

THE DISUSE OF LAUGHTER.

Birth of the Noisier Kind Seems to Be Out of Style.

Has laughter gone out? Are we never again to have the honest guffaw—the loud laugh, which, as the poet says, bespeaks the vacant mind? Is this really a true account of the rationale of cackinization? If so, probably it has gone out, at any rate in polite circles. Because we are nothing now, if we are not cultured and refined; and to be vulgar and to be ignorant are worse offenses than any more explicitly forbidden in the decalogue. And yet it almost seems a pity, too. It is not well, surely, to lose any innocent and happily infectious expression of pleasure in a world so belied as ours.

Alas! I fear there is no doubt that

the power of irrepressible laughter is the gift of youth, and youth only, whether in nations or in individuals.

Passing the drawing-room door the other afternoon, I could hear inside,

just after peal of silvery, girlish laughter.

It was Miss Ethel, who was entreating her school friends with tea and bread and butter and jokes. That

was the time of life for laughter. I dare

say the jokes would not have made me

smile. But when the spring tide is

lissomming, and the sap is running

upward in the trees, and the vernal moods are bursting into leaf and

echoing with song, and, wherever you look, all in verdure and joy, almost

anything can move quick laughter.

Or there is an earlier stage, when baby

is being tickled by mamma and crows

with delight. Or, though this, it is

true, is often silent, there is that most

beautiful of all sights—the little blue-

eyed boy or girl, who lies in the white

cot at dawn and smiles, and ripples

with laughter at some innocent, child-

ish thought. It is good to hear happy

laughter, it is good to watch these

baby smiles.

But laughter can be not only gro-

tesque, but very dreadful, as well. To

hear a maniac laugh is one of the most

terrible experiences. To hear a hun-

dred laugh, as one does in nearing the

Isola dei Pazzi, at Venice, is a fore-

taste of the lower regions.—Sir Lewis

Morris, in the Forum.

SPOILED THE COMPLIMENT.

Explained a Remark Which Otherwise

Would Have Please.

Some people dread above all else to be called insincere. They would not have anyone for worlds think them capable of bestowing a compliment which did not embody their real convictions. Undue solicitude on this point frequently makes them uneasy, sometimes even gets them into actual trouble, trouble which weeks and even years will hardly heal.

There is a young woman on the south side who at an early age developed a marked aptitude for art. She had taken several terms at the Art institute, and had become really very proficient, when she met a young man who exerted great influence upon her by his hearty, honest, conscientious expressions of approval. She saw at once that he was sincere, and that she would have to fear no double dealing from him.

She adjured him never to smother his real sentiments. He promised not to do so. The fact is, he thought a great deal of her, and her slightest wish appeared to him as an inviolable command.

She had just finished painting a large marine view. It had madly furious waves in it that dashed up and all around and seemed to fill the canvas with spray. It was late in the afternoon, and just as she was about to put it away he happened to call. Of course, she brought him in to see the picture. It was standing on a table near the wall. He laid his hat on the table and viewed it with admiration. He praised it heartily. Suddenly he reached over.

"I must take my silk hat away," he said, "or it will get wet."

"Oh, now you are flattering me," she said, gushingly. And then he made the unfortunate reply:

"No, indeed," he said, with a pain-

fully earnest expression, "the paint doesn't seem to be quite dry."—Chicago Times-Herald.

Animals in Groups.

The ingenuity of the sportsman is, perhaps, better illustrated than by the use he puts the English language to in designating particular groups of animals. The following is a list of the terms which have been applied to the various classes: A covey of partridges, a nide of pheasants, a wisp of snipe, a flight of doves or swallows, a muster of peacocks, a sieve of herons, a building of rooks, a watch of nightingales, a clattering of couloughs, a herd or bunch of cattle, a flock of geese, a bevy of quails, a cast of hawks, a swarm of bees, a school of whales, a shoal of herrings, a herd of swine, a skulk of foxes, a pack of wolves, a drove of oxen, a sounder of hogs, a troop of monkeys, a pride of lions, a slauth of bears, a gang of elk.

—A California lady owns a useful pigeon. Every morning, just after breakfast, the bird flies to the post office and carries home the letters for the whole family.

CONDEMNED TO EDUCATION.

Schools Where Secret Societies Are Born and Nursed.

A MOTHER'S TREASURE.

Little Mementoes of the Boy That Was Gone.

It was a peculiarly shaped wicker basket brought forth from the depths of a closet during the fall house cleaning. The little woman who held it in her hands paused in her work to sit down by the window and brush the dust from it with her apron.

