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**DANGEROUS FASCINATION.**

The Electrician's Constant Battle Against the Impulse to Touch Live Wires.

"Did you ever stand looking at a piece of electrical machinery, or at a wire you knew was charged with a heavy current, and experience a strong desire to touch it?" asked a well-known electrician of a group of friends, reports the Washington Star. "Well, that is one of the most peculiar things about electricity, and one I have never heard explained. It is a fact, nevertheless, that most everyone on seeing some bit of electrical apparatus exposed to view wants to put a finger on it to see if it is loaded. Time and again I have heard people say they have had a desire more or less strong to touch those electric switches in buildings lighted by electricity. There they are on the wall, within easy reach, innocent enough to all outward appearances. Everyone knows there is danger in the touch, and turns away, but the desire is there just the same. You would think, however, that men who work with electricity and know its dangers would train themselves to overcome this strange attraction. But I have known instances where electricians have had to actually turn and run from a machine to prevent giving way to this peculiar influence. Not long ago a man in this city who was employed to sit and watch the switch-board on one of the big power plants, fell a victim to this influence. As he felt the desire growing stronger he moved the chair back from the board. Instead of getting used to the work he became more afraid of it. Each day this desire to walk up and touch one of those switches grew stronger. At the end of two weeks this young man resigned his position. He could not stand the strain. It required all his will-power to restrain him while he was on duty, and at night his nervous system was so upset he could get no rest. He realized that to touch any switch before him meant instant death, and his only safety lay in getting away from the board altogether. I have not a doubt but that many deaths from electric shock are brought about in just this way. In an idle moment a person will catch sight of a switch, a wire or some other heavily-charged bit of apparatus, this strange desire to touch it will come over him, and in a moment of weakness he gives way, and in an instant is dead. We frequently read of accidental electrocutions when there is no apparent reason why the victim should have touched a live wire. I believe such cases are attributable directly to this influence. Just what it is or how it works I do not know, but should like to have a satisfactory explanation."

**ONE INDUSTRY DYING OUT.**

In the Last Decade More Than 25 Per Cent. of Woman's Exchanges Have Closed Their Doors.

In looking up the woman's exchanges in America, Good Housekeeping finds that since 1890 more than 25 per cent. of these institutions have closed their doors. Others have developed into profitable lunch rooms, giving up their department of fancy work or sewed materials. When asked the reason for the decline in number of many of these once successful businesses, a woman who had once been manager of an exchange in New Jersey gave this explanation which is interesting: "These exchanges," she said, "began their existence some 20 or 30 years ago, when the field for a woman's work was circumscribed. Year by year opened new professions for women, until to-day there are few callings that fatten brains or hands are not fitted for. Schools for manual training, domestic science and all the studies that to-day are coeducational, are training girls for what they are best adapted. Young women are preparing themselves from the time they leave high school for a profession. If they marry and do not require to use their knowledge, it generally makes them no less fit for domestic life. The women to whom the woman's exchange was a boon were those into whose lives vicissitudes came, or penniless old maids. To-day the widow turns to some profession in which she was skilled in young womanhood. In the twenty-first century we have no old maids. Our spinners are self-reliant, intellectual and not ashamed to call themselves working women. In some vicinities where exchanges have gone to the wall you will find that mediocre, untrained work did it. The cooking school is teaching us what good food means; the slipshod seamstress has no chance to-day beside good machine work, and daubs we would have dignified 20 years ago with the name 'paintings' have no place among a people who teach their children the principles of art in the kindergarten. Where exchanges are maintained to-day on a good business basis you may be sure that back of them are brains enterprise, a searching knowledge of the peculiar needs of a community and a faculty of finding the right people to supply these needs."

**All Lizards Change Color.**  
It is a fact not generally known that nearly all of the common lizards change color like the chameleon, but the change is less rapid. The ordinary fence lizard will be black after remaining upon black soil for about half a minute, but upon an old-fashioned rail fence the animal soon assumes the motley gray hue of a weather-worn rail. Upon a green leaf the same lizard will take on a decidedly greenish tint. The change of color, both in the chameleon and the common lizard, appears to be nature's subterfuge for the protection of the animal.—Scientific American.

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**NOTICE OF LETTERS.**

Notice is hereby given, that Letters Administration upon the estate of James H. Emiley, late of Iron county, Mo., have been granted to the undersigned, James B. Buford, by the Judge of the Probate Court of the County of Iron, bearing date the 31st day of October, 1901. All persons having claims against said estate are required to exhibit them to me for allowance, within two years after the date of said Letters, or they may be precluded from any benefits of such estate; and if such claims be not exhibited within two years from the time of the publication of this notice, they will be forever barred. JAMES B. BUFORD, Administrator.  
Ironton, Mo., Nov. 14, 1901.

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