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### LENGTH OF THE DAYS

Difference Between the Star Day and the Sun Day.

IT IS GREATEST IN WINTER.

Why the Difference Occurs and How it May Be Observed—Oddly Enough the Shortest Day in the Year is Really the Longest Day in Time.

How long, after all, is a day? The geographers say that it is the time required for the earth to turn once on its axis, that it measures twenty-four hours by the clock and that a fraction more than 365 of them are to be found in a year.

It is a good plan when one reads anything in a book to test it when he can for himself. We want to see just how long it takes the earth to turn over once. Let us take any one of the fixed stars that chances to be in line with some convenient point and watch in hand, notice the precise moment at which the star touches, let us say, a particular tree, branch or steeple on the horizon line. If on the next evening we stand at precisely the same spot and sight the same star again in line with the same point as before, then we shall know that the earth has turned on its axis just once.

Curiously enough, however, we shall discover, if this is done carefully, that, so spite of what the books say, it does not require twenty-four hours for the earth to turn over once. About four minutes before the day is up, by the clock, the earth has revolved once and brought the star back to its old position in the sky. Really, then, the earth turns on its axis once in twenty-three hours, fifty-six minutes and four seconds and, as one can easily reckon, makes something more than 366 revolutions in a year.

That human beings are not so much interested in the stars as in the sun. We really don't care much how long it takes the earth to turn over and bring a star back again to the same point in the sky or how many times in a year a star seems to go by. We set our clocks and reckon our year by the turning of the earth under the sun, and because the earth not only turns under the sun, but also goes round it, it takes about four minutes longer to bring the sun up to its old place in the sky than to bring back a star. This comes about simply enough. Suppose you are in a room looking out the window at a tree. If he turns round once exactly he will find himself looking straight at the tree again, but if he tried the same thing when he was on a moving train he would find that while he was making the turn the tree

had fallen behind. He would then, according to the way he twirled, have to turn a little more or a little less to bring the tree straight before his nose.

Therefore it is not quite true that a day is the time required for the earth to turn once on its axis. It really is this time plus the four minutes or so required for it to turn and look back at the sun. The time required for this extra turn is not the same at all times in the year. One can easily see in the case of the moving train that the faster the cars were moving or the nearer the track the tree stood the more the latter would seem to shift its position. Since the earth is some 3,000,000 miles nearer the sun in winter than in summer, and since also the nearer the sun it is the faster it travels, the difference between star day and sun day is greatest in winter.

Oddly enough, it happens that Dec. 22, which has the least daylight of any day in the year and is therefore commonly said to be the shortest of all days, is really the longest. It does, as a matter of fact, run almost half a minute over twenty-four hours, while the true shortest day, which comes on Sept. 17, falls short by about the same time.

So we really have three different "days." There is the star day, which is the time during which the earth turns over once. This, because the earth spins steadily, is always the same length, twenty-three hours, fifty-six minutes, four and nine-hundredths seconds, and there are 366 of them in a year. Then there is the ordinary legal day, which is the time required for a proper clock to get round twice. This is just twenty-four hours. Besides these, there is the sun day, its time told by the sundial, which, taking short with long, averages twenty-four hours, but is never found to be exactly the same length for two days in succession.

There is a string of long days in the winter, followed by a series of short ones in the spring. In the summer the sun days get long again, though not quite so long as in the winter. In the autumn come the shortest days of all. Only occasionally are clock day and sun day of the same length. Only four times a year do clock noon by the clock hands and sun noon by the sundial occur at the same moment, while, because the long and short sun days are found in sets, they oftentimes may be more than fifteen minutes apart.

The vast majority of the people reckon their time by the sun. But time for civilized men is time by the clock. The days are all twenty-four hours long, and no matter where the sun is it is noon for us when the clock strikes 12. Nevertheless, astronomers often go by star time, get in an extra day in each year and have their noon fall at all times of the day or night.—E. T. Brewster in Chicago Record-Herald.

### CORNISH DIALECT.

Some Quaint Terms That Are Common Among the Natives.

"A blizzed my foot in the scence and knacked my uddick, and A wudn't able to clunky for a fortnight."

Readers of dialect tales will probably take it for granted that this sentence is Scotch. It is, however, Cornish and, being interpreted, means, "I caught my foot in the pavement and struck the nape of my neck, and I was not able to swallow for a fortnight."

There are some quaint terms common in Cornwall which have a pleasing savor of their own. The phrase "my dear"—prolonged to two syllables—is not, for instance, any indication of especial affection. It is a common form of address to either man or woman. So also, though with rather more discrimination in its use, is "my dear life."

A young child is mentioned in terms of endearment as "my 'ansome" or "tender dear" or even "tender worm." "Son" and "sonny" are used without the least relation to the age or sex of the person addressed. A son may sometimes be heard speaking to his own father as "my son" or a husband calling his wife "sonny."

"Young" means simply unmarried. A bachelor of eighty is "a young man." Of a bride still in her teens it was said that she was "a pretty lot better looking than when she was young." An old person is not simply old. He is "old ancient." Several New England localisms are found in Cornish speech, as "ericket" for a small stool, "chores" for household jobs and "dowdy" for pudding, though in America the latter word survives only as part of "pandawdy," the delicious deep spiced apple pie of country housewives.

A Cornish anecdote relates that a small boy left at home to supervise the family dinner while the rest of the household were at church, having, like King Alfred, neglected his duty and allowed the pig pudding to scorch. In his dismay ran to the church and from the doorway made signs to the housewife to come forth. She indignantly signed him to wait, which for a time he did, but at length, becoming impatient, cried aloud in reply to her further winks and grimaces, to the scandal of the startled congregation:

"Yew may winky and skrinky as long as yew du plase, but the figgy dowdy is burnt gin the crock!"—Liverpool Mercury.

