AN ENGLISH MAN CATCHER

REMINISCENCES OF DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CHARLES BRYAN.

His Observations of Pickpockets and Confidence Men—Some Amusing Experiences in the Service.

London Telegraph.

Pickpockets, shoplifters, confidence tricksters, long-firm men, hotel and railway thieves and swindlers of every description will rejoice to learn that ex-Detective Inspector Charles Bryan, after a quarter of a century's service under the vigilant Superintendent McWilliam, of Old Jewry, is no longer keeping them "under observation."

"I am firmly of opinion," said the detective, reviewing his career, "that a pickpocket is rarely curable. I can recollect only one man who abandoned his old associates to take up honest employment, and he was always in fear that he would be found by his friends. Once a pickpocket, always a pickpocket. So it is with long-firm swindling—once the taste for it is acquired it must be continually gratified. And one might say the same of the ever-green but never-stale confidence trick—usually 'worked' by Americans, but not always. I have had any number of such men through my hands, and have watched some of them from their youth upward."

"In disguise ever?" was the leading question.

"Not as an inspector—one gets too well known—but as plain-clothes man and detective sergeant, in my early career, frequently. I was at Snow Hill from 1876 until 1879, then transferred to Old Jewry, remaining until 1889, when I was made detective sergeant and stationed at Bridewell. I recollect once, at a funeral in St. Paul's, we were watching a woman, and presently I saw her edge up to a lady in the crowd and take her purse. She made off and we followed and presently asked her what she was doing, telling her who we were.

"'I don't believe you are police officers at all,' she cried.

"I forgot I was posing as a bricklayer. However, she dropped the purse and when we returned to St. Paul's Church yard I found the rightful owner in the same place, still unconscious of her loss.

"Several involuntary compliments have been paid to the effectiveness of my disguise. Once observation was being kept upon a public house and a trap drove up.

"'Here, my man,' cried the driver to me, 'just look after my horse,' and he went into the bar.

"'I've got a job,' I said to a fellow-officer.

"Fortunately, our man did not leave the house, or I should have left the horse. When the owner came out he said, 'Funds rather low,' and dropped three half pence into my hand. That was not the only time I earned money in that way. It was early morning outside a railway station, and the keeper of a coffee stall, noticing I was loitering about, said:

"'Ere, mate, got anyfink to do?' I told him no. 'Then you look arter this little lot.' So I was installed pro tem., and when my employer came back he gave me three pence for the job."

"We were speaking about pickpockets. I suppose they often 'give one another away?'"

"No. There is honor among thieves to this extent. If one of them 'turns policeman' there is never any chance for him again. But they will often 'whip' each other. For example, it frequently takes two men to get a purse. One fellow will watch the victim and seize a favorable moment to snick open the lady's bag. His companion will come along and dip his hand into the opened bag and take the purse. Then No. 1 will reappear and ask how much they have got to share, and No. 2 will produce three sovereigns, perhaps, retaining a £5 note which was also in the purse, but which his confederate did not have the chance of seeing in it."

"Sometimes extraordinary coincidences lead to captures. Thus, on the Underground Railway Bryan once saw a pickpocket take a gentleman's watch. He at once informed the loser, whereupon the victim turned round, crying, 'You scoundrel! You know something about it,' seizing him fast. 'Be quiet,' whispered the police officer, 'I am a detective. Come with me and we will get your watch.' But the gentleman held him tight, and he had to be more or less dragged along to the stairs up which the thief was making off, and he was only convinced of his error by the proof that the real culprit was not the detective. It so happened that the very same 'hook' was caught by Bryan a second time red handed at another station, on the Metropolitan Railway, which is perhaps the only instance of two arrests of the same man for similar offenses by the same officer.

"Familiarity with the appearance and antecedents of rogues was invaluable to the detective, as, for instance, when he saw two pickpockets running off and seized both by the collar, one in each hand. One, however, was enough, and, as the other broke away and made off, he lay kicking on the ground. He kicked with a purpose, because under him were two stolen purses. On the way to the station the owner was met, bewailing her loss. She was speedily comforted. Next day, acting on the knowledge that the missing thief was once traced to a certain common lodging house, a visit was paid to this haunt and the runaway was recaptured. At one time it was far more common than it is now for thieves to use such dodges as this one: A piece of some adhesive substance is slipped under the edge of the counter, a number of trinkets are shown to the 'customer,' who sticks a ring, it may be, under the counter and leaves his confederate, who quickly follows him into the shop, to abstract it unperceived. The method adopted by one rogue was more ingenious. He was always prepared with the money sufficient to pay for the ring he stole in case of discovery. He went upon the well-known habitance of shopkeepers to institute prosecutions when the property was recovered and there was risk of an action for false imprisonment.

