

DID GREAT THINGS AS BOYS

Notable Instances of Those Who Have Accomplished Much in Their Youth.

It is well for us to remind ourselves not infrequently of the historical fact that some of the greatest achievements in the world have been made by youth, and it will always be so in human history.

Dryden's Wit.

The duke of Dorset, John Dryden, Bolingbroke and Chesterfield were in the habit of spending their evenings together. "Twas in general 'the feast of reason and the flow of soul'."

Acid-Proof Composition.

Iron alloys containing a certain percentage of chromium are usually employed in the manufacture of articles and apparatus which should resist the action of acids.

One Way With Late Husbands.

At Steinach, Canton of St. Gall, Switzerland, a young married woman whose husband was unable to tear himself away from his favorite cafe in the evenings and was always very late for dinner, took the dinner and "planted" it before her husband and friends while they were playing cards in the cafe.

Shakespeare.

The critics have not proven that the plays known as Shakespeare's were not written by the Stratford man of that name. The Stratford man will have the field, and it is likely to have it for an indefinite time to come.

Twins an Evil Omen.

Igorote women have a strange superstition about twins. They say that Anito, an evil spirit, is always present in one of the babes when twins are born.

NEW RULING IN NAVY.

All young officers in the navy will hereafter serve at least one year on gunboat duty, according to a new plan of detailing announced at the navy department.

The navy department regards gunboat duty as highly important, because the gunboat officers are thrown on their own resources to a larger extent than on the battleships and more quickly learn self-reliance and confidence in their own abilities.

In the future the period of duty for all gunboat officers, except the commander, will be one year. At the end of this period they will be assigned to the battleships and armored cruisers.

A number of ensigns of the class of 1911 are now being detailed to the gunboats. This gives them a distinct advantage over their classmates not so detailed, as these ensigns immediately become watch and division officers with quarters in the wardroom.

It is expected that the same policy, somewhat modified, will also be applied to the destroyers. In this service, however, young officers will be allowed to remain two years if they choose.

GRADUATES SHUN MINISTRY.

A remarkable decrease in the number of Protestant ministers graduated from the universities of the country is shown in a current report of the United States bureau of education.

"It is plain," says the report, "that educated men no longer seek the cloth as they did when the nation was younger. It may mean much or little that the percentage of ministers among the graduates of typical colleges has declined from a proportion of 60 to 70 per cent. to less than 10 per cent."

An examination of the figures collected at the close of the nineteenth century from 37 representative colleges discloses the fact that the ministry takes between five and six per cent of the university graduates, which marks the lowest point for that profession during the two and one-half centuries of American college history.

Between the years 1896 and 1900 only 885 divinity students were graduated from 37 representative colleges and universities, or 5.9 per cent of the total number graduated, which was over 14,478.

WON'T PAY WARDEN \$2.

The Atlanta prison cow, whose indiscretions caused a two hours' debate in congress several months ago, and changed the wording of a \$450,000 appropriation bill, stirred Comptroller of the Treasury Tracewell the other day to write a long legal opinion as to her conduct.

The cow wandered out of her pasture and ate up all the neighboring farmers' turnips. She was impounded and Warden Moyer paid two dollars out of his own pocket to get her free. He could not collect from the government because the auditors here diglavored the claim.

Congress failed to remedy the situation, so that Moyer could get his money back, and the comptroller the other day added another chapter by handing down a decision that the expenditure was an illegal one that the warden will make another appeal to congress for his two dollars.

TEA ROOM IN U. S. TREASURY.

Secretary of the Treasury MacVeagh has officially recognized tea as one of the rights of women by authorizing the opening of a "tea room" in the treasury department, where 100 individual pots of tea keep up a merry song during the lunch hour. The new tea room is the only one under Uncle Sam's protection.

Some time ago indiscriminate tea making throughout the building caused Secretary MacVeagh to issue an "anti-tea" rule. The women raised a protest and the special tea room was the result.

To Ostrich Roosters.