### Not Honestly.

"Have you ever been in jail before?" demanded the judge.

"No, your honor, honestly, never!" "Of course you haven't honestly. Few men get there that way."—Kansas City Independent.

It is a kingly act to help the fallen.—Ovid.

## Woman's World

MISS CAROLYN WELLS.

The Famous Woman Humorist and Author of Fluffy Ruffles.

Seriousness has ever been man's chief accusation against woman. It is in his estimation the gravest charge he can make against her. Inanity, silliness, he may love to distraction, bad temper he can forgive, lapse of virtue condone, but from the seriousness of woman good Lord deliver him. Her characteristic lack of humor, her unwillingness to view life and love in their funny aspects, her obstinate refusal to see that love has a funny aspect, her constitutional inability to let things slide—these, he argues, are the fundamental weaknesses of her sex



MISS CAROLYN WELLS.

and are responsible not only for most of her own unhappiness, but unfortunately they make him decidedly miserable into the bargain.

Except at one psychological moment of his courtship of her a woman's seriousness in her relations with man is practically held at a discount. Hall, then, to the rare female creature in whom the sex blemish is conspicuously absent! Hall to the precursor of beyond-woman whom the generation of George Bernard Shaw are privileged to witness in the person of one Miss Carolyn Wells. This writer of light verse, novels and plays is young, attractive and vivacious, interested in a great many things besides authorship and wholesomely fond of society. She lives with her people in Rahway, N. J., which is near enough to New York to enable her to keep in touch with her editors and her personal friends there. She works easily, and she gathers ideas for her jingles and her stories from the most unexpected

quarters; consequently she is extremely prolific. The latest creature of her imagination is the famous Miss Fluffy Ruffles, who has become a type along with the Gibson and Christie girls.

### Gifts For a Boy's Room.

Every girl who has brothers, cousins or friends in college or school is anxious to know what would be useful and proper for the furnishing of the schoolroom. Girls are becoming somewhat diffident about offering gifts of this nature to their masculine relatives, because so many times the most carefully planned and executed piece of needlework has proved useless and out of place in the boy's room. Fragile and very dainty things, fussy things, objects for the toilet table which are not really necessary, trifles for the desk that are more ornamental than useful, are all apt to be out of place in the boy's room. The most acceptable things are the really useful things, which are solid and substantial as well as attractive in appearance. As regards aesthetics merely, most boys like pictures of certain sorts, but rather dread ornaments, which are sure to be broken in some of the scrambles.

Among sofa pillows the linen ones in the college or school colors, with big monograms in leather stitched on one side, are very popular with boys. Pillows made of soft leather are also very good, and those made of small Navajo blankets are received with the greatest joy. Of course it isn't easy making a Navajo blanket pillow or one of leather either, but for a beloved brother or cousin one will do much. It is a good plan not to attempt to stitch the two sides of the cushion in either case, but to lace them together with leather thong.

A set of laundry bags may also be made for a boy relative. There should be a large bag for general use and a small one for collars and cuffs, as these frequently go to different laundries. These bags are made of linen, with monograms in white braid or embroidery. Blue linen or brown bags are the best, as they wash very well.

A housewife or comfort bag, such as soldiers carry, is always liked by the college boy. This may be in several shapes, but the best is a long strip of cloth or leather fitted with pockets and with cords at one end, so that it may be rolled up and tied. The pockets contain buttons, black and white cotton, needles, scissors, tape and other useful things for bachelor mending.

As for pictures, of course that is a matter of individual taste with most boys. There are a few pictures, however, which almost all boys like, among which Remington's Indian and cowboy pictures probably take first rank.

### Directions For Canning.

Before putting fruit in glass jars wash them in soapsuds containing a little soda. Then rinse well with scalding water and set in the sun to

dry. If you want the flavor of the fruit to come out well, do not use an excess of sugar.

Never use poor fruit in canning. The best is none too good. Let it be as fresh as possible and not overripe.

Handle it as little as possible. Have everything in readiness before you begin operations. The woman who has to run to pantry or kitchen every time a thing is wanted makes herself double the work that's necessary.

Use the best grade of sugar. It may cost a little more than the ordinary, but it will make your fruit enough better to pay the difference in cost.

Do not stir your fruit when it is cooking. If you want to know how it is coming along, take out a piece of it without disturbing the rest.

Give it a brisk boiling. If allowed to stand and simmer, it will not retain its shape well.

When the cans are ready for sealing, see that the covers fit perfectly. Never use one that does not hug down tightly to the shoulder of the jar.

### Graham Bread.

Set a sponge overnight as for white bread and in the morning work into it three scant tablespoonfuls of molasses and enough graham flour to make a soft dough. Knead thoroughly and after forming into loaves knead each loaf for five minutes. Put into well greased tins, set to rise until very light and bake in a moderate oven.

Save candle ends, for, melted and with an equal quantity of turpentine, they make an excellent polish for floors, oilcloth, etc. This polish costs almost nothing and is often considered superior to beeswax and turpentine.

Mistress—Bridget, why didn't you finish winding the clock?

Maid—You must remember that I'm leavin' you tomorry, mum, and I'd not be after doin' any of the new girl's work.

Grease on silk and velvet may be removed by rubbing the spot lightly and rapidly with a clean soft cotton rag dipped in ether. Rub lightly and rapidly or a slight stain will be the result.

To keep doughnuts from burning drop a piece of raw potato in the boiling fat, and you will have no trouble with them.

Hangnails can be cured if the ends of the fingers be rubbed with sweet oil as far down as the first joint.

When salad dressing is liable to curdle, a small pinch of soda dropped in will prevent it from doing so.

Never cook green vegetables with the cover on, as it destroys the color.