

BOOKS IN QUEER BINDINGS.

Some Skin Among Other Things Used for Coverings.
Paravance in binding has frequently furnished an opening for the display of fantastic tricks and fads.

EGGS IN THE PROFESSION.

Some Prove That Ancient Joke Has Foundation of Truth.
Pige—Don't you think that all this talk of eggheads is all rot?
Wagon—No; I was once on the stage for awhile and I left it just on account of eggs.

White and Red Wines.
A misconception about the strength of red and white wines exists, said a Californian. "Because red wine has a darker, richer look people think it is more intoxicating."

Life Insurance Oddities.
A tectolator said an insurance agent "is always looked on with favor as a risk, but 60 years ago tectolators was considered injurious to the health, and no company would insure a tectolator's life except at an extra high rate."

The Caterpillar.
If any schoolboy were asked to give the derivation of "caterpillar" he would say that it had something to do with "cat." And he would be right.

Marriage Service "Obey."
Much excitement has been caused among the circles of those about to marry by a blackpool clergyman omitting the word "obey" during the marriage service he was celebrating recently.

Beyond Him.
Miss Ketcher (of Boston)—But your western life is so close to nature I should think you'd be fond of the woods.

Usual Luck.
"Have you noticed in campaigns a lively bolt to be followed by a deadbolt?"—Baltimore American.

PROFESSOR A HUMAN MAGNET.

Able to Deflect Compass by Simply Touching Cover.
Is there such a thing as human magnetism? Dr. Otto Neustatter, of Munich, writes: "Prof. Harnack, of Halle, last year demonstrated that he is able to deflect the magnetic needle by stroking quite lightly with his fingers the glass lid of a well-constructed compass."

HINT FOR POULTRY OWNERS.

Senator Butt Tells of Wondrous Effect of Quinine.
Senator Butt, of the Arkansas senate, had just finished a little tale about feeding morphine to a pointer pup and watching him dream, when, according to the Memphis Commercial Appeal, Representative De Rossett said:

New Envelopes.
A new style of envelope is such an improvement on the old that one wonders why the idea did not occur to a manufacturer sooner. The new envelope is like any other, except that the flap is not gummed. Instead, the gum is on the envelope's back, following the flap's edges in a V shaped strip.

Cork Soles.
It is now an established fact that the Romans in classical times wore cork soles in their shoes to protect their feet from water, especially in winter.

A Cruel Stab.
Miss Seren Yellowleaf angled desperately. "Would it affect you," she asked, "if I were to tell you that I was to marry your friend, Jack Stone?"

Honeyuckle for His Cows.
My uncle, a few years ago, owned quite a number of cows, which were pastured in a large field, in which were many buttercups, says a correspondent of the Boston Herald.

Contradictions Axiomatic.
"Like does not necessarily produce like."
"For instance?"
"Have you often noticed in campaigns a lively bolt to be followed by a deadbolt?"—Baltimore American.

SEIZE AND HOLD AUTO.

Glasgow, Scotland, Has Effective Penalty for Scooping.
If a child use his pocket knife to cut the bark off a tree, or carve his name on a mahogany table, the knife is taken away from him. This removes the temptation to mischief, deprives him of the object with which damage was done and punishes him by keeping from him that with which he could have much innocent amusement.

KEPT PLEDGE MADE TO WIFE.

Incidentally, Lawyer Also Got Stimulant He Wanted.
An Irish lawyer made a pledge to his wife that he would partake of no intoxicating liquor while engaged in the trial of a case. Soon after he was retained on an important trial in Dublin, and the court continued its deliberations until such a late hour that nearly every one connected with the case found it advisable to take some spirits to stimulate their energies.

Evils of Amateur Dieting.
Someone who has found facts on which to base the opinion thinks that the amateur dieting to which so many are given just now is productive of far more ill than it can cure. Dieting, no doubt, rationally and with due regard for the needs of the body, does in most cases improve the health.

Pearl a Practical Christian.
For many years past the earl of Tankerville has preached Christianity, and now he has given practical proof of the sincerity of his convictions.

