

Trained Ears Detect Faults in Machinery

Brass workers hear "tempers," dull tools and noises imperceptible to ordinary ears. "Trained hearing has saved us thousands of dollars," says a writer in the official publication of a firm of brass manufacturers of Waterbury, Conn.

Some time ago it was discovered that there were many employees of the company, both men and women, whose sense of hearing was so acute that in spite of the deafening roar of machinery, they could hear noises, or the absence of noises, that the ordinary person would never notice. In every case it was discovered that this unusual gift was not inherited, but acquired.

It didn't come to them suddenly or easily, but only after years of experience and familiarity with their work, surrounded by the same machines, that their hearing would develop this delicate keenness that gave them the power to notice the smallest sound amid other noises. A curious thing was found, that the ability is more common where factory noises are deafening. It is the overpowering noise itself that makes these trained ears so delicate that they can hear what would be inaudible to others, observes the Literary Digest.

Magical Power Seen in Shorthand Writing

The ancients appear to have regarded their shorthand writers as possessed of a faculty closely akin to magic. Ausonius, a poet of the Fourth century, addressing a shorthand writer, says: "Your hand, of which the movement is hardly perceptible, flies over the waxy surface; and though my tongue runs over long phrases, you fix my ideas on your tablets long before they are worded. I wish I could think as rapidly as you write! . . . Who has revealed to you what I was meditating? How many thefts does your hand make in my soul!"

There is no evidence to show that the speed of ancient shorthand writers was at all comparable with that of our own day. They wrote upon waxed tablets and no specimen of their art appears to have been preserved. For centuries there was no shorthand in the world. It was not revived until 1588, when Dr. Timothy Bright, a Yorkshire parson, published a book, "Character; or Arte of Shorte, Swift and Secrete Writing by Character." This system was simply a collection of arbitrary signs for a large number of common words. "There was no attempt to provide a shorthand alphabet," says the Manchester Guardian.

Rhymes on Rings

While some old customs are dying out, others are being revived. Among the latter is that of engraving mottoes and proverbs on lovers' rings. Rings thus engraved were formerly called "posy rings," and some of the inscriptions were very quaint.

For instance, how would the following appeal to the "modern miss": "My love is fixt, I will not range, I like my choice too well to change. Among the many other mottoes which adorned the rings of oldtime lovers were:

"In thee, my choice, I do rejoice." "This and the giver are thine forever." "Of all the rest I love thee best." "God for me appointed thee." "I joy in thee, joy thou in me," and "Providence divine hath made thee mine."

Those Fool Questions

The bright red motorcar skidded violently across the road, shot through a hedge and landed on its side in a roughly plowed field. The driver crawled painfully out of the wreck and stood looking at it, the picture of gloom.

"After a while, a passer-by looked through a hole in the hedge. "Hello!" he exclaimed cheerfully. "Had an accident?"

The motorist bit back the angry words that rose to his lips.

"Oh, ho," he replied, "not at all. The fact is I've just got a new car, so I brought the old one out to bury it. Have you a pick or spade you could lend me? I don't seem to make much headway digging by machinery."

Good Campaign Story

Just before an election, says Pathfinder Magazine, there was a small group of ready talkers making a lot of noise. One fellow said it reminded him of the farmer who told a restaurant man he was going to drain his frog pond and would gladly sell him a carload of frogs. One day the farmer came in with a market basket full of frogs. The restaurant man said: "Where are the rest of them?" The farmer said: "This is all I could find. But they made so much noise I was sure there must be a carload."

Our Chete.
O Lord, pray I we earnestly yesterday, make us neither an any mark nor a tightwad, but, if thou must make us one or the other, make us an easy mark.—Ohio State Journal.

Habits of Silence Inbred

In the old days Ojibway children were taught to be seen and not heard, for to be heard might have meant death. When the scream of the hoot owl or other strange noises came from the woods, they snuggled closer, but kept all the quieter, for the noise which they heard was liable to be the signal of a prowling enemy, and to have cried would have been to have revealed the hiding place of the family or tribe.

Thus through the thousands of years that the Indians lived in constant danger of attack, the habit of silence was bred in the blood. Even now the Ojibway youngster will take a severe jolt without a sound, and even come up smiling.

Theatrical "Run"

"Your show is the worst we have ever had here," said the manager of a theater in a western town as he handed the manager of the touring company his share of the box-office receipts. "That's strange!" said the manager of the company. "Why, when we played in Omaha we had the longest run in the history of the city!" "I'm sorry!" replied the manager of the theater. "Sorry about what?" "Sorry the audience abandoned the cause!"

