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Peculiar Scotch Mirage.
The easterly wind is believed to have been accountable for the curious mirage which was witnessed some days ago over the eastern area of the Firth of Forth in Scotland. The tower and upper portion of the May Island lighthouse had the appearance of floating in mid-air, and the rocks looked as if they were surrounded by trees. The spectacle attracted a good deal of attention, and an attempt was even made to photograph it.

Elephant's Wonderful Trunk.
The trunk of the elephant may justly be considered as one of the miracles of nature, being at once the organ of respiration, as well as the instrument by which the animal supplies itself with food. Nearly eight feet in length, endowed with exquisite sensibility, and stout in proportion to the massive size of the animal, this organ will uproot trees or gather grass, raise a piece of artillery or take up a nut, kill a man or brush off a fly.

The Letter of the Law.
A mother led her six children to the apple-tree. It had borne but a single apple—no longer visible to the casual observer. "I told you not to pick that apple!" she said, sternly. "We didn't pick it!" the children answered in chorus. "And the oldest girl added in an injured tone, 'You can see your self that it's still on the tree. I mean—the core is! We only climbed up an'—an' took a bite once in a while—we didn't pick it!'"

Notifying the God.
One of the odd things the visitor to Burma will notice is the large number of bells about the pagodas. These bells are usually hung on sacred posts a few feet above the ground. They are sweet-toned, as all Burmese bells are, but they are not furnished with tongues. The worshiper who comes to pray before the pagoda strikes one of these bells with a wooden mallet. This is to attract the attention of the god.

Element of Decay.
Indirect influence had its nearly perfect work in the Persian empire, where the Queen Mother was permitted to exercise an injurious influence over the king, the court, and the empire. It was one of the tendencies which leads Sayce, the historian, to say, after touching upon it: "In short, the empire contained within it from the first all the elements of decay."

Wisdom in Action.
The times are waiting for men who shall serve and not merely inquire; strive and not merely investigate; give to their age and their kind not so much learning in bulk as wisdom in action; great doing as the only true fruitage of great thinking; the consecration to the uplifting of one's fellow-men of one's best rather than the conserving by mere culture of one's self.—Henry Potter.

Limit to His Foolishness.
Wife—You say I ought to practice economy, John. Now, what did your dinner downtown cost you today? Husband (a trifle weakly)—About three dollars. Wife—Heavens, John, three dollars just for a dinner? Husband (a trifle indignantly)—Well, that included a bottle of wine, of course. (More indignantly) You don't suppose I would pay three dollars just for food, do you?—New York Sun.

Eyes Demand Repose.
Many people cannot remain unoccupied, and in their moments of leisure hasten to seize a book or a piece of embroidery. These are undoubtedly excellent means of distraction, but they are fatiguing for the eyes, upon which they impose continuous work without a break. One must know how to repose the eyes just as one considers it quite natural to rest the muscles after a fatiguing walk.

Sunshine a Cleanser.
Sunshine is the best possible disinfectant. The rays of the sun penetrate and disintegrate all organic substances. Let it flood the rooms which are occupied whenever it is possible. Lay the bedding in its direct rays for an hour every bright morning. Dark corners that have a stuffy smell are dangerous to the health of the household.

Never Repeat an Unkind Thing.
Never repeat unkind things. But if you hear something kind and pleasant and sweet, then make it your business to repeat it. It may sound superior to say you do not care whether people like you or not, you must speak your mind. That isn't superiority. It is supreme selfishness and surliness.

The Best Way.
A correspondent wants to know how to pronounce Chihuahua. The best way is to say Chy-hewa-hewa and then laugh as though you knew better. If it is done artistically you can get away with it nearly every time. The same treatment has been frequently applied to décolleté with great success.

Pelts Paid for Theft.
A turkey which Edward Richardson had been fattening disappeared. Fox tracks led to a cave and Richardson set a charge of dynamite which blew up the cave. In the ruins he found the carcasses of six foxes. Their pelts were worth \$60, far more than a turkey.—Brookfield Courier.

Its Only Purpose.
"O Willie, Willie," cried a teacher to a hopelessly dull pupil, "whatever do you think your head is for?" Willie, who evidently thought this another of the troublesome questions that teachers were always asking, pondered it deeply. "Please, miss," he replied at length, "to keep my collar on!"—Youth's Companion.

Women Form Fire Brigade.
The women of Idrin, in the Austrian province of Krain, were so dissatisfied with the fire-brigade that they have formed one of their own, consisting of 60 "firewomen," with Frau Marie Straos as their commander.

His Grounds.
By a queer trick of politics an ignorant and pompous old dandy was elected judge of a minor court in a certain western state. In the first case over which he presided he made a ruling so absurd that the lawyer whose case was affected by it said: "This is a very strange ruling, your honor. Upon what grounds do you make it?" "What grounds—does you say? Why, dese yer' co'house grounds, of co'se!" replied the judge.—Judge.

Peculiar Case of Poisoning.
Metal poisoning from handling copper coins was the curious cause for death recently assigned at West Ham, England. The deceased, age twenty-seven, had been employed to collect coins from penny-in-the-slot gas meters, and his physician testified that the coins were often green with verdigris, which remained on the collector's hands and was absorbed through his habit of curling his mustache with his finger.

Lacking Important Point.
Can a woman be a successful "magician?" A contemporary wizard says that she can, and that in London there are many society women who have taken a course in wizardry as a means of becoming proficient in some kind of "parlor trick" by which to entertain company. It does seem, though, that a magician without coat sleeves to pull back, as a preliminary to doing his marvels, would be fatally deficient in paraphernalia.

Got His Knowledge First Hand.
Benson J. Lossing, whose historical collections were sold in New York city recently, was a historian of the old school, whose methods were yet in a way up to date, not to say journalistic. He traveled many thousands of miles in gathering material for his books, conversing with old settlers and descendants of revolutionary heroes and making sketches on the spot of battlefields and scenes of historic interest.

Slide Back!
Backsliding, indeed! I can tell you on the ways of most of us go, the faster we slide back the better. Slide back into the cradle, if going on is into the grave—back, I tell you; back—out of your long faces, and into your long clothes. It is among children only and as children only that you will find medicine for your healing and true wisdom for your teaching.—Rusklin.

Neither Meant Much.
Grant Duff relates a conversation which prevents swearing in its most common light—the swearing for swearing's sake. "Oh, Mr. —, I wish you would not use such dreadful language. It gives me real pain," was the protest. And this the apology: "Pray, don't mind. I swear and you pray, but neither of us mean much by it."—London Chronicle.

Conditioned.
"How's your son getting on in college?" "Not at all. Every time there are two men on bases and it's his turn to bat, they bench him and give a substitute hitter a chance."—Detroit Free Press.

No Hesitancy at All.
As a matter of fact, a woman doesn't hesitate a minute between marrying for money or brains. She is always willing to furnish the brains.—Chicago News.

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- Cold Cream for Tan and Sunburn
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