Protective Colors of Animals.
I seem to trace a faint clue to the connection between the protective coloring and the mind in the intense desire of the fox to remain concealed, and unseen. That this is a possible theory we infer from the fact that a blind animal does not change color.

An Unflattering Light.
The Cooper Hewitt mercury vapor electrical lamp is the cheapest light in the world, barring the sun. It has no red rays, and is therefore less irritating to the eye than any other light, but this absence of red rays makes colors mixed with red appear as shades of dirty brown or bright violet, and the woodwork of the room is given a greenish tint, while the faces of persons are green, blotched with purple.

Mistaken Thought.
Bleeker—What became of that ambitious girl you flirted with at the seashore last summer?
Meeker—Oh, you mean the one I thought I was flirting with.
Bleeker—Thought you were flirting with?
Meeker—Yes; she married me.

Usual Luck.
"Have you noticed in campaigns a lively bolt to be followed by a deadbolt?"—Baltimore American.

VERY LIKE A THIEVING WAITER.

Attitude of Grasping Corporation and Thieving Waiter.
Mayor Brush, of Mount Vernon, had been describing to a visitor the municipal ice plant that, thanks chiefly to his work, Mount Vernon had set up. "Reproachful," said Mayor Brush, "Yes, it is a fact, the ice trust is reproaching sorrowfully the cities that, sick of its extortion, have at last set out to make their own ice."

LARGE RANCHES IN MEXICO.

Foreigners as Well as Natives Have Immense Holdings.
Ranches in Mexico are of no mean size. Ex-Gov. Terrazas of Chihuahua has 17,000,000 acres. The Zuloga family is said to hold 5,000,000. Properties of 1,000,000 and 2,000,000 acres are not uncommon. Among the Americans who have large ranches may be mentioned Fleming & Ross, the Riverside Cattle Company, with 2,000,000 acres and a fine herd of Herefords; Phoebe Hearst, of California, who has a magnificent place west of Minaca, the Millers and three Mormon colonies. Gordon, Ironside & Ferriss, a Canadian company, have 1,000,000 acres; Lord Beresford, a relative of the admiral, has a large ranch where he raises fine horses; another Englishman, named Ironside, owns a large property. Smaller places of from 40,000 acres upward are numerous. The price of land now runs from 50 to 75 cents gold per acre, with a strong tendency to rise.—Modern Mexico.

Waste Treasures.

"I have in my employ," said a dealer in autographs, "a number of celebrities' housemaids. Thanks to these young women, I secure at nominal cost many an autograph gem. All I ask of the maids is that they ship me weekly the contents of their masters' waste baskets. They bale the stuff up in burlap and every Monday or Tuesday it comes to me by freight."

Charting River Bottoms.

An ingenious apparatus for drawing the profile of a river bottom is used by Italian engineers. It consists of a wheel affixed to the bottom of a graduated rod, which is fastened vertically at the side of a boat in such a manner that as the boat advances up or down or across stream the wheel at the end of the rod runs continually upon the bottom, the rod rising and falling with variations of the level. By noting the depth at chosen intervals of time the elements are obtained for tracing an accurate representation of all the sinuities of the bottom of the river and the variations of depth. In the saving of time this simple apparatus possesses an enormous advantage over the ordinary method of soundings.

Was Seaisick for Home.

The sensation of homesickness has been variously described, but never more graphically than by a little girl who, miles away from home and mamma, sat heavy-eyed and silent at a hotel table. "Aren't you hungry, dear?" asked her aunt, with whom she was traveling. "No'm." "Does your head ache?" "No'm." "What is the matter?" "The child's lip quivered as she replied in a tremulous tone: "I'm so seasick for home."

The Changing Rose.

The changing rose is a plant to the cultivation of which the Japanese devote much attention. It produces a tiny but beautifully formed flower. On being taken suddenly out of a dark place into a sunny room it slowly assumes a pale pink hue, which gradually grows in intensity until it becomes of the deepest red shade. The color vanishes again at night or when the rose is replaced in a dark room.

Fond Recollections.