In Siam's Jungles

The Diard fire-backed pheasant is largely gray, varied with black, white and chestnut, with a shining gold back and bronze red rump, says Nature Magazine. The bird inhabits Siam and French Indo-China. Here it lives in bamboo thickets and jungles.

Founded by English King

The University of Goettingen, in the province of Hanover, Prussia, one of Germany's most notable seats of learning, was founded in 1734 by King George II of England, who was also the elector of Hanover.

"Corduroy"

A make of corded cloth was named from a finer fabric manufactured in France and used in the hunting habits of the king and his suite, then called "cord du roi," translated "the king's cord."

Thrifty Note

Some statisticians announce that only 20 cents a person is spent in this country for soap. And we have been in crowds where some persons had saved their 20 cents.—Greenville (S. C.) Piedmont.

Aged Apple Trees

The apple tree is the longest lived of American fruit trees. In many parts of the East it is not unusual to find trees healthy and bearing fruit at the age of 100 years.

Selling Talk

Ardent Wooer (a commercial traveler)—My love for you, Winnie darling, surpasses anything else that can be offered in that particular line.—London Opinion.

Franklin's Lenses

Benjamin Franklin was the inventor of bifocal spectacles. In a letter to a friend he describes a pair made for him before 1785 by the famous London optician, Dollard.

Uncle Eben

"Good advice," said Uncle Eben, "is more liable to make de listenin' friend suspect you's tryin' to show off as bein' smarter dan he is."—Washington Star.

A Difference

Placing the purse under the pillow when going to bed safeguards it, but resting on one's laurels may lose them.—Buffalo Enquirer.

First American Oil Well

The first oil well in America is said to have been discovered on a small mountain farm in Wayne county, Ky., in the year 1829.

Tons of Herrings Taken

The herring fishery, the most important branch of deep-sea fishing, averages an annual catch of more than 600,000 tons.

Confusing the Motive

Some people imagine they are being sympathetic when really they are only being inquisitive.—Illinois State Journal.

Community Building

Fire Prevention "Don'ts"

Precautions demanded by ordinary regard for safety were outlined in a list of "Don'ts" made public by Fire Chief Watson of Buffalo, N. Y., as a part of the educational campaign of Fire Prevention week. The "Don'ts" follow:

Don't use gasoline or other volatile liquids to remove spots from clothing.

Don't throw your lighted matches or smoking material where they can possibly cause fire.

Don't smoke in bed; perhaps those guilty of this practice are too green to burn, but the beds are not.

Don't let children play with matches or bonfires.

Don't fall to have your defective chimneys or flues mended.

Don't forget to have the soot removed from your smoke pipe; if not cleaned the pipe may overheat and start a fire when you operate the furnace.

Don't forget to protect walls, ceilings and partitions from the overheating of stoves, furnaces and pipes.

Don't put hot ashes into wooden boxes or barrels.

Don't fill oil lamps or stoves by open-flame light.

Don't let rubbish accumulate.

Install a fire extinguisher in your home. It may save the life of a member of your family.

Coal may be scarce this winter. If you use some substitute in order to heat your home, do not fail to have the apparatus properly installed and operated. Makeshift installations may result in the loss of your home.

Owner of Home Has Stake in Community

The question of owning a home is one which presents itself with ever-increasing force to every young husband and wife, and must be answered sooner or later one way or the other, says the Atlanta Constitution. Owning a home is not such a difficult matter as it appears to some. Like many other things in life, it consists chiefly in determination—making up your mind that you will have one.

No doubt there are many young people renting homes in every city who could easily have a home of their own. Homes of all kinds, located in attractive surroundings, can be bought on terms almost like rent; and there are many marked advantages in owning your home. In the first place, the sense of ownership gives you a stimulating interest in your surroundings. You become a part of the community—a sharer in its responsibilities, its aims and its ambitions—and a partaker in its rewards.

Owning one's home stimulates one's self-regard and supplies the driving motive for other undertakings.

One of the most important decisions that any young man can make, after he has found his job and his lifemate, is to own his home.

Restoring Old Houses

Restoration of old houses to modernize them without destroying their architectural beauty, and remodeling of old structures of the "twilight zone" of American architecture to make them harmonize with modern ideas is becoming a common practice in American cities and towns, the National Lumber Manufacturers' association says in a recent bulletin.