Harry M. Lamson, in charge of the poultry division of the bureau of agriculture, recommends the Ostrichization of all roosters after the spring hatch. He thinks that if his advice is followed, the cost of eggs and consequently the high cost of living, will be considerably reduced.

Mr. Lamson has found, after many experiments, that infertile eggs are best for food, and will keep longer than fertile ones. By confining, killing or selling all male birds after the breeding season, Mr. Lamson says the farmers of this country will prevent an annual loss of \$15,000,000 in eggs.

There's a Reason.

"Why do you wish to divorce her, because she doesn't cook like your mother used to?" "No, because she does."

CAUSE OF TERROR

Vagaries About Lightning Without Reason.

Although It Causes Fewer Victims Deaths Than Any Other Form of American, It Is Feared Most by Many.

Washington.—Terror of lightning is mostly morbid. If you are obsessed with such a fear, Uncle Sam's statistics can comfort you with the assurance that the average citizen of the United States is ten times more likely to be murdered than to be killed by a thunderbolt; eleven times more likely to be shot dead, through some accident, twelve times more likely to die of heat or stroke, twenty-eight times more likely to die of burns or scalds, thirty-four times more likely to be drowned. Only about 276 people in our land are annually put to death by Jove's fiery darts. Of course the death rate from this cause varies from year to year. It was above the average in 1909, and even heavier in 1908. Some astronomers believe that the severity of thunderstorms is increased by sun spots, others that it varies with the phases of the moon, but meteorologists generally deny these theories.

They agree that your danger from the celestial artillery depends principally upon the locality in which you live, and your shelter at the time of the storm. The weather bureau, by careful observation and tabulation, discovers some of the greatest danger from lightning to include an irregular area of the country covering all the Atlantic coast states from Massachusetts to Virginia, inclusive, and biting inland until Alabama in southern Virginia, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana and eastern Illinois.

Thunderstorms therein are more fatal though less frequent than in the Gulf states. If you wish to escape thunderstorms almost entirely, pitch your tent upon the Pacific slope, where such storms are practically unknown. Or, if required to dwell within the danger zone, select for your castle a house in the midst of a city block with continuous tin roofs connected to well anchored waterposts.

The fact that lightning annually strikes four times as many people of outdoor occupations as people in general emphasizes the wisdom of keeping indoors during such disturbances. But if caught in the open bear in mind that you are far safer in the dense heart of a wood than at its outskirts, and that the shelter of a single tree is particularly treacherous, especially if near the edge of a body of water, even a ditch. But if you must be near a tree, seek the companionship of the beech, which is struck least often of all, and avoid particularly the oak, which attracts lightning more than any other.

The oak is hit fifty-seven, the fir thirty-nine and the pine five times as often as the beech. Avoid above all else a tree or other shelter where under a group of men or beasts are huddled together. While in the shadow of the thunderhead, monarch of all clouds, be excursive. The weather bureau also warns you against doorways, particularly of barns and stables; also a house connected with a metallic clothes line.

While successful in tabulating the destructive and fatal effects of lightning and, by deduction, formulating such common-sense rules as the above, our weather bureau, in common with other great meteorological institutions, finds the force behind the fiery cannon balls and projectiles of Jupiter Pluvius too illusive and vagarious to be reduced to law. For years the bureau has been gleaming from all parts of the world reports describing the eccentricities of this awe-inspiring phenomenon, of which Flammarion has said:

"It is like an elementary spirit, eccentric or rational, clever or silly, far-seeing or blind, headstrong or indifferent, passing from one extreme to the other. It wriggles through space. It moves among men with surprising agility, appearing and disappearing like lightning."

But the most weird of all lightning pranks on record is that of killing a man and leaving him standing erect, as in life. Such a phenomenon was lately reported by a Canadian observer, C. Baillarge, who near Beauport saw a man struck by a thunder bolt while walking in a field. Although dead, he remained motionless, standing with one foot in front of the other in the attitude of taking a step.

PRESIDENT FOR A DAY.