"I'll not keep these things any longer," she said to herself; "they are in the way and it is nonsensical for me to have such a foolish sentimental notion. It is about as John says, they do me more harm than good."

She lifted the cover and picked up a little shoe which lay beneath. "That was his first shoe," she murmured. "How cunning it is! But there, I mustn't spend any time with these things. They might just as well as not be burned with the other truck." She wanted to be firm and throw the little misshapen articles of soft kid carelessly to the floor, but instead of doing so it was placed carefully upon the window ledge.

"It might be gilded and used for a match safe," she continued, in an apologetic tone, as if some sort of an excuse were necessary for not having carried out her intention. "I believe I'll do that, and then I will still have something to remember him by, although it will not be much. I wonder if the moths are in that hat. Yes, they are. Isn't that too bad, after I took such pains putting it away?" A little round piece of fur was then shaken violently and placed beside the shoe.

One by one the contents were taken from the basket. A pair of stockings with large holes in the knees, a pair of soiled mittens, a torn book, a broken slate, and last, a thumb-marked letter, addressed in a child's scrawl to "My Dear Mama" and containing a few short misspelled words which ended abruptly with "From Your Boy Jim."

The little woman lingered a long time over each article, especially the letter. Her eyes were filled with tears, and she cried bitterly when she again arranged the things in the basket, put some camphor in the lining of the fur cap and put on the cover.

Then as she tenderly placed the basket upon the top shelf in the closet, she sobbingly declared that never, never again would she even think of throwing away those few things that had belonged to her boy Jim.—Chicago Post.

OCEAN STEAMERS.

Possibilities for a Great Increase in Size and Speed.

LEPROSY.

Horrible Forms the Disease Takes—Not Known Among Animals.

The active cause of leprosy is a specific micro-organism, the bacillus leprae. The period of incubation varies from a few minutes to several years.

Two principal types of forms of leprosy are recognized as the brunt of the disease is determined toward the skin or toward the peripheral nervous system. The first form is called tubercular; the second, anaesthetic, or nerve leprosy. In the first form infiltrations occur in the skin, forming nodules or tubercles, which are especially prominent about the forehead, cheeks, and ears; later, these nodules break down, forming ulcerating sores; often they occasion pictures of horrible deformity. The tubercular form is the most severe and rapidly fatal; the average duration of life is from five to ten years. In the anaesthetic form the nutrition of the skin is interfered with from impaction of the nerves, leading to contractions and deformities of the members; not infrequently there is marked infiltration from the sinking in of the nose, the loss of the sight, and the dropping off of the fingers and toes, so that only the stumps of the hands and feet remain.

In this form the course of the disease is slower, and life may be prolonged to ten or fifteen years, or longer. Some patients exhibit the characteristics of both forms, (mixed leprosy.)

Leprosy is an exclusively human disease; it is not inctible to animals. It is never of spontaneous origin, but is invariably derived from the lesions or secretions of a person similarly diseased. Its development in a country previously exempt from the disease may always be traced to its importation in the person of a leper from an infected center. We know nothing definitely of the mode of infection or the channels of entrance through which the bacillus gains access to the organism—whether by direct contact, by inhalation, or imbibition of the bacilli, or by other intermediates. Observation proves conclusively that every leper is a possible source of danger to all with whom he may come into intimate and prolonged contact.—North American Review.

Qualities of Porpoise Leather.

Concerning porpoise leather, the Shoe and Leather Reporter says that it is peculiar in this that instead of stretching it shrinks when it has been worn. It is practically waterproof, and is, therefore, as hard on the feet as rubbers would be when worn constantly. It is made up into shoes for winter wear, and shoe laces, its strength and other qualities fitting it particularly well for this purpose.

Spiders in History.

Spiders have played important parts. It is said when Mahomet hid in Mecca he hid in a cave and a spider wove a web over the entrance. When his pursuers came they saw the web and believed no one was there. It is said a spider performed the same kind act for David when Saul was hunting him.

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L'ABEILLE DE LA NOUVELLE-ORLEANS

Est très répandue en Louisiane et dans tous les Etats du Sud. Sa publicité offre donc au commerce des avantages exceptionnels. Prix de l'abonnement, pour l'année: Edition quotidienne, \$12 00; Edition hebdomadaire, \$3 00.

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Bulletin Financier.

Bulletin Commercial

Mardi, 15 février 1898.

COMPTES D'EXCHANGES (CLEARING-HOUSE) DE LA NOUVELLE-ORLEANS.

Jeu. 16 fevrier 1898.

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Ordinary..... 4 11/16

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Good Middle..... 5 1/16

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Good Fair..... 7/8

Fair..... 7/8

Good Fair..... 7/8