Houses built from 15 to 50 years ago are generally more sturdily constructed than those built within the last decade. Many of these old houses need but slight alterations to transform them into attractive modern homes good for as many years of service as one can expect from the average moderate-priced new house built today.

Excellent Shade Trees

Black walnuts are fine shade trees and grow quite rapidly. They produce nuts whose merit is recognized by all good cooks and their wood is the most expensive of native woods. The gingko biloba, or maiden hair tree, which has a leaf shaped like that of the maiden hair fern and which grows in a perfect cone, is much used for parkway plantings in eastern cities and does well. It is especially immune from insect and disease attacks.

Progress All Along Line

Better homes make better citizens, better citizens make better cities, and better cities mean a safer, stronger and happier nation than this republic could be if its great centers of population, industry, commerce and wealth were less sound at the core and less eager for solid and enduring progress.—Exchange

The Scrap Book

Sea Serpents Seized

Although sea serpents are now generally conceded to belong only to the world of fables, there are approximately 50 species of snakes that make their home in salt water, some of them attaining a length of several feet. They are poisonous, according to Popular Mechanics Magazine, and although timid under ordinary conditions have been known to attack savagely when disturbed. When the steamship Ikalia dropped anchor in the Straits of Malacca not long ago, it roused a school of salt-water reptiles that swarmed on board, crawling up the chains and hawsers. The ship was reported to have been held up several days before the snakes could be driven away. In many respects these reptiles resemble the land varieties, but have broad paddle-shaped tails, which enable them to swim rapidly after small fish.

American Population Has Drifted to Cities

At the birth of the American nation 130 years ago, its largest city had not more than 43,000 inhabitants and only one person out of thirty lived in the six towns of 8,000 or more inhabitants, Abram L. Harris, Jr., writes in Current History Magazine. In 1900 there were in the United States only six cities whose population was over 8,000 and these contained only 4 per cent of the population of the entire country. In 1900 there were 547 such cities, which at this time contained 82.9 per cent of the country's population. But in 1920 the number of such cities had increased to 924 and contained 43.8 per cent of the total population. Today nearly one-half of the American population lives in places of over 2,500 inhabitants, a tenth in villages and hardly more than two-fifths in the open country.

Mail Clerk in Luck

A few weeks ago a registered letter containing \$3,000 was sent from a firm in New York to a bank in Augusta, Maine. On failure to arrive in Augusta an inspector traced it to a point on a Maine railroad. The mail clerk to whom it must have been delivered was faced with the charge of theft. He asked permission to search his car on the mail train that he had worked on. Under observation he was allowed to do so. After a long search and just at the moment when he was about to give up in despair, the clerk happened to glance down behind some steam pipes and picked up the letter. The car in which it had rested had been used for weeks on different parts of the system.

MATRIMONY

"No, sir! No more loans! I haven't a single dollar!" "Well, if all your dollars have taken unto themselves mates, I wouldn't think of separating them—let's have a couple."

Here's Singing Rat

One of the families of Anderson are being regaled every night by a singing rat, says an Anderson (S. C.) dispatch to the New York World. Each night Archie McConnell and family, who live a short distance from the city, have heard this unusual sound and have finally traced it to a rat.

Mr. McConnell says the notes are not unlike those of a canary bird and they continue for hours at a time, often long after the family has retired. The rat is like an ordinary rat, except, Mr. McConnell says, it has a sort of proboscis which may account for its singing ability.

Real Success

A successful store is one that sells goods that do not come back to customers who do.—The Progressive Grocer.

Wealth's Great Power

Wealth may be an excellent thing, for it means power, it means leisure, it means liberty.—Yowell.

Paper Made by Machinery

Of the paper now manufactured, fully 99 per cent is machine-made.

National Highways Not Complete Without Trees

The mileage of publicly constructed highways in the United States each year has reached almost fabulous figures, and keeps on increasing. Every progressive state is adding county and town authorities to build still more.

No one wants to halt the rapidity of road-making in this country. It might be well, though, if we emulated some of the older countries and began a systematic bordering of these highways with rows of trees. Thousands of miles of new roads are built every year in districts entirely denuded of tree growth. If road-making and tree-planting went hand in hand it would encourage intensive tree culture throughout the nation.

France began systematic tree planting along its national roads in the reign of Francis I, more than 300 years ago. Today France has a national register of trees planted on the main state highways. This register has been kept since the year 1500.

A recent census shows 2,500,000 trees now shading the French national roads. The government recognizes tree-planting as an inseparable factor of road-building. When a contract is let for a new state road the specifications include the trees to be set out. The contractor is responsible for his trees for two years after he sets them out. If they die he has to replace them. With typical French thoroughness, the contractor's bill is not paid in full until the two years have elapsed.—Detroit Free Press.

