

CHOICE MISCELLANY FOR THE CHILDREN

A Marvelous Magician. There has been discovered a juggler named Joseffy, who outdoes all the other conjurers, says his discoverer, a Mr. Abbott. He performs what other magicians have only dreamed of accomplishing. With his card tricks the spectators may bring their own packs and choose the cards freely. No threads are used, nor is there any visible connection with the goblet that contains the pack, and yet any card will rise at Joseffy's command at any time.

Tired Telephone Wires. "Don't use that booth. That phone's tired," called out the brisk attendant. "A lady has been talking over that wire for the last ten minutes. Take the one next to it; that one has had a rest. You'll get a much better connection if you do."

The man took the girl's advice and got unusually satisfactory service. When he was through and was paying the bill he asked what she meant by saying that the other telephone was "tired."

"Why, telephones get tired just the same as people or animals," said the girl. "If you had used that other wire as soon as that lady dropped it you wouldn't have had satisfactory service at all. After a few minutes' rest it will be all right. I know that phones get tired, but I'm no scientist and can't tell why. Why don't I start a society for the prevention of cruelty to telephones? Now, say, if I should start one I'd get a lot of telephone operators who'd belong. But with a good many of them it's not the phone that gets tired so much as the one who runs the switchboard."—Exchange.

Consumption and the Telephone. The panic recently created on the subject of the assumed danger lurking in the transmitter of the telephone is not precisely new. It is but the development of a fear which has caused misgiving for some years. On the supposition that various germs of disease probably collect in the receiver and transmitter of the instrument, at any rate in public telephone stations, some medical alarmists have thrown out suggestions that antiseptics, both in a dry state and in solution, should be applied for the safety of the telephone user. The recent dictum goes one step further, inasmuch as it is now an established fact that tubercle bacilli, the casual micro-organisms of consumption, have been found alive and in robust condition in view of such a find that a feeling of alarm might seize hold of the more nervous.—British Medical Journal.

Illuminated Projectiles. The French navy has recently begun experiments with the luminous shells employed for a year past in America. These shells have a hollow in the rear end containing fireworks powder, which is inflated as the shell quits the gun and leaves a luminous trail in the air, enabling the gunner at night to follow the course of his projectile and determine whether or not it reaches its object. Without some device of this kind it is very difficult in firing over the sea in the darkness to ascertain whether the range is too long or too short. In the daytime a jet of water where the shell falls tells the story.—Youth's Companion.

The Periscopes. Commandant Soule de Cenac of the French Legion of Honor has designed a periscope, which enables the wearer to see at the same time on all sides and even behind. This is ingeniously effected by means of reflections. At the same time the glasses are so constructed as to correct myopia and other errors of vision. A use for the instrument that the inventor did not think of has been revealed to him by deaf persons employing it. They say that it increases their safety by enabling them to perceive the approach of dangers of which their ears give them no warning.

Work For Goats. Farmers in the vicinity of Lawrenceburg, Ind., have found that a herd of goats will clear the underbrush from a farm in a few months and do a good job at moderate cost. For the last five years a herd of forty goats has been eating and working there, and in that time the animals have changed owners ten times. As soon as their owner discovers that there is nothing left on his farm for the goats to feed on but good grass they are lent or sold to another farmer for a similar purpose.

Blind Bookmakers. The blind make books for the blind, as is illustrated in the Ziegler Magazine, now printed in New York. One of the proofreaders is a blind man who is working his way through Columbia college. One girl who is deaf, dumb and blind takes the greatest delight in her work, and her mother says that until she began to work for the Ziegler she never knew her to smile.

A Great Clock. Perhaps the boys and girls know that correct time for all Europe is furnished by the observatory at Greenwich, England, says the Chicago News, which is also the place from which longitude is reckoned. It is natural, therefore, that the observatory clock should be tended with the utmost care and that it should never be allowed to get either too fast or too slow. But no piece of mechanism is perfect, and this great clock if allowed to run on untended would soon wander far enough away from sun time to cause a good deal of confusion and trouble. As it is, they never permit it to get more than one-tenth of a second too fast or too slow, a fraction of time that is almost inappreciable. Of course so small an error could not be corrected by moving the hands of the clock, so an electro magnet is made use of to do it. The magnet is near the pendulum, which it attracts the least bit when the current of electricity is turned on. The current is so timed that it delays the pendulum when the clock is fast and quickens it when the clock is slow. In this way a few thousand swings of the pendulum will correct the error of one-tenth of a second.

