

Sound Without Air.

Sound can be obtained without air if some elastic medium be interposed between the ear and the body that emits the sound, but sound cannot be transmitted through a perfect vacuum. Hawkosby proved that if the space between the sounding body and the ear be exhausted of air no sound will be audible.

Any medium, however—gaseous, liquid or solid—will if elastic transmit sound waves. Franklin, for instance, having plunged his head under water, caused two stones to be struck together beneath the surface and at a distance of half a mile heard the blows distinctly. Colladon, another investigator, heard the sound of a bell struck under water in the lake of Geneva at a distance of nine miles.

It is well known that wood transmits sound in a remarkable manner. A person at one end of a wooden beam will hear a pin scratch made at the other end, though the person making it may hear no sound at all. This fact is sometimes employed as a test of the soundness of the beam, for the experiment will fail if the intervening wood be rotten.

A Book He Didn't Have.

At the very beginning of his editorial career a friend visited Henry Labouche and, seeing a quantity of books around which had been sent in for review, offered to bet the editor of London Truth that there was one book he had not got in the office. Labouche inquired the name of the book, and his friend promptly answered, "A Bible." With a laugh Labouche offered to bet \$10 that he had even that book. Turning the conversation in another direction, he furtively sent a note out into the clerk's office telling the boy to go downstairs and ask the bookseller underneath for the loan of a Bible. Presently he returned to the subject of the bet and, calling his assistant in, asked him whether he had a Bible in the office. The clerk produced the book, which Labouche handed over to his friend, giving himself away, however, as he did so by saying sotto voce to the clerk, "I hope to goodness you didn't forget to cut the leaves!"

A Polite Rebuttal.

Everybody knows the man who is careful never to say "No" abruptly in answer to a question. "No" is a hard word, but one may sometimes be made ridiculous by a reluctance to utter it, says an exchange.

A certain man who had this habit was once met by two ladies who had been discussing the peculiarity, and one of them said that she was positive she could make him say "Oh, no!" flatly. So she addressed him thus:

"Let me see, Mr. Smith; you are a widower, are you not?"

"As much a widower, madam," he answered, with a polite inclination of his head, "as it is possible for a man to be who has never married."

The lady had to own herself beaten.—Mobile Register.

Sex Characteristics.

Have you ever noticed in a fashionable crowd how much like men the women are and how much like women the men? It is not that the men are really effeminate or the women really masculine, as a keen observer once put it, but there is, nevertheless, a curious approximation in type. It may be to some extent a matter of dress. Women affect the mannish in their costume, men in summer seek more color. But it is not dress alone. The woman's face seems stronger and the man's less sensual than it would have been even a century ago. The figure, too, has changed. The man is less gross, the woman more athletic, and both are taller.—London Tatler.

Lion Cubs as Pets.

The most attractive household pets in the entire animal kingdom are said to be very young lion cubs. They are docile, affectionate and quick to learn tricks, it is said, besides being very decorative, considered merely as an article of furniture. Persons who have adopted young lions as pets and enjoyed their society for any length of time are ever after intolerant of any animal so tame and uninteresting as a dog or a cat.

A Quaint Sort of Wedding.

When a marriage takes place among the Negritos, a people of the Philippine Islands, the whole tribe assembles, and the affianced pair climb two trees growing close together. Then the elders bend the branches that the young folks are on till their heads meet. When the heads have thus touched each other the marriage is legally accomplished, and there are great rejoicings. A fantastic dance completes the ceremony.

The Handy Boy.

"Willie, you may finish this piece of pie if you want it," said mother. "It isn't enough to save."

"Mother," said Willie when he had finished it, "a boy in the family comes in very handy when there is a little bit of pie left over, doesn't he?"—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

Quails are said to be extinct in Ireland, where they were formerly to be found in great numbers.

The announcement that Russia intends to keep hands off the Servian tragedy indicates that it has no criticism to offer as to the manner in which the job was done by local talent. It was accomplished with as much "neatness and dispatch" as though it had been done by Russian officials, even of Bessarabia.

It is announced that the National Association of Dancing Masters has abolished the twostep. There are several people now considerably in the public eye who doubtless wish that somebody would abolish the lock step.

Apparently Missouri does not propose that her home industries shall be slighted. Arrangements are being perfected for a big mule show as a feature of the approaching world's fair at St. Louis.

Persons familiar with the interior of the New York Yacht club report that the America's cup is looking perceptibly paler since the arrival of the Shamrock III.

There are a considerable number of Boers who will refrain from expressing sympathy for Mr. Chamberlain in any discomfiture he may encounter at home.

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