"Did you ever make a mistake in identification?" was the question now put to the officer, and he candidly replied:

"Well, I did on one occasion, in, I think, May, 1887. I had been sent for to Marlborough-street Police Court to recognize an old jailbird. After my evidence the man was committed for trial, with two others, for picking pockets. The case came on for trial at the Middlesex Sessions, before Sir Peter Edlin, all three prisoners being found guilty. I was called upon to testify to previous convictions of John Jones, who flatly denied having been convicted as alleged, and, to the general surprise and to my astonishment, the real Simon Pure, passing as Reave, was called into court. Immediately I saw him I realized I was mistaken in the prisoner. The judge did not. Another officer proved convictions against the accused Jones, who was sentenced to penal servitude."

An amusing experience is related by Bryan. "While engaged," he says, "in connection with an important hotel robbery I was making inquiries at a West End railway station, and for a few minutes sat on a bench. An old fellow, apparently a retired farmer, walked toward me, put on his spectacles and sat beside me, but I recognized him as a confidence trick man, known as 'Johnny,' while a few yards away was his companion, whose nickname was 'The Nut.' Johnny opened his mouth, but before he had got very far with his 'fairy story' I exclaimed: 'Well, Johnny, did you take me for "the mug"? Who is going to tell the tale, you or "The Nut"?'

"On another occasion a singular adventure befell Bryan.

"A few years ago," he says, "I traced a man wanted for embezzlement to a small town in Yorkshire, and having effected the arrest and got the warrant certified by a magistrate we booked to Leeds, and I secured a compartment in which our luggage—the prisoner's and mine—was locked, while we adjourned to a hotel to dine. We sat down to the table, and then, to my disgust, I found that I was hopelessly handcuffed to my prisoner's right wrist, and the key of the bracelets had been locked away in my bag, which was in the railway carriage. There was nothing for it, as there was little time to spare, but to make the best of a bad job, and we succeeded in eating our dinner without revealing our identity and peculiar relationship, or that I was compelled to use the right hand only and my companion was limited to the use of his left, except what play with our respective forks we could make with the handcuffed members."

A GREAT DAY AT BLOCK'S TO-MORROW

Extracts from an Indianapolis News Editorial on

Holiday Shopping

There is no time like the present for presents. The stores are not so crowded now, the clerks have more leisure; moreover, stocks now are fuller than they will be later. And then, what weather could be better for shopping than this? At any time rain, hail or snow is due.

Sale of Dress Linings

TAFFETA—36 inches wide, fast black, regular 10c quality 5

SPUN TAFFETA—Full yard wide, fast black, regular 15c quality 9

SILK-FINISHED TAFFETAS—36 inches wide, fast black and colors, regular 20c quality 14

MERCERIZED SPANGLES—Yard wide, fast black, best 25c quality, for 17

FANCY WAIST LININGS—Fast colors, yard wide, regular 25c quality, to close at 12

MERCERIZED SATEENS—Full yard wide, fast black and all colors, for shirtwaists, dresses, petticoats and lining; regular 40c quality 25

MERCERIZED SATEEN—Fast black, red and gray, regular 25c quality, to close at 14

FRENCH HAIRCLOTH—A superior quality, all pure hair, shrunk; regular 25c quality 16

SHRUNKEN TAILORS' CANVAS—Stiffening and skirt facing, regular 18c quality 10

CANVAS—Stiffening, regular 10c kind 5

Special Sale of Yarns

SHETLAND FLOSS, all colors, black and white, very best quality, a skein 7

GERMANTOWN YARNS, best imported, all colors, 12c quality 8

SAXONY YARNS, very fine imported, complete line of colors 7

ICE WOOL, large size balls, in black and white, special, a ball 10

ANGORA WOOL, very fine fleece, in white and gray 10

WOOD AND BONE CROCHET NEEDLES, large size for the Shetland floss, 12c quality 7

LAMB'S WOOL SOLES, ladies', children's and misses sizes, 35c quality 19

These Bargains from 9 to 10 a. m. Only

DOLL CABS—Our 35c one hour sale Monday 15

CHILDREN'S CHAIRS—39c quality 19

EASEL BLACKBOARDS—Our 50c quality 29

AIR RIFLES, DAISY—We sell for 75c Monday one hour 59

CURTAIN SWISS—40 inches wide, in fancy stripes, 10c quality, 12 yards to a customer 5

BED PILLOWS—18x27, heavy ticking, filled with feathers, 75c quality 39

IRISH POINT SQUARES—18-inch, worked in net, taped edges, 25c quality 12

CIRCLE FRAMES—10-inch black veneer frame, Pharoah's horses and the dogs; 65c quality 39

SLEEPING DRAWERS FOR CHILDREN—All sizes of heavy flannelette, 50c quality 35

ECLIPSE FLANNELS—32 inches wide, all this season's styles, regular 15c quality; for this hour 9

