

**Herr "Underwear."**  
A young German engineer whose name is Herr "X." von der Werra had an amusing incident happen to him on a recent ocean voyage which will bear repeating and which he narrates himself with relish. On the steamer were several English ladies who were devoted to whist and who frequently called upon Herr X. to join them in a friendly rubber. The young man does not care particularly for the game; but, as the ladies in question had several charming girls under their wings, policy as well as politeness bade him join in the daily games. The young man suffered from a severe cold, and, in order to protect himself from the drafts, took occasion to wear a couple of heavy bicycle sweaters in addition to his ordinary clothing. The ladies sympathized and frequently spoke to Herr X. "Underwear," as they pronounced it, about his precautions against additional cold. He was not particularly well versed in English, and the pronunciation of his name puzzled him very much—in fact, he thought they were referring to his sweaters, so finally he blurted out: "Ladies, why do you call me Mr. Underwear? Is it because of these sweaters?" The reply was lost to posterity in the roar of laughter which caused the windows of the saloon to rattle.—Philadelphia Record.

**Metallizing Wood.**  
A method of metallizing wood, one by which it becomes very solid and resistant and assumes the appearance of a true metallic mirror, is described in the Paris Moniteur with much detail. Briefly, the wood is first immersed for three or four days, as may be its degree of permeability, in a caustic alkaline lye, and thence passed immediately into a bath of hydrosulphite of calcium, to which is added, after 24 or 36 hours, concentrated solution of sulphur in caustic potash. The duration of this bath is about 48 hours, and its temperature is from 55 to 50 degrees. Finally the wood is immersed for 30 or 40 hours in a hot solution of acetate of lead. The wood prepared in this manner and after having undergone a proper drying at a moderate temperature acquires under a burnisher of hard wood a polished surface and exhibits a very brilliant metallic luster—a luster still further increased in its attractiveness if the surface of the wood be rubbed thoroughly, in the first place, with a piece of lead, tin or zinc and afterward be polished with a glass or porcelain burnisher.

**A Misunderstood Jest.**  
Lord Lytton when viceroy of India was seated one day at dinner next to a lady whose name was Birch, and who, though very good looking, was not over-intelligent. Said she to his excellency: "Are you acquainted with any of the Birches?"  
"Oh, yes," replied Lord Lytton, "I knew several of them most intimately while at Eton—indeed more intimately than I cared to."  
"My lord," replied the lady, "you forget the Birches are relatives of mine."  
"And they eat me," said the viceroy, "but," and he smiled his wonted smile, "I have never felt more inclined to kiss the rod than I do now."  
Said to say, Mrs. Birch did not see the point and told her husband his excellency had insulted her.—Exchange.

**Opals.**  
An exquisite gem is the opal, its beautiful creamy surface lit with red, blue and yellow rays scattering in the light and giving it a place in the front rank of precious stones. Unfortunately the opal has a bad name, and we know the proverb about the dog with the unlucky cognomen. Superstition credits this beautiful stone with bringing misfortune to its owner, and superstition will win its way so long as the world lasts. The opal is peculiarly brittle and sometimes crumbles away without any apparent cause, therefore it has been branded "unlucky." But let those laugh who win, there are still some who value opals for their worth and beauty and who can afford to make merry at the superstitious. The opal is the type of hope.—Chicago News.

**Gladstone and Moses.**  
A correspondent of The British Weekly tells the following story relative to Mr. Gladstone: "I was driving one autumn evening in a conveyance which in those days used to run from Lamlash to King's Cross (Island of Arran) when for any reason the late boat did not go round to Whiting bay. Sitting opposite me were two men who appeared to belong to the Paisley weaver class, and true to the traditions of that class they were busily discussing politics. Presently one of them said, with much emphasis, 'There has been a lawgiver equal to Mr. Gladstone since the days of Moses.' 'Moses!' retorted the other. 'Moses got the law given to him from the Lord, but Mr. Gladstone makes laws out of his ain head!'"

**Russian Liars.**  
Russian diplomats hold that it is no disgrace or dishonor to lie in the most unblushing manner in order to promote the interests of their country and of their sovereign. When the late czar asked one of Count Ignatieff how he came to be nicknamed "The Father of Lies" while ambassador at Constantinople, he with a low bow responded, "In the service of your majesty."

**Seamen Vote Ahead of Time.**  
Norwegian seamen are entitled to vote before leaving their country if the polling day is within three months of their departure, or they can vote at a foreign port within the same time by having their votes sent home through a Norwegian consul.

**Willing to Sacrifice.**  
Lodging House Clerk—Bed with bath, 15 cents.  
Wearry Watkins—I guess I'd rather pay a little more and not take the bath.—Indianaapolis Journal.

