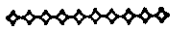


TOO STRENUOUS.

Boy (reading thrilling story): "I'm tired of Dick Dare, the hero of this tale. The hard work he's giving his eyes is shocking! First he threw them up to the ceiling, then he let them drop and swept the floor with them. After that he darted them down a passage, and when I left off reading he was fixing them on a hat-rack!"



IDENTIFIED.

The Wheatons had amassed a vast fortune and risen from obscurity to an enviable position in society. The daughters of the household, however, had never been able to "polish" mother to their exacting ideas, and often her remarks were a trial to their otherwise blissful existence.

One evening they were entertaining a party of friends, and conversation turned to music. Mrs. Wheaton strove to remember the name of a certain composer.

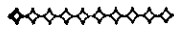
"I can't remember it to save my life," she remarked, after meditating deeply for a few moments, "and it was at my tongue's end a moment ago. As near as I can come to it, his name is Doorknob."

The girls looked aghast, and one of them said, quietly: "You are mistaken, mother; there is no composer whose name sounds anything like doorknob."

Then, wishing to make up for her mother's deficient knowledge on the subject, she said:

"I will go over a few names: Beethoven, Mendelssohn, Wagner, Haydn, Handel—"

"That's it!" interrupted mother. "It's Handel. I knew it was something you seized with your hands."



SMILE-RAISERS.

"And has he proposed to you yet?"

"Not yet, dear. But oh! last night—his voice had such an engagement ring in it!"

Bacon: "When a man is in love everything looks different to him."

Egbert: "Yes, it's the same way when he knocks his head against a gas-bracket."

Mistress (engaging new cook): "Well, Jane, I think you will find the work light and easy, and I am sure you will find the master is very easily pleased."

Cook: "Yes, ma'am; I thought the same as soon as I saw you."

Infuriated Druggist (roused at 2 a.m.): "Two penn'orth of bicarbonate of soda for indigestion at this time of the night, when a glass of hot water would have done just as well!"

Sandy: "Weel, weel, I thank you for the advice, and I'll no' bother ye after all. Good-night!"

The officer was giving a lecture on the care of arms. He explained how they should be cleaned, and finished by saying: "You should treat your rifle as tenderly as you would your wife. Rub it every day with an oily rag."

Boy: "Please, will you give me some trousers patterns for father to see?"

Shop Assistant: "Certainly. What kind does your father prefer?"

"Oh, father is not particular as to the pattern so long as they are strong enough to hold up our creeper!"

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"

Why Bread Has a Crust.

Why does a loaf of bread have a crust?

When a mass of dough is baked in the oven the water in it turns to steam at 212 degrees Fahrenheit. After this it cannot get any hotter, but the outside of the loaf is not limited by the presence of water, and both the pan and the air in the oven get much hotter.

This converts the starch in the outer layer of dough into sugar, part of which is burnt to caramel. The latter gives the outside of the loaf its crust, and makes it quite different in appearance and flavor from the crumb inside.

Where It Hurts Most.

Drawing a tooth is said to be the extreme of human pain. The rupture of the branching dental nerve causes such agony as no human being could stand for more than two seconds at a time.

It is a curious fact that while a deep and dangerous wound often causes nothing but a dull ache, a slight surface injury is often intensely painful. A splinter driven into the quick of the nail causes the most exquisite agony.

The tips of the fingers and the tip of the tongue are the most sensitive portions of the human frame. The cornea of the eye is also extremely sensitive. Most of us know the misery caused by getting a speck of cinder or something hard under the eyelid.

A burn on the hand is much more painful than one on the back. The hand is a mass of nerves, and a man shot through the palm of the hand will usually collapse as completely as if shot through the body.

Of ailments, the three which cause most pain are toothache, earache, and neuralgia of the fifth nerve. The latter has been known to drive the sufferer quite mad for the time being.

Can Plants See?

We know that plants are sensitive to light and dark. Many of them move during the day in order to turn the faces of their flowers always to the sun. Others open only when the daylight is dying, and when the moths on whom they rely to carry their pollen are abroad.

Climbing plants, such as sweet-peas, seem to fling their tendrils in an almost uncanny way in the direction of anything that will serve as a support.

A scientist engaged recently in taking photographs of leaves through the microscopes was surprised to discover that some of them showed hundreds of little round patches, each of which reflected the image of some object, just as do the facets of the compound eye of an insect. Closer examination proved that each of these patches consisted of a cell whose rounded outer wall formed a perfect lens.

Each cell was, in fact, a perfect eye. It was tempting to jump to the conclusion that plants could see. Actually they do not. The "eyes" serve quite a different purpose. A plant lives by the process of bottling up sunshine, whose action produces chemical changes within the leaves and the stem. The leaves focus the sun's rays and enable the work to be done effectively.

Plants are sensitive to light simply because when the sun shines the chemical changes within them go on with increased speed. Climbing plants find supports by groping. The tendrils follow the sun, and as they move round they touch and hold on to anything suitable that lies in their path.

Be filled with hope and give the world the impression of your own mind, and material wealth will not count so much.

PILES

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