SHAKER FLANNEL—Good width, heavy teasled, 6c quality; for this hour 3½

TOBACCO JARS—25c quality, hour sale price 10

SILVERWARE—Consisting of card trays, mugs, bon-bon dishes, 25c qualities; hour sale 10

VASES ASSORTED—Various decorations, 39c, 50c and 75c qualities 19

CRUMB TRAYS AND SCRAPERS—Nicely nickel-plated, 50c quality; hour sale 19

STERLING SILVER THIMBLES—All sizes, 25c quality 19

POCKETBOOKS—Combination style, solid leather, every part stitched, some with fancy mountings, 50c to 69c qualities, each one in a box 42

HANDKERCHIEFS—For ladies, lace-trimmed, 12½c quality; three for 25c; each 9

HANDKERCHIEFS—For men, large size, fine combric 10c quality, four for 25

VESTS AND PANTS FOR LADIES—ribbed, fleece-lined, sizes 4 to 9, 25c qualities 15

VESTS AND PANTS FOR CHILDREN—ribbed, fleece-lined, vests are silk-trimmed, 20c quality 12

HOSE FOR LADIES—Full fashioned, fine Maco cotton, elastic-ribbed top, double soles and heels, 25c quality 17

UNDERSHIRTS AND DRAWERS FOR MEN—Brown fleece-lined, extra heavy, all seams finished, 40c quality 19

TABLETS—Good quality linen paper, plain or ruled, 10c quality 6

WASH SILKS—24 inches wide, purple, orange, cerise, green and brown, our 50c quality 25

BLACK SKIRTING—Very heavy, requires no lining, 75c quality 38

BLACK HOP SACKING—54 inches wide, all wool, our 1.00 quality 59

LINEN HUCK TOWELS—17x35 with red borders, our regular 10c quality (one dozen the limit) 7

DRESS SKIRTS—Of black Venetian cloth, flounce-trimmed, with three narrow satin bands, 3.50 quality 2.19

DRESSING SAQUES—Of hair-line striped outings, crocheted edge and ribbon ties, 50c quality 39

BOYS' OVERCOATS—Of Oxford Melton, yoke back and full lengths, sateen lined, 3.50 quality 2.60

Special Sale of Lace Curtains

25 PATTERNS OF NOTTINGHAM CURTAINS, plain centers and all-over patterns, up to 3.50 quality, on sale at 1.85

CABLE NET AND FINE NOTTINGHAM CURTAINS, exact copies of the real expensive kinds, up to 6.00 quality 3.69

15 PATTERNS OF IRISH POINT, 3½ yards long, very effective Arabian and Renaissance patterns, 6.00 to 7.00 quality 4.59

COLORED SWISS CURTAINS, plain Swiss with the colored borders, also many all-over effects in the floral patterns, 2.00 quality 1.39

SWISS CURTAINS, about 30 patterns in the C. T. U. quality, deep gathered ruffles, 1.50 quality, our special 98

FISH NET, 45 inches wide, in white or ecru, heavy mesh, 35c quality 16

FLOOR DENIMS, yard wide, extra heavy, all colors, 22c quality 15

COTTAGE RODS, white corrugated, with silver trimmings, 15c quality 8

Gloves For Xmas Presents

Did you ever see a woman who had too many gloves. SO YOU CAN'T MISS IT ON GLOVES.

KID GLOVES FOR LADIES—Two-clasp, glace kid, in black, white, mode, gray, brown, red; fitted to your hand and guaranteed 98

KID GLOVES FOR LADIES—Two-clasp Mocho, silk-lined; also extra prime quality lambskin, full pique sewn; fitted to your hand and guaranteed; 1.25 quality 98

KID GLOVES FOR LADIES—The Jouven, finest real French kid, neat two-toned embroidered backs, splendid line of colors; fitted to your hand and guaranteed; 2.00 quality 1.39

GOLF GLOVES—All-wool fancies, black, white, gray and red; extra values, at 50

AN IMMENSE JOINT SALE OF

Black and Colored Dress Goods and Silks

HERE ARE THE KIND OF PRESENTS TO BUY—USEFUL, PRACTICAL AND MOST APPRECIATED

Colored Dress Goods

Select your dress for your mother, wife or sister. You can't miss it on one of these bargains.

PLAIDS, silk and wool effects, 38 inches wide, the latest combinations, 59c quality 39

GRANITE CLOTHS, all wool, 38 inches wide, all the popular shades, 60c quality 49

HABIT CLOTHS, 54 inches wide, all wool, your choice of twelve colors, special 65

LONDON CORDS, 46 inches wide, all wool, a new weave for service as well as styles, in seven colors, 1.25 quality 89

BROADCLOTHS, 54 inches wide, made of the finest of Australian wool, they have a permanent silken finish, will make an "up-to-date" dress for any one, our 1.50 quality 1.19

REVERSIBLES and PLAID BACKS, all wool, 56 inches wide, much used for gents' smoking gowns as well as raglans and skirts, our 2.00 quality, in five styles 1.48

Raglan Cloths and Heavy Skirtings

Four Special Bargains. They Require No Lining.