In the talk about electing president of the United States it is recalled that Senator David Rice Atchison of Clay county, Mo., claimed the unique distinction of holding the office of president of the United States for one day. The terms of office of President James K. Polk and of Vice President George M. Dallas terminated by limitation on Saturday night at midnight, March 4, 1849. Gen. Zachary Taylor, Polk's successor, was not inaugurated until Monday, March 5, 1849. Senator Atchison was at the time president pro tem of the United States senate. The expiration of vice president Dallas' term left a vacancy to which Senator Atchison instantly succeeded. This made him ex-officio vice-president of the United States, but at the same instant there was likewise a vacancy in the presidential office, to which in turn Atchison instantly succeeded.

LATEST WHIM OF JANITOR

Mrs. Audley Learns He Is "Superintendent" and Sees People Only by Appointment.

High Audley, who had moved into a new apartment, was driven to the verge of distraction by the persistent failure of the janitor to perform certain services which were essential to the comfort of herself and her family. One morning when her indignation had reached the boiling point she telephoned to the basement.

"I want to speak to the janitor," she announced emphatically. "Do you mean the superintendent?" Inquired the voice of a woman at the other end of the wire.

"I mean the janitor; but if calling him 'the superintendent' makes him do his work more promptly—the superintendent?" "The superintendent isn't in his apartment at the present moment," replied the voice, with unmistakable haughtiness.

"Are you the superintendent's wife?" telephoned Mrs. Audley. "I am Mrs. Macbeth, the wife of the superintendent," admitted the voice.

"Well, I am Mrs. Audley. Please send your husband to me as soon as possible. There are things that must be done in my apartment, and that it was his business to have done days ago, and I want. What! busy? He may just as well be busy doing the work I require as the work required by anybody else in the house," said Mrs. Audley hotly. "So, please tell him to come to my apartment without further delay."

"The superintendent never sees nobody except by special appointment," came the voice from the basement. "Oh," murmured Mrs. Audley, and, hanging up the receiver, sat down to laugh.

Magic of the Rainbow.

The rainbow shimmering high in the heavens is more than a mere arch of glowing colors. It is a royal ambassador from the kingdom of nature, a herald bearing a message of vast importance to mankind. Written upon its brilliantly-hued, shining archway is a truth that man has finally appreciated after the countless ages that have passed since the first rainbow glorified the heavens. And this truth is what? Nothing less than the revelation of the component elements that constitute the sun and stars and the dim-shining nebulae lost in the farthest hiding places of the universe. By means of this truth, written large upon the raindrops, we know more about the composition of the sun, 93,000,000 miles from the earth, than we do about the world on which we dwell.—Popular Mechanics Magazine.

No Need to Worry.

A lovely woman who lives on Roxford road, East Cleveland, is the proud mother of two boys. Reginald is six years old, while Ronald is not yet two. Both children are active and inquisitive, so it has become necessary to employ a young girl to watch them.

Mamma is subject to headaches, and mamma has discovered the sort of proprietary pills that will relieve them. One mustn't take more than one per hour. And the other afternoon mamma had a headache, took a pill and went to rest. After a while she got up to repeat the dose—and found the pill box empty. She summoned the maid.

"Frida!" she cried. "Did Reginald swallow all those pills. Answer me!" "No'm," answered Frida, with a smile. "Don't be scared none. He's a chenerous kid—he gafe half of 'em to her baby!"—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Maps and Charts.

Anaximander of Miletus is generally supposed to have been the originator of geographical and celestial charts, about 570 B. C. Modern sea charts were brought to England by Bartholomew Columbus to illustrate his brother's theory of a western continent. This was about the year 1489. The first tolerably accurate map of England was drawn by George Lilly, who died in 1559. Gerald Mercator published an atlas of maps in 1696, but it is only within the last 60 years or so that we have had really scientific charts of the earth's surface. It was, of course, impossible to have had such maps in the olden time.

Reports.

An Irish waiter named Kenny was noted for his wit and ready answers. A party of gentlemen staying at the hotel heard of it, and one of them made a bet that he would say something Kenny could not answer.

A bottle of champagne was ordered, and the one who made the bet commenced to open it. The cork came out with a bang, and, not unintentionally, hit Kenny in the mouth.