He—When I was going down the Rhine I promised that every time I drank a glass of wine I would think of you.
She (tenderly)—And how often you must have thought of me, Fritz, I can see by your nose!—Die Musikete.

Pretty Theater.

Friend—Well, did you have a good house last night?
Manager—Oh, yes; but—
Friend—Well, what more do you want?
Manager—There wasn't any audience.—Cleveland Leader.

FAITH WORKED A CURE.

Proof of Effect of Imagination on Human Mind.
Imagination, which causes much ill health, has also proved an effective cure when medical skill has been baffled. During the siege of Breda in 1625 the garrison was rendered almost helpless by the ravages of scurvy. The Prince of Orange, being given to understand that the city must fall in the first general assault unless the plague was stayed, sent a few vials containing a liquid which he declared was of wonderful potency, a few drops being sufficient to impart healing qualities to a barrelful of water. The virtues of the remedy were described in glowing terms and the expectations of the soldiers regarding its efficacy were aroused to the highest pitch. The vials contained a harmless preparation, though had it been a deadly poison the seas of water with which it was mingled would have rendered it innocuous. The soldiers crowded eagerly around the doctors and swallowed the medicated water, faith beaming in every face. In a few days men who had grown worse under the usual remedies became well; others who had lost the use of their limbs recovered their wonted vigor, and the ranks of the defenders assumed almost their normal strength.

MUMMIES USED AS FUEL.

Burn Like Tinder, Says Sailor—Dried Fish Makes Good Fire.
"I have eaten mummy cooked on a fire of broken mummy," said the sailor. "It was in Egypt, and the mummy was stolen out of a tomb. The natives are always stealing mummies. They sell them in pieces to tourists, and what pieces they can't dispose of otherwise they throw into the bin for fuel." "Mummy burns like tinder, but it's a ghastly fuel. It is as ghastly a fuel as the shot lasts what they burn in the shoemaking town of Lynn, where the old-fashioned and discarded lasts, glowing in the grate, look to you like amputated human trifles." "I have been in tannery towns where the fuel is tannery chips. This fuel smokes and smells like tannery chips, too, forming itself into big soft chunks what have to be broke up with the poker every little while."

Barrels Too Dear to Burn.

The Thanksgiving barrel burning is doomed. The day is not so far distant when barrels will not be obtainable. Those who harvest the crops in the fall realize more than others how difficult it is to get barrels for the purpose. A barrel hunter in a neighboring state said the other day it is a shame for people to break up and burn their barrels when they are so scarce. He said he has chased all day for only a few barrels as a result. According to this man the making of barrels is an industry which is not followed by many, and cooper in the cheap barrel line are becoming scarce each year and people are having to depend upon burlap sacks or pay double what the other receptacles are worth. In the near future barrels that is, stave barrels—are going to become too scarce and too dear to burn. The scarcity of barrels promises to end the barrel bangers. Nothing else is likely to do it.—Northwich (Conn.) Bulletin.

Growth of Language.

Of "sinister" a writer says: "How charged, since the time of the Romans, is this simple word with dubious things, with suggestions that are ever terrible. It seems to convey the vague threat of dreams—the threat that is something worse than the clear menace of trouble in waking hours. Man wanted a word for such terrors, and took the more name of the left hand; this would serve as well as another, seeing that all words which we have filled with mental emotions had a grossly material beginning, as 'bitter' and 'sweet.' Emerson says that all language is fossil poetry; but the reverse is true—human language has grown into poetry and has come to life with time."

Historic Irish Prison.

In the event of the Donegal county council's decision to sell the old Lifford prison being confirmed by the local government board one of the most historic jails of Ireland will disappear. Within its walls were once confined many notable offenders, including persons concerned in the Irish rebellion and a number of French prisoners who were captured in the sea fights off the mouth of Lough Swilly. Napper Tandy, rendered famous by the lines in "The Wearing of the Green," was incarcerated in this old prison.—London Daily Mail.

Poetry and Prose.

Bride (tenderly)—We have fully 20 minutes before the train comes, when we must bid one another farewell—Isn't that nice?
Bridegroom (Capitally)—We can go into the station restaurant and eat something together.

