, just out of reach of the tide, where they leave it until it becomes thoroughly dry.

It is then burnt, a whole stack at a time. This often means 15 to 18 hours' steady work for a dozen men. While in a semi-liquid state it is cut into blocks, and when quite cool is as hard and as heavy as iron. It is sold to the iodine manufacturers at from £3 to £5 per ton, according to quality.

In the case of agar-agar the seaweed is sent direct to the factory. It undergoes many processes, being subject in turn to great heat and cold. After some 72 hours of treatment the seaweed comes out as the white gelatine substance that is so much in demand.

We should understand that the most productive work in this day, both for time and eternity, is that of hearing Mass.

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.

Gaze & Co.,
Hamilton

We use the best processes known to modern photography in the finish of our work, so that we can still guarantee that excellence in all branches with which you have long been familiar.