**A Wonderful Liver Cure.**  
The manager of the electrical exposition in Philadelphia asked Mr. Edison to visit the show and give a short talk on some electrical subject, or if he found it inconvenient to do so to send on a phonographic cylinder setting forth some of his latest ideas of electrical interest. Mr. Edison complied in his own way with the latter request, and in doing so while omitting any reference to electricity produced an electrical effect upon the management and the auditors by his contribution. It was as follows:

**My Dear Marks.**—You asked me to send you a phonographic cylinder for your lecture and to say a few words to the audience. I do not think the audience would take any interest in dry scientific subjects, but perhaps they might be interested in a little story that a man sent me on a phonographic cylinder the other day from San Francisco.  
In the year 1873 a man from Massachusetts came to California with a chronic liver complaint. He searched all over the coast for a mineral spring to cure the disease, and finally he found down in the San Joaquin valley a spring the waters of which almost instantly cured him. He thereupon started a sanitarium, and people from all over the world came and were quickly cured.  
Last year this man died, and so powerful had been the action of the waters that they had to take his liver out and kill it with a club. Yours truly, EDISON.  
—Electricity.

**Pearls.**  
Pearls, the costly product of the pearl fish of the Persian gulf, are obtained from the bed of the sea by divers, who bring up as many of the oyster shells as they can and then place them in heaps on the shore covered with sand. They are left for several days while the fish decay and the shells open, after which the sand is sifted and the pearls found. They are then cleansed and polished. The value of the pearl depends on its size, roundness, color and brightness. The most renowned pearls were the two which formed Cleopatra's earrings, one of which she dissolved in a goblet of vinegar and drank to the health of her guest, Mark Antony.  
The remaining pearl became the property of the Emperor Augustus, who had it cut in two for earrings for his daughter Julia. Another historic pearl records a similar act of extravagance nearer our own time. It is said that at a banquet given to Queen Elizabeth on the opening of the Royal Exchange Sir Thomas Gresham ground a precious pearl to powder and drank it in a goblet of wine to the health of his royal guest.—Chicago News.

**The Effect of Wind on Lakes.**  
Attention has been called to the very remarkable effect of the wind on various inland bodies of water. It is not unusual for the residents in towns on the shores of lakes to be greatly inconvenienced, provided a heavy wind blowing on shore continues for any length of time. In the Baltic sea the level has been altered for upward of eight feet. Sometimes the water is blown out of a channel, leaving it almost dry. In one instance a depression of six feet occurred on one side of a body of water, with a corresponding rise of six feet on the other. Lake Erie has been known to alter its level a distance of 15 feet on account of heavy winds, and Lake Michigan was at one time the subject of considerable interest from the same cause. The wind was heavy and continuous and piled the water up on one side, while the other was so low that people walked out upon rocks where in the memory of man no feet had ever trodden.—New York Ledger.

**How Mines Are Exploded.**  
There are several methods by which mines and torpedoes anchored in harbors may be detected, but it is very dangerous and difficult work, and its success depends largely upon the circumstances and the condition of the water and the bottom of the bay in which they are placed. Sometimes they are discovered by dragging with a ledge. Sometimes they can be seen when the water is clear, and in order to assist the natural vision a canvas telescope is rigged which drops upon the water and shuts out the light from the eyes of the observer so that he can have a better view of the bottom. There are other methods also known to sailors and frequently practiced. The most effective is called "countermining"—that is, the explosion of torpedoes in the water, which by their detonation cause the mines to explode.—Chicago Record.

**Druggists' Lights.**  
An apothecary found himself minus his red light one night, at a time when it was customary for tradesmen of his class to ornament their store fronts with a simple red lamp. To supply his need he took a glass bottle filled with a red fluid and placed a candle behind it. The effect so pleased him that he added another. Rival druggists illuminated their windows, increasing the number of lights and also changing the colors. Thus the entire town followed the lead. So it became the fashion.—Christian Work.

**"Water of Life."**  
Distilled spirits came into use in London in 1450 and had to be prohibited in 1494. Michael Savonarola produced a treatise on the making of "water of life" in the fifteenth century which became a standard authority on that subject and was followed by the work of Matthioli of Siena. These books gave an impetus to brandy making in Italy, whence the trade extended to France.

**Considerate.**  
"Leave the house!" cried little Binks, making a brave bluff of strength to the burglar.  
"I intend to, my small friend," replied the burglar courteously. "I am merely after the contents. When I take houses, I do it through the regular real estate channels."—Harper's Bazar.

Yucatan is a compound Indian name meaning, "What do you say?" which was the only answer the Spaniards could obtain from the natives to their inquiries concerning a description of the country.

**The Americanized Emigrant.**  
I have remarked, for my part, that the Americanization of the European emigrant is the result of success. The man who succeeds becomes American with a facility truly prodigious, but he who fails remains European.  
Thus it is that a certain part of Chicago constitutes a veritable international sink where the French, the Swedes, the Germans, the Slavs, the Italians, dwell in groups, retaining in their misery the distinctive marks of their nationality, the language and the habits of their races.  
On the other hand, the Americanization of the others is perhaps not so complete at bottom as it is in appearance. The future alone can tell. It remains true none the less that in a single generation Europe seems to have lost all influence over the sons of those who have abandoned her to fix themselves in the new world, and who have been able to make any position for themselves there, however modest. There is in the air they breathe, in the life they live, something which takes their youth, their enthusiasm, and inoculates it in some way with all the hereditary American possessions and ideas.—Paris Revue Bleue.