Cross Questions. A game played by any number, who sit in a circle. Each puts a question to his right hand neighbor and receives an answer. Each of the players in turn then repeats aloud the question that his left hand neighbor asked of him and the answer that his right hand neighbor gave.

In order that the result may be more amusing it should be agreed beforehand what kind of questions should be asked. For instance, it may be agreed that each is to ask why his neighbor does certain things, real or fictitious. Thus, B asked C, on his right hand, "Why do you sit so near the fire?" C answers, "Because I like the heat." A asks B, "Why did you fall in the water?" and he replies, "Because I went too near the edge." When it is B's turn he must tell A's question and C's answer, thus: "Why did you fall in the water?" "Because I like the heat," and so on. The game is often played by giving the right hand neighbor a predicament and the left hand a solution and then telling the predicament that comes from the left and the solution from the right. The game is then called "predicaments."

Why Corn Pops. The making of starch for stiffening clothes will help us to understand why popcorn bursts open when exposed to heat. When the grains of starch are put into water and boiled they lose their powdery nature and blend with the water into a pasty mass. The effect on each starch granule is a softening and a considerable increase in its bulk and finally its rupture and diffusion through the water. Now, we cannot see the inside of the grain of corn just when it is about to burst, but in view of what happens to the granules of starch it is likely that as the grain gets hotter and hotter the moisture in the cells softens them first, and then when the heat becomes too great for the moisture to remain in the fluid state the latter suddenly turns to steam, and the now plastic starch of the grain expands in every direction. And as it expands it loses its moisture and thus becomes firm and brittle again.

The Holland Primrose. There is a beautiful flower in Holland called the evening primrose. It has escaped from cultivation and now grows wild in many places. The plant is about five feet in height and is covered with flowers of a brilliant yellow color. A traveler who came upon a field of these primroses shortly before sunset describes what he calls the dramatic effect made by them. It is at that hour that the flowers open and as he approached the field they all opened at once and so suddenly that it seemed as if a magic wand had touched the land and covered it with a golden sheet.

Hints For Girls. A very unique and cunning little pincushion may be made by following the directions here given: Take a baby's pink or blue finely woven stocking and cut a pasteboard sole to fit it. After you have shaped the bottom of the stocking by placing the sole inside it fill it to within a few inches of the top with sawdust. Tie the top together with white ribbon, making a full bow or rosette of the ends. The cushion will stand on the dresser, and pins may be stuck into it from the tiny toe to the top.

Steady Coin. Place a smooth strip of paper upon the corner of a table. Upon this carefully stand upright a silver half dollar. By a little practice you will acquire the knack of drawing the paper from beneath the coin without disturbing the position of the latter. All that is required is a swift, steady jerk in a direction parallel with the edge of the coin, but you will find this by no means easy of accomplishment.

Dancing Paper Dolls. Warm slightly a sheet of glass and place it on two books, making a bridge between the two. Cut out some small paper dolls and put them under the glass. Rub the glass and the figures will dance.

The Dreamy Dog. A little dog who had a tail set on a log and watched a snail. A blind of boy that's eating a doughnut and took a pinch.

Another Soars. "I had a mighty narrow escape yesterday," said the timid man. "A scientific man informed me that my well had germs in it." "And you drank some of the water?" "Worse than that. I went to investigate, fell in and was nearly drowned."—Minneapolis Journal.

Cheated of Her Right. "I do not like to cook," said she. "For sewing I've no taste. I have trim ankles, as you see, and I've a slender waist. I'd hate to have to earn my bread and butter as a clerk. I just despise this cashier's cage. 'T would be so lovely on the stage!"—Chicago Record-Herald.

The Way She Does It. "Mrs. Clymer is a model housewife in one way." "What is that?" "By dint of giving her dinners, teas and receptions to the reporters she manages always to keep her house in print."—Baltimore American.

A First Class Front. Though you feel like laying right on the slab when you've taken a solar plexus jab, it's the proper thing and a dead game stunt to try to put up a first class front. You've troubles, of course, but so's your pal. And you needn't blub like a baby gal. For you won't get sympathy, but the shunt. Unless you put up a first class front.—Kansas City Times.

The Answer Finally. Interlocutor—To eliminate the usual tedious circumlocutory repetition, Mr. Bones, once for all, when is a door not a door? Bones—To paraphrase the proverbial reply, Mr. Hamilton, when it's a humidor.—Puck.

The Game of Hearts. She toys with hearts, and yet she plays Her hand with utmost care, That not one card shall slip in wrong And lose the chance to pair. And when this game of hearts is done She has her well earned token. She's broken all the hearts she could Before her own is broken.—New York Times.