MELTONS, 30 inches wide, in five colors, 59c quality 39

MELTONS, 56 inches wide, extra heavy, castor, brown, navy and three shades of Oxford gray, 1.25 quality. 89

CHALK LINES AND KERSEY CLOTHS, extra heavy and very fine quality for a swell skirt or raglan, in all the popular shades, the 3.00 quality. 1.69

Waistings

Special Holiday Offerings.

SILK AND WOOL PERSIAN STRIPES, every imaginable color, our 89c quality

PERSIAN SILK SIDE BANDS, entirely new in all colors, the 75c quality

CREAM WHITE WITH BLACK fancy cords and stripes

YOUR CHOICE OF ANY WAISTINGS, sold up to 98c per yard, over 200 styles

Your Choice 69c Per Yard

FRENCH FLANNELS, plain colors, the latest shades of reseda green, old rose, garnet, cardinal, blue, gray and castor, special for this sale 39

EMBROIDERED FLANNELS in pattern lengths, embroidered and applique side bands, entire fronts and all-over embroidered, specially adapted for Christmas presents, per pattern length 5.98, 4.98, 3.98, 2.98 and 1.98

Black Dress Goods

BLACK UNFINISHED WORSTED, 58 inches wide, all wool, guaranteed not to spot or shrink, our 2.00 quality 1.65

BLACK BROADCLOTH, 54 inches wide, all wool, medium and heavy weights, our 2.00 quality 1.65

BLACK PEBBLE CHEVIOT, 50 inches wide, all wool, very heavily pebbled, does not spot, 1.69 quality. 1.29

BLACK VENETIAN CLOTH, 54 inches wide, all wool, 150 quality 1.19

BLACK HERRINGBONE CHEVIOT, 50 inches wide, all wool, heavy and medium weight, sponged and shrunk, 1.50 quality 1.19

BLACK HERRINGBONE CHEVIOT, 50 inches wide, all wool, thoroughly sponged, 1.25 quality 1.00

BLACK ZIBELINS, 54 inches wide, all wool, superior finish, 1.35 quality 1.00

BLACK PACQUIN CORD, 45 inches wide, all wool, especially adapted for skirts, 1.25 quality 1.00

BLACK GRANITE CLOTH, 50 inches wide, all wool, 1.25 quality 1.00

BLACK GRANITE CLOTH, 50 inches wide, all wool, 1.00 quality 79

BLACK CHEVIOT, 50 inches wide, all wool, sponged and shrunk, 1.00 quality 75

BIG SILK SALE

Prices cut right and left for we are bound to get in a big day before Xmas

Colored Silks

COLORED CHINA OR WASH SILKS—27 inches wide, 59c quality 45

COLORED SATINS—20 inches wide, full line of colors, 50c quality 39

COLORED AND WHITE CORDS—20 inches wide; will wash; 50c and 60c qualities 45

COLORED TAFFETA SILKS—20 inches wide, good line of colors, 75c quality 59

FANCY SILKS FOR WAISTS—20 to 22 inches wide; printed warp Louisines, fancy stripes and brocades; 1.00 quality 69

CREPE D'CHINES—24 inches wide, all silk, full line of colors; our strong 1.00 line 89

Black Silks

OUR 50c BLACK TAFFETA—19 inches wide, all silk 39

BLACK TAFFETA—22 inches wide, all silk, our 75c quality 55

BLACK TAFFETA—27 inches wide, all silk, our 1.00 quality 69

YARD-WIDE BLACK TAFFETAS

OUR 1.00 BLACK TAFFETA—Yard wide, all silk 79

OUR 1.25 BLACK TAFFETA—Yard wide, guaranteed 1.00

OUR 1.50 BLACK TAFFETA—Yard wide, guaranteed 1.18

BLACK PEAU DE SOIE—20 inches wide, all silk, 99c quality 69

BLACK PEAU DE SOIE—24 inches wide, all silk, our 1.25 quality 1.00

BLACK PEAU DE SOIE—24 inches wide, all silk, our 1.50 quality 1.25

Black Moire Velour

Our 1.00 Black Moire 85

Our 1.25 Black Moire 1.00

Our 1.50 Black Moire 1.25

Velvets and Corduroys

PANNE VELVETS—Full line of colors, 1.50 and 2.00 quality 1.25

COLORED VELVETS—Our strong 1.00 line 89

VELVET CORDS—24 inches wide, in navy, brown, castor and black; our 1.00 quality 79

VELOUR DE NORD—For jackets, 32 inches wide, 3.50 quality 2.68

Men's Furnishings

UNDERSHIRTS AND DRAWERS—Extra heavy fleece-lined, all seams finished; drawers reinforced; 50c quality 39