The Truth of It.

"Couldn't you get Krotchet to give anything?" It's certainly a very de-sewing charity.
"Yes, but he said the subscription price was beyond his means."
"Hi'm! He meant beyond his means!"

TESLA'S STRENGTH OF WILL.

Early Proved Possession of It to Remarkable Degree.
Nikola Tesla, the inventor, whose electrical apparatus is used in the transmission of power from Niagara falls, is a strikingly handsome man of 49—tall, dark, and typically Greek in features. He possesses strength of will to a remarkable degree, and in proof of the forcefulness of his nature the following story is told: When a lad between nine and ten, his father, a priest of the Greek church, one day entertained Nikola and his sister with the story of how a martyr held his right hand in the fire and unflinchingly watched it until it was consumed. The priest was full of admiration for the bishop's courageous act, but his son appeared unable to see anything particularly wonderful in such a performance. His father laughed good humoredly, whereupon the boy ran out of the room and returned with a small lamp. This he lighted, and then, holding his index finger in the flame, kept it there until the flesh began to burn. His audience begged him to desist, but it was not until the finger was almost charred that he withdrew it and blew out the light.

WHY THE SCARF PIN GIFT?

The Hotel Clerk Laments a Lack of Human Ingenuity.
"I wonder why," mused the hotel clerk, as he dickered with his tie in front of a mirror fixed in the office. "I wonder why whenever anybody wants to give me a present he sends me a scarf pin. If I never wore a pin I could understand it. But I always wear one and sometimes when I look at the collection I have at home, I get desperate and want to wear half a dozen at a time. Guests who come here and receive courtesies always show their gratitude by sending me a scarf pin and, in a way, it's becoming embarrassing." "For instance, one man gave me a wolf's head pin made of oxidized silver with rubies for the eyes. It was a beautiful pin. I could see people looking at it yards away when I was out, but one day I wore another and the man who gave me the wolf's head blew in from Chicago and was quite hurt. Now I never know what pin to wear. It just shows how wealth has its responsibilities."

Ancient European Universities.

While Harvard was dedicating its new medical school buildings the University of Aberdeen was celebrating the four hundredth anniversary of its foundation. Four hundred years seems a most respectable antiquity to Americans, but in reality Aberdeen is among the younger of the distinguished European universities. Just when Cambridge was founded is a question for antiquarians to settle, but even if we doubt the accuracy of the statement that it dates as an organized seat of learning from the year 635 we know that it was the resort of scholars in those dim, dark days whose records are scanty chronicles. Oxford claims more than 1,000 years of authentic history and the University of Paris asserts seniority over Oxford. Bologna is almost twice the age of Aberdeen.

Needed No Opera Glasses.

The new employer under Superintendent Kirkland in removing the brownial mounds and nests from trees are furnished with cans of creosote, the cans in form very much resembling a pair of field glasses, says the Boston Herald. One day Mr. Kirkland was accosted by a stranger who asked if he was the man who had charge of the work. Mr. Kirkland replied that he was. "Well, don't you want to hire a man?" the stranger asked. Mr. Kirkland replied that he did, asking him to give his references. "Well," was the answer, "I can see them bugs without them opera glasses." He was hired.

A Printer's Pranks.

"I have played many a practical joke on writers in my time," said the veteran compositor. "My last joke was on a bishop. Studying the Russian revolution, he wrote from Moscow to a church paper a descriptive letter that ended: "But I can write no more. The gorgeous domes of the city beckon me, and I go." "I," said the veteran, with a loud laugh, "made domes' read dames."

One Man's Wisdom.

Green—Who was it that said, "Let me make the songs of a nation, and I care not who makes its laws?"
Brown—I don't know the man's name, but he was a wise guy, all right.
Green—Because why?
Brown—Because it is possible to evade the laws, but one can't get away from the songs—especially when they become popular.

A Difference.

"The people I lived with before, ma'am, saw the new cook, 'wuz very plain."
"Well," asked her new employer, "are we not plain here?"
"Yis, ma'am, but in a different way. The others 'wuz plain in their way of livin', not in their looks, ma'am."