Not Enough Room. "Brown is the most narrow minded man I ever met." "So?" "Yes. Whenever two thoughts get into his head at the same time they bump into each other."—Judge.

Did You Ever Notice? Oh, laugh, ye merry punsters, because woman cannot nail! But there are always two sides to every little tale. It may be woman cannot nail or tack to hold things tight, but what man in creation can pin anything just right?—Pittsburg Post.

The Only Way. "It's dangerous to go swimming after meals." "Yes. But seals and sharks and such can't get meals any other way."—Cleveland Leader.

His Loss. He had no use for knockers—Only optimists could win—And when Opportunity knocked one day He wouldn't let her in.—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

Instructive. "Your friend is a literary authority, is he? Has he ever done constructive work?" "No; destructive. He's a book reviewer."—Outlook.

Improvement. Now when some foeman bids you squirm A paraphrase polite is heard: The long and scientific term Has shamed the short and ugly word.—Washington Star.

More Expensive. "Two can live as cheaply as one." "Can they?" "Don't you think so?" "Depends on whether it is a wife or an affinity."—

Retired. Said a quaint young fellow named Sunny, "Perhaps it will strike you quite funny, but when a man goes to bed with his cash 'neath his head Has he retired on his money?"—New York Press.

Got Him All Right. Guide (as city sport blazes away at deer)—Did you get him? Cholly Seaver—You bet I did. Can't you hear him yelling and cursing?—Puck.

Cause and Effect. He's growing cold unto his loves, For Christmas draweth near, And he whom beauty frowneth on Hath not so much to fear.—New York Evening Sun.

Sure Sign. Gunner—Did your uncle reach a green old age? Guyer—I should say so. He bought a green hat.—Kansas City Times.

Utopia. If each man were to all men What he wants all men to be To him, then what a happy And a joyful world we'd see!—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

About the Size of It. Hyker—Money is a conundrum. Pyker—What's the answer? Hyker—Everybody has to give it up.—Chicago News.

Great Labor Saver. In days of old the self made man His own horn lead would blow, But now he buys a phonograph, Winds 't up and lets it go.—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

A Boom in Shipbuilding. Reports from the big shipyards of Scotland state that the marked decline in shipbuilding noted for a year past has abated and that orders for new ships have come to hand in such numbers as to portend a speedy revival of the industry. A similar awakening has been felt in Germany and France, and the depression of the early months of the year has given way to cheer. A ship shortage would be a great drawback to international trade. Record crops make more bulk to haul regardless of the market selling price, and if any great country suffers from poor crops the tonnage of the sea is increased. It is in the nature of things that the ocean carrying trade must grow so long as the world is at peace, and it is a sign of confidence that ship-owners are now willing to branch out in the face of the general commercial reaction.

London's Feeble Minded Children. There are eighty-four schools in London for the education of children who are not included under the extreme term "idiots or imbeciles," but are "feeble minded and defective." They are attended by 6,000 children, of whom about two-thirds learn some useful manual work, while the rest are hopeless and require permanent custodial care.—London Telegraph.

Although Castle Garden has long been used for an aquarium and Ellis Island, out in New York bay, has taken its place as a funnel for receiving and distributing the stream of immigrants, people still speak of Castle Garden as the gateway where aliens enter the new world.

When a man is fined \$50 for kissing his wife on Sunday it is time for the race track issue to retire as a crying public grievance.

Some sinners knock themselves vicariously while knocking others, for they generally get theirs out of the rebound.

One great American puzzle is to find the relation between what Bryan says on Monday and what Bryan says on Saturday.

The unemployed asked for jobs, and Colonel Bryan handed them out a copy of his platform.

Spanish King to Visit Portugal. Lisbon, Nov. 23.—King Alfonso of Spain will make a visit incognito to King Manuel at Villa Vicosa.

The Long and the Short. "Such stupidity," said old Hippo. "Is enough to make any one holler. I just had to laugh. When the spotted giraffe Said he'd loan me his high linen collar."—Chicago News.

She Would Never Rise. "I heard today Miss Bond's grandfather was a baker." "He must have been a poor one." "Why do you say that?" "She is so heavy."—St. Paul Pioneer Press.

Feed 'Em. If Cupid's darts Don't touch men's hearts, Why, then, dear girls, Try Cupid's tarts.—Kansas City Times.

A Tactful Reason. "Would you call her good looking?" "Nope." "Why not?" "Her husband might get jealous."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

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All About Human Life