UNDERSHIRTS AND DRAWERS—Extra heavy wool, fleece-lined, blue and pink mottled; shirts silk-trimmed; 99c quality 69

SHIRTS—Laundered percale, 1 pair separate cuffs, good line of colors, 60c and 75c qualities 48

GLOVES—Fleece-lined, Astrachan back, Jersey palm, 50c quality 39

NIGHTSHIRTS—Heavy flannelette, choice patterns, cut extra full; 50c quality 39

Trimmings, Laces and Embroideries

Bargains on the Rear Bargain Table

DRESS TRIMMINGS—Black and white silk gimps, taffeta, appliques and colored silk gimps, also Persian bands. Regular 25, 33 and 39c qualities; special per yard 10

LACES—Fine cream, Oriental and silk laces, also black chantilly and venise bands, up to 33c qualities; per yard 9

REMNANTS OF EMBROIDERY—7½ to 12½c qualities; remnant price per yard 3

PERFUMERY—Woodworth's Nina Rose and Nina Violet; 25c quality; per oz. 12

TOILET SOAP—Cosmo Buttermilk, 10c cake; box of three cakes 16

Sale of Coats, Furs, Suits and Skirts

You can please her by selecting from here. GREAT REDUCTIONS OF PRICES AS STOCKS MUST BE REDUCED. Come in the morning and avoid the afternoon rush.

COATS—27 inches long, of all-wool Oxford cloth, silk lined, 7.50 qualities 4.98

COATS—27 inches long, of very fine black and castor kerseys, lined with best satin, up to 12.00 qualities 7.50

COATS—¾ lengths, of all-wool, fine kersey and gray Oxford cloth, satin lined, yoke back and fronts, pearl buttons, etc., up to 18.00 qualities; sale price to-morrow 12.50

RAGLANS—A new lot of all-wool Oxford venetians, fitted and box back, stitched yoke; special sale price 13.75

FUR JACKETS—"Our Leader" on sale to-morrow; save 15.00 and buy a 40.00 fur jacket, to-morrow for 25.00

NEAR-SEAL JACKET—With Hudson bay beaver collar and revers. Skinner satin lined, 55.00 quality 39.00

STORM COLLARS—Of fine beaver and mink, with long tabs, 30.00 quality 17.50

SCARFS—Of stone marten, with 6 tails, 20.00 quality 12.50

SCARFS—Of beaver, with 6 tails, 12.00 quality 9.00

Coats for Girls

COATS—Three-quarter lengths for ages to 14; of warm melton cloths, two special makes, up to 4.75; reduced to 2.98

REEFERS—For ages to 12, of all-wool covert cloths, finished with large collars, trimmed with contrasting cloth and braid, 4.75 quality; reduced to 3.35

COATS—Three-quarter lengths, of all-wool fine kersey, also full raglan lengths, of melton cloth, with storm collars, 6.50 qualities; reduced to 4.98

Suits and Skirts

SUITS—Of fine all-wool venetian cloth, silk-lined jackets, 12.00 quality 7.98

SUITS—A grand lot of suits collected especially for a great clearance sale, up to 23.00 qualities 14.75

SUITS—Of very fine blue and black venetian cloth, taffeta silk-lined jackets, skirts lined with taffeta silk, drop knife plaited bottom, 25.00 quality, to-morrow for 17.50

SKIRTS—Of taffeta silk, made with circular flounce, covered with three rows of satin Duchesse knife plaiting, with ruch headings, mercerized lined, 15.00 quality; to-morrow's special 8.75

SKIRTS—Of high grades taffeta silk, tucked and trimmed with ribbon ruching, up to 16.50 qualities; great sale to-morrow at 8.98

SKIRTS—Of fine all-wool Venetian cloths, mercerized-lined, plain tailor stitched and with taffeta silk bands; special at 4.48

WALKING SKIRTS—Of all-wool gray skirting, made with double flounce effect, neatly stitched, 7.50 quality 4.98