**Curious Italian Cigars.**  
A curious cigar seen in the Italian quarter of the city, where it is made and sold, is about 7 1/2 inches in length and very slender, being not much bigger around than an all tobacco cigarette, and almost uniform in size for the greater part of its length. At the end that is placed in the mouth this cigar is made around a piece of straw an inch and a half in length, which projects about a quarter of an inch clear of the tobacco. When the cigar is made, a broom splint long enough to reach almost to the lighting end of the cigar is run through the straw, and the cigar is made around that. The broom splint is cut long enough so that a quarter or half an inch of it projects clear of the straw mouthpiece.  
When the cigar is to be smoked, the broom splint is withdrawn. The opening through it where the splint was makes the cigar draw freely, and the section of straw at the slender end keeps the cigar open there. These cigars, made of strong, dark tobacco, are sold at retail for a cent each.—New York Sun.

**Commerce of the Philippines.**  
The commerce of these islands has been estimated by some authorities at \$50,000,000 a year, but it is probably much greater, the chief exports being sugar, tobacco and hemp. Of Manila cigars the yearly product is several hundred million, one factory alone employing 10,000 hands, and of Manila hemp the yearly product is probably 200,000 tons. One factory in Manila produces 40,000,000 cigarettes in a single year.  
The imports are also of enormous value. The United States sends the Philippines chiefly kerosene oil and flour, while England, Germany and France sell them print cloths, white drilling, hardware, canned goods, etc. There are other large towns in the islands, but most of the imports are landed at Manila and are shipped to them by local steamers. One company alone has 27 steamers engaged in local and coastwise trade, their ships ranging in size from 500 to 3,000 tons.—Isaac M. Elliott in Scribner's.

**An Effective Pill Box.**  
Here is a good story of the author of "The Deserted Village": Hearing of Dr. Goldsmith's great humanity, a poor woman, who believed him to be a physician, once wrote to him begging him to prescribe for her husband, who had lost his appetite and was altogether in a very sad state. The kind hearted poet immediately went to see her, and after some talk with the man found him almost overwhelmed with sickness and poverty.  
"You shall hear from me in an hour," said the doctor on leaving, "and I shall send you some pills which I am sure will do you good."  
Before the time was up Goldsmith's servant brought the poor woman a small box, which, on being opened, was found to contain 10 guineas, with the following directions: "To be used as necessities require. Be patient and of good heart."—Christian Work.

**Teaching the Parrot.**  
Owners of these interesting birds must remember that if they wish them to talk well the best time to teach them is in the evening, with the cage covered over and placed in a dark room and the teacher enunciating the words slowly and distinctly and persistently. The natives of India consider that a slight operation upon the bird's tongue is necessary before it will speak easily.

**Road Restrictions in Baden.**  
Not a single mechanical vehicle can run on the roads of the Grand Duchy of Baden until the driver makes a declaration to the central authorities, who will give to him, after a long investigation, authority to run upon a certain road decided upon in advance. After the authority is received the driver is bound by an almost endless number of restrictions.

**Here's a Useful Test.**  
"I'm afraid I'm a dreadful talker."  
"What gives you that idea?"  
"When I come home from anywhere, I never can recall anything that was said except remarks I made myself."—Chicago Record.

The United Kingdom consumes 600,000 pounds, or about 4,000,000 gallons, of tea every day, which is as much as is used by the rest of Europe, North and South America, Africa and Australia combined.

The old log cabin in Front Royal, Va., in which George Washington lived while surveying between a 1748 and 1753 is still standing in fair condition and is used as a springhouse.

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I was afflicted with Blood Poison, and the best doctors did me no good, though I took their treatment faithfully. In fact, I seemed to get worse all the while. I took a most every so-called blood remedy, but they did not seem to reach the disease, and had no effect whatever. I was disheartened, for it seemed that I would never be cured. At the advice of a friend I then took S. S. S., and began to improve. I continued the medicine, and it cured me completely, building up my health and increasing my appetite. Although this was ten years ago, I have never yet had a sign of the disease to return.

W. R. NEWMAN,  
Stanton, Va.

It is like self-destruction to continue to take potash and mercury; besides totally destroying the digestion, they dry up the marrow in the bones, producing a stiffness and swelling of the joints, causing the hair to fall out, and completely wrecking the system.

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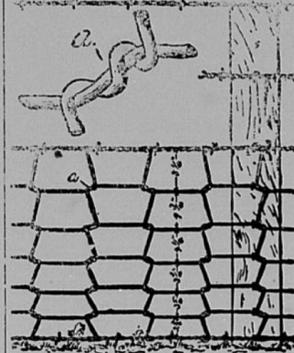
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