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NO. 41.

MISTAKEN INVENTORS.

Practical Knowledge Necessary to Complete Success.
Much Mental Labor Often Spent in Vain by Ambitious Persons Who Might Have Been Successful in Smaller Ways.
The fact that a very large proportion of patented inventions are a disappointment to their originators because of their failure to yield profitable return for time and money expended on them is a subject often discussed by inventors and those who are directly interested in their work. It is probable that in no other field of human effort are there so many bitter disappointments, so many crushed hopes and so much of genuine heartache as among inventors. Although thousands of them annually achieve success and enter on a career of prosperity, other thousands find little or no reward; the devices from which they confidently expected affluence have only added to their poverty.

Many an intelligent man toils for years, says the New York Journal, denying himself all the luxuries and most of the comforts of life to bring out an invention seemingly full of promise, but destined to utter failure. The reasons for this extended area of disappointment are not very numerous nor hard to find. First among them is insufficiency of practical knowledge on the part of the inventor. For example, a man who knows nothing of the practical work of steam engineering may invent and patent a device in that line which will appear to him, and other non-professionals, to be a great advance on existing methods for generating or utilizing steam, but which will be condemned by the most competent judges. In all kinds of machinery the same cause is a prolific source of disappointment.

The thing invented may be very ingenious, may have cost a vast deal of mental labor and may attest the intellectual superiority of the inventor; but if it is deficient in practical utility, if its introduction will not be profitable to those for whom it is intended, it goes to the lumber yard of oblivion. Persons who are utterly ignorant of gunnery frequently invent something in that line, but they very rarely attain success. The same rule holds good in all the industrial arts, including agriculture, mining, manufactures, ship-building and railroading. Brilliance of intellect and originality in conception are offset by lack of practical knowledge. Another reason why failure is so frequently encountered is lack of capital to perfect, construct and demonstrate. Many inventions of great value are lying dormant because a good deal of money would be required to show the world what they are and what advantages they possess.

This is especially true of inventions that menace great interests. When a patent threatens annihilation of vast value, when it proposes to sweep away plants that represent millions of dollars, capital hesitates to develop it, for its introduction means a fight to the death between gigantic conflicting interests. In entering to the demands of fashion, elegance and luxury there are many inventions brought out that do not pay, because there is not and cannot be a large demand for them. The best element of success in a patent is adaptation to a universal or general want. To do some simple thing that is done by the masses, and to do it cheaper and better than before, is to succeed.

To furnish healthful and innocent amusement in a new and attractive way, and do it at small cost, is to put money in your purse. Anything that the people will recognize as meeting a want tastefully and cheaply will find purchasers. Some of the most profitable patents—paying the best in proportion to the time and money expended—have been the simplest things, so simple that almost everybody, on seeing one of them, wonders why he or she did not think of it long ago.

Hygiene in Egypt.
It is taken for granted that the idea of boiling water before using it as a beverage is of relatively recent date. A manuscript, however, has just been discovered in the Khedive's library at Cairo which corrects the false impression. This manuscript treats of hygiene in Egypt and is the work of a celebrated Arabian physician, Ebn-Radoun-el-Masry. It bears the date of the year 460 of the hejira (1068). In this manuscript it is said "that the best method of setting water free from principles injurious to health, consists in first submitting it to the action of heat, by boiling it, then exposing it to the coolness of night air, decanting it, boiling it a second time, clarifying it by mingling chalk with it, and finally filtering it through a porous jar exposed to the night air." Water which has been thus treated, says the Egyptian physician, is ready for drinking.

Babies Checked.
The grounds and buildings committee decided to reserve for sixty days a tract ninety by one hundred and fifty feet between the woman's and horticulture buildings for a building to be devoted to the care of children and babies that may be brought to the fair. It is expected that nurses trained to take care of infants will be put in charge of this building. Mothers can get the young-ster's checked and then proceed to enjoy the sights without carrying their babies all around the grounds. The site was reserved for this building on condition that it be maintained without expense to the exposition company, and on the further condition that the board of lady managers show that they have enough money to put up the building and operate it.

HIS REMARKABLE MEMORY.

A Jeweler Who Never Forget Any Diamond He Ever Saw.

There is no individuality in a diamond. Take it from the setting with which you have grown familiar, place it among a number of other stones of the same size and the chances are a hundred to one that you will not be able to pick it out again. Despite this fact there are some men long accustomed to the handling of precious stones who can remember and recall one of them as easily as though it were a human face.

A curious instance illustrating this odd faculty transpired in the office of a Maiden Lane jeweler the other day, says the New York Commercial Advertiser.

