

THE JEWISH BADGE.

Distinguishing Mark That Was Required by European Countries.

To the Jews of today it is fairly well known that their ancestors in Europe were forced to put up with a great deal of humiliation. One of the most insulting methods was to require the wearing of a badge which would stamp the wearer as an "infidel Jew." The wearing of a badge was made a general order throughout Christendom in the year 1215, but it must have been required in isolated places before that date.

The most usual form of badge was that of a ring of distinctive color attached to the upper garment. Any one of French-Jewish ancestry will know that his forbears wore a ring of this sort, varying in size and in color—now red, now yellow and white, according to the whims of municipalities and monarchs. It was generally worn upon the breast, and at one time it was ordered to be worn likewise upon the back, so that a Jew might be known "fore and aft." When a Jew was found without the badge, he was fined. Evidence of the wearing of this badge is found as late as 1592 in France. The forefathers of the Spanish Jews carried a yellow and red badge—the men on their breasts, the women on their foreheads. The wearing of the badge was not so prevalent in Italy, but the municipalities almost all required it. The badge was known as the "o" from its shape, resembling probably the ring in France. English Jews should feel the distinction of having had a peculiar sort of badge forced upon their ancestors. It was first in the form of a band, first white and then yellow, and later Jews were required to wear a badge with the shape of the tables of the law. In Germany yellow badges were worn, but here the hat was the chief means of identification. In Austria and in Poland there are few traces of the badge, but in Hungary Jews wore a badge on their left breast. It is interesting to know that in Crete at the present day some of the houses of Jews are marked with the "o."—American Hebrew.

THE STOOL PIGEON.

Its Part in Capturing the Wild Birds in Former Times.

There are occasional reports of small flocks of wild pigeons having been seen in different parts of the United States and Canada. Possibly these are the harbingers of their return from South America, whence they migrated for some unknown reason fifty years ago.

It may not be generally known that the somewhat odious term "stool pigeon" as used today arose from the stool pigeon that used to be employed in catching wild pigeons in former times. They used to be so plenty that they were taken in great numbers by the use of spring nets. These nets varied in size, but were from two to ten yards long and were half as wide. They were concealed as much as possible, being partly covered with hay or straw or whatever was most suitable. At each end was a strong spring, to which ropes were attached, something like 150 feet long, to where the watcher was concealed. Close to the net was a stool, or stand, where the "stool pigeon," usually a tame or captured one, was placed. The pigeon was tied by the feet to the stool, and from this stool a rope extended to the person in concealment. When or some other grain was scattered about the net, and when the flock was passing the rope attached to the stool was pulled, causing the pigeon to rise and flutter its wings in trying to escape. This attracted the attention of the passing flock and induced them to light where the grain had been scattered. Then a slight pull on the ropes would release the spring to the net, which would be thrown over them so quickly that they had no time to escape. Sometimes many hundreds were captured in this way at a single haul.—Amateur Sportsman.

At One Fell Swoop.

"Have you got any of those preparations for removing superfluous hair?" asks the man who enters the drug store with a firm tread and a set countenance.

"Yes, sir," answers the druggist. "Give me a pint. I want to use it on my head."

"But, man, you haven't got any superfluous hair on your head. You're nearly bald now."

"I know it. And I've got so aggravated and tired watching the confounded hair leaking off day by day that I want to remove the rest of it at one sweep and have the agony over."

Shakespeare Notwithstanding. "Is there anything in a name?" inquired the man with mouse-colored whiskers. "You can bet there is. Name a boy Stuyvesant or Van Rensselaer or Gouverneur and he'll never hold anything but a first class job. Nobody will ever dare ask him to swab windows or mop floors. And by the time he's forty he'll be head of a trust company and director in twenty-seven prominent concerns. Oh, yes; there's a heap in a name, lemme tell

First Class Farm Implements at reasonable prices.

You save Labor, Time and Money when you buy implements that wear well and work well. The kind that we sell.

We issue one of the best and most complete of Farm Implement Catalogues. It gives prices, descriptions and much interesting information. Mailed free upon request. Write for it.

The Implement Co.,
1302 East Main St.,
RICHMOND, - VIRGINIA.

We are headquarters for V. Crimp and other Roofing, Wire Fencing, Barb Wire, Poultry Netting, etc.
Write for prices on any supplies or Farm Implements you require.

A PERSON OBSESSED.

The Victim of an Insistent and Compulsive Habit of Action.

The word "obsession" may be defined as an insistent and compulsive thought, habit of mind or tendency to action. The person so burdened is said to be obsessed.

Few children are quite free from obsession. Some must step on stones; others must walk or avoid cracks; some must ascend the stairs with the right foot first; many must kick posts or touch objects a certain number of times. Some must count the windows, pictures and figures on the wall paper; some must bite the nails or pull the eye winkers.

Consider the nail biter. It cannot be said that he toils not, but to what end? Merely to gratify an obsession. He nibbles a little here and a little there; he frowns, elevates his elbow and inverts his finger to reach an otherwise inaccessible corner. Does he enjoy it? No, not exactly, but he would be miserable if he discontinued.

It is during childhood that we form most of the automatic habits which are to save time and thought in later life, and it is not surprising that some foolish habits creep in. As a rule, children drop these tendencies at need, just as they drop the rules assumed in play, though they are sometimes so absorbing as to cause inconvenience.