The Great Toy Section

JUST LOOK AT THESE BARGAINS

It Will Well Pay You to Buy Now

Iron Toys

AIR RIFLES—75c quality, Monday 65

IRON TOYS—Fire Engines, Hose Reels, Coal Wagons and others, 50c quality 29

STOVES—Complete with cooking utensils; we sold for 50c, Monday sale 39

BANKS—Our regular 25c combination, on sale Monday for 15

KITCHEN RANGE—Complete, 75c quality 59

COMBINATION BLACKBOARDS—1.25 quality, Monday 98

CHAIRS—MAPLE FINISH—We sell for 25c, Monday on sale 19

ROCKERS—Painted, a nice large one, 50c quality 39

ROCKERS—WALNUT FINISH—Our regular 50c one 35

WILLOW ROCKERS—Very fine, on sale Monday 75

SHOOFLIES—Upholstered seat and back, we sell for 98c, Monday on sale 69

HOBBY HORSES—3.25 quality, Monday's sale 2.89

Juvenile Furniture

CHILDREN'S DESKS—Roll top, 1.25 quality, Monday 98

DESKS—Combination blackboard, 1.49 quality 1.10

EASEL BLACKBOARDS—We sell for 19c, on sale Monday 10

EASEL BLACKBOARDS—Our special 25c quality, Monday 15

EASEL BLACKBOARDS—A very nice one, 98c quality, on sale Monday 65

Games

CHECKERS—10c quality 5

DOMINOES—10c quality 7

LOTTO—25c quality 15

MOTHER GOOSE, PILLOW DEX and others, 10c games 7

AUTHORS AND TIDDLEDY WINKS—25c quality 19

HOP SCOTCH, GAME OF LETTERS and others, 50c quality 39

GAME OF SIEGE OF HAVANA—A very popular game, 98c quality, Monday 69

PICTURE BOOKS—Babes in the Wood and other titles, 10c quality 7

PAINTS—All colors, in fancy box, we sell at 50c, Monday sale price 35

DRAWING SLATES—With paints, 15c quality, sale price 10

BUILDING BLOCKS—25c quality, Monday 10

BUILDING BRICKS—In fancy wood box, with instructions, 98c quality, sale price 69

A B C BLOCKS—Animals and Birds, 25c quality, Monday 19

Books

BIBLES—FLEXIBLE BACKS—We sell for 75c, on sale Monday for 65

WOMAN'S EXCHANGE COOK BOOK, 50c quality 25

PECK'S BAD BOY—50c quality, Monday 39

MOTHER GOOSE IN PROSE—We sell regular 98c, Monday sale price 65

TALES FOR LITTLE PEOPLE and other titles, Monday sale 10

THE WM. H. BLOCK CO. THE WM. H. BLOCK CO.

COD LIVER OIL.

Its Discovery and Use as a Medical Agent—Cod to Eat.

New York Press.

Cod liver oil being one of the most important remedies in the "Materia Medica," I may speak of it without offending anybody. What long puzzled me was how the world learned that this fearfully nasty stuff was good for suffering humanity. We had been eating fish for centuries without making use of the liver. It seems that the Norwegian fishermen were much afflicted with rheumatism, and a thousand and one remedies were suggested and tried along the Scandinavian coast. It may be doubted if fishermen in general knew that fish had a liver until about the time of our revolution, when Dr. Percival suggested and recommended the use of cod liver as a cure for chronic rheumatism. At first the expressed oil was applied externally, being rubbed into the skin in a heated state. This treatment naturally led to internal experiments with the product.

Some people with weak lungs and shallow chests finding great relief from the rubbing of heated cod liver oil into their breasts, the product began to be taken for all pulmonary troubles, and many marvelous cures were reported. By 1850 it was generally prescribed as a blood purifier, a tissue-builder, a vitalizer and strength producer. Its early preparation was so loathsome in every detail that no patient familiar with the crude method used could have stomached it. It was not until 1853 that the manufacture was taken out of the hands of the fishermen and established on a decent scale. The eminent physicians and chemists of the world then began to study the mystery surrounding this valuable agent, and down to as late as 1891 very important discoveries have been made concerning its therapeutic value. Cod liver oil is quite as good for aged people as for infants, but the world does not at this day quite understand why.

For many years strenuous efforts have been made to discover or invent a satisfactory vehicle for the administration of cod liver oil, and the number of failures is legion. Weak stomachs cannot retain it, even if obstinate palates be overcome, but we have seen men, women and marvelous children able to drink it in the crude state and thrive upon it. Once anchored in the stomach it becomes a rejuvenator unequaled in the whole pharmacopoeia. Nearly anything can be taken in capsules, and this vile fish product is easily taken in that way, but the difficulty occurs below the pharynx, or the moment the gelatine is dissolved in the cardia. If an anchor were taken with every dose of cod liver oil the world of weaklings would recover amazingly.

I could name eighty different preparations of cod liver oil in the proprietary department of our drug business. Possibly there are hundreds more. Many have passed into innocuous desuetude. We have had it with malt, grape brandy, Irish moss, phosphates and phosphites, pepsin, quinine, iodine, bromine, creosote, albumen, lime, chocolate, milk, cream, guaiacol, and I don't remember what else. General results are about the same. Of the goose's liver the French make their pate de foi gras; why not give us a pate de foie-morue, with the oil as a dressing? It would be no more objectionable than certain cheeses.