Women's Clubs Can Do Much for City Beauty

Suppose every club woman in America would solemnly resolve to initiate and sponsor a movement in her own community which, if steadfastly carried out, would in time be productive of greater beauty in her city as a town and arouse an interest in improving things in small spaces and under difficult conditions—would not the result be worth the effort put into it?

Many clubs have spontaneously attempted just such things and the results have been splendid. But if every clubwoman were to do this and every member of every club put 100 per cent effort into it, the result would mean the improvement of every hamlet, village, or town in the country.

Consider Re-decoration

Contrast the picturesque and convenient homes that are being built today with the unattractive, ill-planned houses erected by the thousands between 1870 and 1910. The men and women of 1925 have no sympathy for the "good taste" of 1875. No one wants to live in an out-of-date house of the latter period. Yet these ugly old houses are almost always entirely constructed of materials that are available in the country. At the expense of a few dollars, a comparatively few dollars and a little expert attention can convert such a residence into a place of real beauty and add enormously to its financial value.

Work for Architects

In America we have never stopped growing long enough to diagnose the fundamental ailments of modern urban growth. Until we, individually and as a community, undertake this examination, the field for community planning will be limited, and the architect will continue to design, in subservience to the forces outside his work which are daily determining his milieu.

Tin Cans Help Beautify

The driveway and walks of San Antonio, Texas, are literally lined with tin cans, but not so that one may notice, for the cans are embedded in the electric light posts, says Popular Science Monthly. Park Commissioner Ray Lambert originated this ingenious method of utilizing the city's waste tin can output by using the cans for reinforcing the ornamental concrete electric light posts.

Origin of "Strut"

A stiff piece of wood used as a support is called a strut; so also a person who walks stiffly and pompously about is said to strut. Both words are of Scandinavian origin and the Middle English word was "strocten"—to swell or spread out. There was a German word, stroizen to be puffed up.

Linens Differ Times

"A piece of linen, sent to our research department recently from London, though 6,000 years old," was found to be as perfect structurally as the linens we are making today." This was the statement made by W. H. Webb, the chairman of the British Linen society, recently, at Oxford, England, and he explained it on the grounds that germs of decay would have nothing to do with linen. Similarly, he said, the windings found in 1881 on the mummy of Rameses II, who preceded the Israelites in the time of Moses, were still perfect.

Famous New England Women

The first woman preacher of the people in New England and the first woman to be ordained to the Universalist ministry was Phoebe Ann Coffin Hanford, who was born at Newmarket, Mass., a member of the famous Coffin family of that island. 65 years ago. Before entering the pulpit she was a teacher and a lecturer. In 1838 she was ordained and filled pulpits at Hingham and Waltham, Mass.; New Haven, Conn., and Jersey City. She was also chaplain of the Connecticut state legislature, the first woman to hold such a position.

Doing Well

Some sportsmen were talking about how domestic fowls and animals sometimes revert to a wild life. "A pigeon," declared one, "can always maintain itself if it can find a union station."

Study in Aplom

Nervous Old Gentleman—Sir, you are sitting on my hat. Much at Ease Visitor—What! Are you going, then?—London Evening News.

Garden Curiosity

The latest addition to this season's garden freaks was found by Arthur G. Miller of Auburn, N. Y., when in digging potatoes he found one round and flat, like a coin, and with a hole in the center. Another unusual specimen in his garden is a squash vine which has produced two specimens, one of the green variety, the other yellow.

French Eat More Meat

Industrial and agricultural workers in France are eating more meat than ever before, while people in agricultural communities are following hygienic advice to consume less fat.

Fire Causes Run to Cow

A mixed Jersey and Shorthorn cow owned by A. Kaldenberg, of Oxford, Iowa, gave birth to fire calves. However, the mother and all her offspring died.

Lighting Glass Idea

At a carnival in northern England a tent in which a wireless concert was in progress was struck by lightning. The tent was split, but the most curious effect was that the dark blue stockings and green blouse worn by one of the women in the tent were bleached white. Such a happening suggests that scientists might profitably investigate the possibility of adapting electricity for bleaching purposes.

Sea Monster Dragged Boat

A sea monster measuring 17 feet in length and 12 feet in girth, and weighing nearly two tons, was captured at Simon's Town, South Africa. When harpooned, this species of sea elephant dragged a 30-foot motorboat two miles and put up a desperate fight before being killed.