An interesting instance was that of the boy who had to touch every one wearing anything red. On one occasion his whole family lost their train because of the prevalence of his color among those waiting in the station.

The longer these tendencies are retained in adult life the greater the danger of their becoming coercive. And so far as the well established case is concerned, the obsessive act must be performed, though the business, social and political world should come to a standstill.

A child who must kick posts is father to the man who cannot eat an egg which has been boiled either more or less than four minutes, who cannot work without absolute silence, who cannot sleep if steam pipes crackle and who must straighten out all tangles of his life, past, present and future, before he can close his eyes in slumber or take a vacation.

The boy Carlyle, proud, shy, sensitive and pugnacious, was father to the man who made war upon neighbors' poultry and had a room, proof against sound, specially constructed for his literary labors. — Lippincott's Magazine.

Petrarch.

Petrarch was at this time a young man of engaging appearance, comely if not strikingly handsome, with a high color and a complexion rather fair than dark. His eyes were animated in expression and remarkably keen of sight—in the Laurentian library portrait they are rather small, but very clear and beautiful—he was of middle height, and his limbs, though not very strong, were well knit and agile. In early and middle life his health was robust, and he was extremely temperate in his habits, "drinking nothing but water throughout his childhood and down to the close of the period of youth." From the Laurentian portrait we see further that he had an intellectual face, with a rather low but very massive forehead, a large, straight nose, delicately arched eyebrows, high and well modeled cheek bones and a beautiful mouth, with lips that shut at once firmly and smilingly. — "Petrarch, His Life and Times."

For Weak Kidneys

Inflammation of the bladder, urinary troubles and backache use

DeWitt's Kidney and Bladder Pills

A Week's Trial For 25c

E. C. DeWITT & CO., Chicago, Ill.

DeWitt's Little Early Risers, small safe, sure little liver pills. Sold by May & Gorham.

Parliament.

The name "parliament" is derived from the French word "parler," to speak. The word was originally written "parlement," as in French, and, although the spelling has gradually changed, the pronunciation remains the same. The earliest mention of the word "parliament" in the English statutes is in the preamble to the statute of Westminster in 1272. For the origin of the institution itself we must go back to Anglo-Saxon times, when it flourished as the witenagemot. In the reign of Henry III. parliament was formally separated into the two houses of lords and commons, and the deliberations were conducted in separate chambers.

Hindoo Moon Lore.

According to the Hindoos, a lunar eclipse is the contact between the moon and another planet called Rahoo, but the masses believe that, owing to the will of God, Rahoo, or the serpent-like planet, catches hold of the moon by its hideous mouth and releases it after a short time. At first contact the Hindoos bathe in the sea and anxiously await the release. After the contact they take another bath. During the interval they are not allowed even to drink a cup of water, as their belief is that all things in the world get polluted during the contact.—Singapore Times.

Bells and the Koran.

It is said in the Koran that beautiful bells are hung upon the trees of paradise in such a way as to be stirred by wind from the golden throne of God whenever the blessed ones in his presence wish for music. It is to this that the author of "Lalla Rookh" refers in the lines:

Bells as musical
As those that on the golden shafted trees
Of Eden, shook by the eternal breeze.

Matches.

"Who are those young people in that box?" asked the man in the parquet.

"There's Elsie Blugore and her fiancé, and Mazie Rich and hers, and Belle Browne and hers. They're all to be married next month."

"Indeed! Quite a box of matches, eh?"—Philadelphia Press.

A Vegetable Roast.

Boy—Ma, I thought you said the Specks were vegetarians. Ma—So I did; they are. Boy—Well, I heard Mr. Specks tell pop that when he got home late the other night Mrs. Specks had a roast waiting for him.

Get DeWitt's Carbolized Witch Hazel Salve—it is healing, soothing and cooling. It is good for pies. Sold by May & Gorham.

DO YOU ?

WISH TO BUY A Diamond, Piece of Jewelry or Cut Glass ???

If so, place your orders at home. By buying from a home dealer you have a guarantee that the article is what it is represented to be, for a home dealer can't afford to misrepresent. Besides you can do as well at home as you can by buying from foreign dealers. EVERY ARTICLE bought from me is guaranteed to be as represented. I have a large stock to select from and the prices are as low as you can get any where.



Geo. L. Parker
JEWELER

Main Street

Rocky Mount, N. C.



Secure A Home By Paying Rent.

We offer for sale two five room cottages, conveniently located and good as new upon the payment on each house of \$30 per month for five years. Not a cent of interest charged on deferred payments. A splendid chance to secure a home on easy terms. Call and see us. We have some bargains in real estate, improved and vacant. Our office is headquarters for **Insurance** in the best companies. We are giving special attention to the collection of rents. Put your property in our hands and you will be pleased.

Rocky Mount Ins. & Realty Co.

R. B. DAVIS, Jr., Sec'y.

R. L. HUFFINES, Gen. Mgr.

KILL THE COUGH AND CURE THE LUN.
WITH **Dr. King's**
New **RECOVERY**
FOR C **PRICE**
AND ALL THROAT **50c & \$1.00.**
GUARANTEED SATISFACTORY
OR MONEY REFUNDED.