"Ah," he said, "that is not the way to cork." "No," replied Kenny, as he smoothed the injured part, "but it's the way to kill Kenny."

His Art Instincts.

Jones had invited a friend to dinner and asked him to carve a chicken that was placed before him. The guests set to work with a good will, but after a deal of muscular exercise was compelled to acknowledge himself beaten.

"Where is the name of leather did you get that bird?" "I don't know," replied the host, "unless it should prove to be the offspring of some hard boiled egg."—Chicago News.

MAKE CHEAP LOANS

German Co-Operative Credit System for Workers and Farmers.

United States Ambassador Reports on "System of Banks Which Serves the Artisan, the Workman, and the Small Business Man."

Washington.—The German artisan, as well as the German farmer, has provided himself with financial machinery to assist him in the conduct of his business. As with the farmer, co-operation is the basis of his banking scheme—cheap credit and quick credit is obtained for him by offering a collective guaranty. What he could not secure alone he finds readily obtainable when he combines his limited resources with those of his fellow-workmen.

The system of banks which serves the artisan, the workman, and the small business man of the towns of Germany is known as the Schulze-Delitzsch system. As the membership of these banks includes a high percentage of agriculturists and their operations have an important bearing upon the question of financing the farmers, Ambassador Lelshman has included this system in the investigation which he is making in connection with President Taft's effort to establish co-operative credit in this country for the benefit of the American farmer.

As the social structure of the town is more complex than that of the farming community, so the structure of the Schulze-Delitzsch or urban co-operative banks is more complex than that of the rural banks of the Raiffeisen type. Their membership includes men from many walks of life and of varying degrees of financial standing. It has been found necessary, therefore, to supply these banks with a larger foundation capital than is the case with the farmers' banks of the Raiffeisen type.

The collective guaranty offered by the farmers is, indirectly, a land guaranty. The guaranty of town residents is not so well defined. Therefore, the members of the urban banks are required to subscribe a comparatively large amount for capital stock, and the banks operate upon this cash basis more in the manner of other banks than is the case with the Raiffeisen banks, which operate almost entirely upon the guaranties given by the members and with only a practically nominal capital.

Also the urban banks do more of a general banking business. Their larger cash capital makes this possible for them. They do not depend for their funds upon central co-operative banks, but receive loans from outside banks. They maintain and seek to pay dividends upon their capital stock. This dividend runs generally from 5 to 7 per cent, but a few of the Schulze-Delitzsch banks of Germany pay as high as 10 per cent, and a dividend of 25 per cent. is not unknown.

The primary object of the urban banks is to furnish their members with cheap, quick money. They lend in two forms—loans on current account and loans for fixed periods. Loans on current account comprise something over 40 per cent of the banks' business. Loans for fixed periods are made on pledge or by discounting bills of exchange. Also loans on mortgage form about 10 per cent of their total loans. A small number of loans are granted without guaranty of any sort.

Capital shares in the Schulze-Delitzsch banks average a little over \$90. The liability of a shareholder is generally limited. The rate of interest paid for their money by these banks averages about 3 1/2 per cent of the total working capital, while the gross profits average about 5 1/2 per cent of the working capital. Deducting from this margin the cost of operating the banks and other expenses there is still left a net profit for distribution averaging about 8 1/2 per cent of the share capital. A portion of this net profit is carried over as reserve and the remainder distributed as dividends.

Surplus funds not needed by the banks in making loans to members are deposited with outside banks or are invested in first-class securities. The urban banks in three provinces in Germany have organized central banks, but for the most part the banks are able to obtain money satisfactorily from outside banks, and the three provincial central banks are not of much importance. The urban banks do, however, maintain current accounts with the Dresden Bank, a private bank, in order to facilitate the movement of their funds and to equalize their debits and credits.

"MOVIES" RUINING SALOONS.

Moving picture shows have practically ruined the saloon business of the national capital, according to investigations of the excise board. Although the new license year began November, only 175 applications have been made for renewal of retail licenses. Last year 513 retail liquor licenses were taken out and unless business picks up during the next few days the board anticipates only one third of the regular saloon business will be in force during the coming year.