The Norwegian fishermen, discoverers of cod liver oil, allowed the livers to decompose before expressing the oil. We have partly improved on their primitive method of manufacture, but our fresh, pale oil is not so efficacious as their stale, dark-brown, empyreumatic product. Neither are perfectly fresh eggs as good as those a week or two old. So say the experts, and I begin to believe they are right. Millions have dosed themselves with cod liver oil, and millions and billions of fish have been sacrificed to supply the demand. Off the coast of Norway alone 30,000 men in 5,000 boats are engaged in the pursuit of livers, and their annual catch is said to be over 30,000,000 fish.

The mother codfish is prolific, the roe of a large one containing as many as 9,000,000 eggs. Nature seems to have provided for a much larger supply of oil than we are obtaining. But the eggs, floating on the surface of the water to hatch, are destroyed by millions. Codfish eat anything that comes along—from tacks to shark's teeth. In the stomach of a large specimen two ducks were found. The fish weigh as much as 150 pounds and the biggest are 4½ feet in length. One man has caught 90 in a day of eleven hours on the Newfoundland banks with a hand line. Eighty men take on an average 1,000 a day on the Dogger bank. Newfoundland is the headquarters for dried cod. Consul Carter, at St. John's, says the quantity held there before the present season opened was 35,840,000 pounds. The stock on hand a year before was 42,560,000 pounds.

Codfish are provided with "sounds." Feeding as they do in from 100 to 150 fathoms of water, they require some ballooning to come to the surface. When Eugene Higgins and Howard Gould, in the palatial yachts Varuna and Niagara, spend a season cruising off the Norway coast, they subsist largely on "sounds," which are esteemed a delicacy. These swimming bladders are used also in the manufacture of isinglass and glue. Visitors along the Scandinavian shores who eat freely of this peculiarly Norwegian diet return to New York with a lovely olive-oily complexion that has the appearance of being enameled. This is due to the cod oil and the bladder glue-glaze.

One of the delicacies of which Li Hung Chang was very fond was humming birds' tongues cooked with the nests of the Chinese oriole. One of Casimir's surprises for the gourmet looking for novelties was "langues de merue," a preparation of codfish tongues that helped to make the Maison Doree the most celebrated of Parisian restaurants. In our own country epicures refuse to eat the body and tail of the fresh cod, but find the head a most tempting morsel. It may be prepared in a variety of ways. I have quoted the remark of the late Capt. "Billy" Conner, as good a liver as ever lived, that if codfish were less plentiful and cost about $1 a pound it would be regarded by our wealthy folks as a delicacy. God must have created the cod to play a great part in the economy of nature, because He made so many of them.

EVOLUTION OF THE SALOON.

Old Taverns and Taprooms Compared with the Modern Bar.

New York Evening Post.

The saloon of to-day is so essentially a product of modern life that the memory of men who have been in the business of selling liquor at retail for twenty-five or thirty years goes back over the whole story of its growth. The change from the old-fashioned tavern, with its tap-room and parlor, to the modern saloon, with its bar and little shut off back room, is one not only of form, but of reputation and standing in the community.

In the old tap-room there was always a large fire and a number of little tables, while the bar at one side was generally something like that in a bank and what was sold across it was drunk at the tables or standing before the fire, for there was not enough room for both serving and drinking in front of the bar itself. The tap-room was a kind of lounging room in town as well as in the country, particularly for the poorer customers; the better class were more apt to stay in the front room, where their drinks were brought to them. Gradually the bar grew, and the rest of the tap-room shrank, while the hotels drew off the richer class of customers. As the life of the town grew more nervous and the sense of pressure and lack of leisure became more pronounced, the habit of "perpendicular drinking" and of tossing off a drink in front of the bar, and then hurrying out, put an end to the old habit of lounging at a table and taking one's liquor slowly.

In these days the bar has become the main and practically only feature of the long narrow room of which most saloons consist. The more respectable saloon keepers regret this state of affairs. Of late years a number of them have put in little tables, parallel to the bar itself, and they encourage customers to sit down. This is not done at all in imitation of the beer gardens, which have grown up beside the saloons and quite a distinctive field, but because the saloon keepers think, many of them, that it gives a more respectable tone to their establishments, and they would rather have tables in front in plain sight than shut off in a little room. Modern saloons had some time ago lost most of the old tap-room character of social meeting places, and had become essentially a place for drinking; to this some of their proprietors attribute the fact that it has come to be considered by many people a disgrace to go into a bar, whereas in former times no such sentiment existed. The honor in which taverns were held in the early colonial times, not as drinking places, but as a place of social reunion, where distances in the almanacs were frequently stated from tavern to tavern, instead of from town to town, is familiar to every student of American history. Then, indeed, the amount of liquor to be drunk by one man at the inn was carefully regulated, and the tavern itself, as a club, a hotel and even on occasions a meeting house, was under the close supervision of the authorities.