Has Variety of Pets

A recent passenger on the Cunarder Saxonia brought a small Noah's ark cargo to his Canadian farm. It consisted of two geese, two ducks, two owls, eight different kinds of cage birds in pairs, and a pair of white mice.

Where Rain Is Unknown

Rain has never been known to fall in that part of Egypt between the two lower falls of the Nile.

Not Always

Everything comes to those who wait except the time they lose.—Good Hardware.

Plan for Contentment

Since we have a good loaf, let us make look for cheerfulness.—Corvatan.

Testing Glasses

To toughen lamp chimneys and glassware immerse the article in a pot filled with cold water, to which some common salt has been added. Boil the water well and then cool slowly. Glass treated in this way will be more apt to resist any sudden change of temperature.

Ventilated Barrels or Boxes Best for Apples

Apples soon show much damage, and in particularly serious on the Green Rome Beauty, York Imperial, Arkansas Wagoner, Stayman Winesap, Rhode Island Greening, but will attack almost any variety. Last fall, visiting several large apple ranches, writes a correspondent in Successful Farming, I saw hundreds of boxes of the fruit thrown out because it had been damaged by mold.

Large apples and those forced into the fall by heavy rains, are, according to Wisconsin apple growers, more susceptible to mold than other fruit. Apples scarred and russeted by powdery mildew, and such are picked green, are also more susceptible. The holding of apples in closed packing sheds or in unventilated cars is frequently the cause of mold in storage. The fruit scalds less in boxes or ventilated barrels than it does in the usual commercial barrels. Many of the northwestern apple growers use barrels with 15 holes, three-fourths of an inch by 4 inches in size, cut in the staves, and these receptacles have been found very satisfactory. The room in which the boxes or barrels are stored must also be thoroughly ventilated. Correct ventilation and the use of old, waxed (not waxed) will almost entirely prevent scald. Experienced growers say that the oil in waxed paper should be approximately 15 per cent of their weight.

Case-Borer Damages New Raspberry Shoots

The priding and consequent waning of tips of new raspberry canes is often due to the case-borer. This insect lays eggs in the new shoots near the tips and then practices the same below the spot where the egg has been laid in such a way that the cane is frequently girdled and results in death. It is a good practice to cut off these shoots just below the point of infestation and destroy them. In this way many of the eggs are removed from the plantation. The next year the damage may be more severe, caused by the larvae boring downward through bearing canes and killing them just when a crop is in sight. Occasionally the infestation is so extensive and the removal of all fruiting canes after the harvest, little trouble will be experienced from the case-borer. Small hand barrows give the impression of being due to plants affected with mosaic or yellow mosaic. Mosaic attacks the plants. The securing of disease-free stock and thorough roguing is recommended. There is little danger of planting raspberries in too rich ground.

Should Spray Back Yard

Back yard fruit trees should be sprayed in proper season to insure good fruit and freedom from insects. For scab, shell, scurf and sun-burn scale of apple or pear trees, spray when buds are forming, using two quarts of lime sulphur to five gallons of water. Cover the trees thoroughly. For apple scab, curculio, spring canker-worm or green fruit worm, spray when the blossoms buds have separated but before individual blossoms have opened, using one quart of lime sulphur to five gallons of water, or Bordeaux mixture to which two and one-half ounces dry arsenate of lead is added. The second application should be made when 95 per cent of the blossom petals have fallen, using one pint lime sulphur and one-half ounces dry lead arsenate to five gallons of water. This should catch the codling moth in addition to the pests mentioned for the first application. Another application should be given two or three weeks after the petals have fallen, to make a clean job of it.

Winter Mutch Real Need of Good Strawberry Bed

The successful strawberry grower considers a winter mulch one of the real needs of his strawberry bed. If the plants are on heavy soil they are especially subject to heaving, which is caused by alternate freezing and thawing. In heaving the ground breaks the roots and also leaves air spaces about them. In leaving the top exposed to the drying winds of winter there is danger of the plants becoming so weakened by loss of moisture that they failed to yield a satisfactory crop the next season.

China Fruitless

Wheat straw that is free from weed seeds is about as satisfactory a mulch material as can be used, according to agricultural colleges, horticulturists. Oats straw and other stalks are likely to smother some of the plants. The mulch should be applied after the ground is well frozen. It should be about three inches deep after it has settled thoroughly.

China Fruitless

China is a particularly efficient strawberry grower, but the strawberry bed is not so well cared for as in our country. The straw is not so thick and is not so well settled.