WHAT SOME PEOPLE BELIEVE

Odd Superstitions That Are Prevalent Among the Inhabitants of European Countries.

In Spain the wedding is spoiled if one of the guests appears entirely in black or if the bride looks into a mirror after orange blossoms and veil are fastened in her hairdress.

When a person's hair ends split it is taken by the superstitious for a sign that she is either a witch or has been bewitched. As blond hair splits more readily than dark hair, all witches, sprites and sorceresses have blond or red hair, according to popular belief. Likewise, according to the standard of art.

On the marriage eve there is often much good natured rivalry between the groom and the bride in the Slav countries as to who shall blow out the candle, for the person who does will be "first to die." It is impossible to trace the origin of this superstition, yet it prevails in aristocratic society as well as in the peasant's hut, even as like this, that "to insure the life and health of the children" the woman must occupy the right side of the bed. In addition, she must not smoke before her forty-fifth year.

There is a superstition in this country and many others against burning a broom. The bud of birch broom is used in southern Germany as a preventive against erysipelas. These buds, a piece of yellow wax and some other articles, are inclosed in a pink silk bag, secured with red silk and worn on the back of the neck. The person must change his shirt every Friday.

ANCIENT STONE SUN DIAL. It Was Built into a Church Buttress, Probably in the Thirteenth Century.

The stone sun dial, probably of the thirteenth century, which has just been placed in the south wall of the chancel of West Clandon church, is likely to be of considerable interest to antiquaries. The dial, which has unfortunately lost its gnomon, was till recently built into the western side of a buttress, having apparently been regarded as a piece of stone of no value.

The stone on which the dial is cut is of chalk and the dial is about a foot across. The engraving of the lines on the face is deep and sharp, the stone being in a good state of preservation, and the hole in which the gnomon had been fixed is wide and deep. At each of those positions on the face of the dial which in a clock would be called the quarters four dots are engraved, but these dots are arranged in different positions. Sun dials such as that at West Clandon are not at all rare and at one time they were probably placed on every church. Indeed, at Saltwood, in Kent, there are three close together, but particular interest attaches to the specimen at West Clandon from the fact that it is much nearer perfect than is generally the case.—The Guardian.

Cave of Bones.

An extraordinary "bone cave" may be seen in the island of Tenerife. It is situated near the summit of a lofty sea cliff near Orotava, close to the small plain of Le Paz, where peace was finally made between the conquering Spaniards and the Guanches, the original inhabitants of the island.

Here the Guanches made their last stand, and the cave formed a shelter for the small remnant left of the tribesmen after the Spanish had finished with them. In former times the place had evidently been a burial ground of the Guanches, and when first discovered mummies were found in it; now, however, only a large pile of bones remains. Access is obtained by descending a rope through a hole dug in the roof, but the original occupants must have had a difficult and dangerous scramble down the face of the almost perpendicular cliff to the natural entrance.

Satisfied.

In a mill in the north of England an old Irishman and his mate were set on to replace a floor in a little shop which was used for a by-product of the business. They had just finished the job, and it was getting dark when the old man bethought himself that a floor ought to be level.

"Of he rushed to borrow a spirit-level and soon returned, flushed and excited, to see how his floor stood the test.

He placed the level on the floor and peered at it, but could not see the bubble as it was too dark in the shop. So, picking the level gently up by both ends he carefully carried it to the door and exclaimed joyfully to his mate, "Fair in the middle, lad; the floor's as level as a die."—Weekly Telegraph.

One That He Forgot.

Two black-faced minstrels were giving an entertainment on the sands of a certain seaside holiday resort recently. While one of them was telling funny stories about the humors of boarding house landladies, the other went among the crowd making a collection. He at length went up to a stern looking woman, who promptly snatched the tambourine from his hand and poured the contents into her lap. As she returned the empty tambourine to the astonished minstrel she exclaimed:

"Tell your friend who knows so much about landladies that I'm the one he forgot to pay the last time he was here!"—Weekly Telegraph.