The constitutional objection of Germans to drinking on their feet has been one cause, among others, of the growth of beer gardens here, but these have not essentially affected the character of saloons. The bar with a passageway in front of it, into which the saloon has developed, is thoroughly American, and as much the result of our life here as is the quick-lunch counter, which is its counterpart. The revival of some of the old sociable tap-room features would unquestionably raise the general tone of saloons, but many people who are interested in the question feel that a more effective improvement would be made by the substitution of something else for the saloon. The cafe, as it exists in France, particularly the sidewalk cafe, never seems to have taken root in this country, even in that season of the year to which it is adapted.

A man prominent among the retail liquor dealers of this city says that one reason why many people go into saloons, particularly on Sunday morning, is because of the lack of public toilet conveniences. It has been observed that nearly 50 per cent. of those who drop in at a saloon for this reason stay or have a drink. If the city of New York were not worse provided in this respect than any other city of one-quarter its size in the world a great many drinks would be lost to the saloons.

HOW TO BE BEAUTIFUL.

What Certain Parisiennes Do to Attain This End.

New York Commercial Advertiser.

The best known actresses and singers of Paris have just been asked to reveal to the world the secret of eternal youth, and explain how each of them manages, while expending an amount of activity which two average women not of the profession could hardly furnish between them in other walks of life, to keep as fresh and as energetic as though her existence were a perpetual holiday. As a matter of fact, all play and no work would be the very last combination to suit, among other actresses Mme. Sarah Bernhardt, who says that "the secret of her endurance is that she never rests." "Fatigue," she adds, "is my stimulant. Instead of pulling me down, it spurs me on." She goes to bed at 3 in the morning invariably, and always rises at 9. As for the usual prescriptions for the preservation of health, they receive scant attention from her.

She always drives, generally in a closed carriage, to and from the theater, where she spends eleven or twelve hours every day "without seeing the light of the sun, and without a breath of fresh air." Her diet consists of fish and eggs, chiefly the latter, of which she eats sometimes as many as ten a day, and she never drinks anything but champagne. During two months out of the twelve, however, Mme. Sarah Bernhardt "makes up," as she puts it, for the anti-hygienic conditions of her town life. At Belle Isle she is hardly ever indoors, and when she is she keeps every window in the house wide open in all weathers. "Every year I make this abrupt transition from a cloistered existence to a life in the fresh air, and I have never suffered by the sudden change, much to the surprise of my doctors," adds Mme. Sarah Bernhardt. Her rule of living, summed up as follows: "No precautions of any kind, and unceasing work ten months a year," can hardly, perhaps, be recommended for general practice. But then, everything Mme. Sarah Bernhardt does is extraordinary.

Mme. Bartet, Mme. Worms, Mme. Barretta, Mlle. Boyer and Mlle. Cecile Sorel, on the other hand, are all great believers in fresh air. On the subject of diet, however, the four actresses of the Comedie Francaise agree that the best policy is to "eat when you are hungry and drink when you are thirsty," and that individual taste and appetite are the best guides. Mme. Jane Hading, unlike Sarah Bernhardt, has great faith in quiet and repose. Mme. Jeanne Granier has no idea what it is to consider one's health. "What's the good of following any hygienic treatment when you are well?" she inquired. And when you are ill, there's the doctor, a very clever man," Singers in Paris do not appear to be any more careful of their health than actresses. Mlle. Reina's only precaution against chills is to put a silk handkerchief around her neck when she leaves the theater. Mlle. Ackte takes a cold bath every morning, walks out every day in all weather, and never touches a drop of wine or liquor, but follows no particular rule for the care of her voice. Mlle. Yvette Guilbert has likewise a great faith in cold water, and advocates particularly much scrubbing with the flesh brush "to scrape off the paint and powder." For that matter, when on the stage she "never paints and does not even rouge her lips." Four and ten hours' sleep and no supper parties are the remaining rules in Mlle. Guilbert's code of health.

THE BOSTONIAN AND HIS CLUB.

He Is Gregarious on the "Dutch Treat" Plan.

Roswell Field, in Chicago Evening Post.

Meantime the Boston man is leading his independent life in his independent way. Of course he is a good husband and a good father, and it is not to be inferred that he is deficient in the smallest respect in those duties which devolve upon him as a citizen and the head of the house—which he is the head of the house. But there is a time for business and a time for pleasure; a time for men and a time for women; and the time for men is the dinner at the club or the hotel, where madame is not expected to show her agreeable countenance. The "dining club" flourishes in Boston with the vigor of the rubber plant, and a fairly rivale that back bay botanical product in point of numbers.

Ordinary club life, for many and potential reasons, is far more generally sought in Boston than in any Western city, and the man of any sort of social station who does not belong to three or four clubs is a significant exception. More than this, he not only belongs to clubs but, what is more remarkable from a Western standpoint, he patronizes them, perhaps urged thereto by his Puritan conscience, which demands that he shall get value received for money invested.

So far as my observation goes, his club life is very decorous and dignified, but altogether devoid of those peri