Years ago a now famous American comedian went to Australia and played a lengthy and successful engagement in that country. Just before he sailed home he saw Dan Maguire, a manager well known in Melbourne in those days, presented him with a handsome diamond shirt stud as a souvenir of the numerous pleasant hours that they had passed together during his visit. The comedian wore the jewel for a time after his arrival here and finally gave it to a boy, one of his distant relatives, for a Christmas gift after it had been reset as a ring.

The other day the boy, now grown to be a strapping young man, took the ring to the Maiden Lane jeweler to have it repaired, and handed it over to a dedicated and gray-haired little Englishman who stood behind the showcase.

He looked long and steadily at the stone, and a reminiscent smile curved his colorless lips.

"Young man," he said, "when you were rather smaller by very long odds than you are now I sold that diamond to Dan Maguire in Melbourne, Australia, and he gave it to some Yankee actor." The owner of the gem, knowing its history, was astounded. When asked to explain how he remembered it, the Englishman could not, and laid his ability to do so to some mysterious instinct.

"I've been a jeweler all my life," he remarked, "and have owned my own store three times. I think that, without boasting, I can recognize every diamond of every size that I ever handled during that period, though how I manage to do it is as much of a mystery to me as it is to anybody else. I have met with other jewelers who have the same faculty, but, like me, they can't explain it."

BOY CHOIRS.

Growth of Good Choral Music in American Churches.

"There are many excellent boy choirs in New York state outside the metropolis," says S. B. Whitney in the New England Magazine. "At the cathedral of All Saints, Albany, under the direction of Dr. Jeffrey, an English organist; at Syracuse, at Rochester, where Mr. J. E. Bagly has several choirs, and in many of the smaller cities—the male choir has been introduced and local choir festivals are of frequent occurrence. It has been much easier to introduce such choirs in the west than it has in the east, there being no old prejudices to overcome, and little or no fear that its adoption meant or implied anything more than a more appropriate rendering of churchly music. At Cleveland, Detroit, Toledo, Cincinnati and St. Louis, to say nothing of smaller towns, may be found many excellent choirs. In Chicago the choir festival held a year ago in the Auditorium, where some twelve hundred singers, boys and men, sang in a chorus, under the very able direction of Mr. H. B. Roney, will give some idea of the prevalence of this kind of choir in and about that city. This festival was a most decided success from a musical point of view."

Concerning Diamonds.

A diamond expert in London thus discourses on the product and distribution of diamonds: "The Americans are the finest judges of diamonds in the world, and insist upon having the finest stones and the most perfect cutting. It is estimated that they will take three million pounds worth this year. India furnishes a market for large numbers of white stones, as well as for yellow or colored diamonds, or stones with flaws or specks in them. The natives invest their savings in them and in other precious gems as we do in stocks and shares. Russia's fancy is for large yellow diamonds. China is becoming a buyer, for very recently the empress has broken through the old custom which prohibited women from wearing diamonds in her country. She could not resist the beauty of a superb diamond necklace presented to her. She wore it at court and set the fashion. Japan is also rapidly becoming a considerable consumer. With the opening up of the world by railway and steamship communication the demand for diamonds has increased marvelously. The world now purchases about five million pounds worth per annum. Twenty years ago it was about half a million sterling."

Wonders of an Egg.
How many people who are fond of eggs and eat them daily ever stop to think what a wonderful thing an egg is! It is one of the greatest wonders of nature. What part of the egg is the animal? The clear white part? No. The yolk? No, that is merely food. Break a raw egg, and beside the white and the yolk what do you find? On the membrane which covers the yolk you will see a little whitish circle. That is the animal. When nature brings the young animal at an early period into the outer air or water it provides it with means to live. A young alligator, no larger than a tiny lizard, takes to the water the moment it creeps out of the shell, and begins to devour what it can. It needs no protector.

A TRIBUTE TO HER TACT.

The Greatest Compliment a Man Can Pay a Charming Woman.

"Do you know," said a man the other day, "there is one phrase of words which when applied to a woman seems to please her more than anything else in the English language which you can call her? And that phrase is 'a woman of the world.' Of course I use that term in its best sense. I never saw the woman who didn't involuntarily bridle and smirk if you called her that."

"Be she peasant or princess, an old country dame knowing nothing outside her kitchen garden or a grand dame having worldly lore at her tongue's end and finger tips, it is the same."

"She likes to imagine herself a person of great experience and unlimited knowledge. She likes to think that you think her qualified to speak with authority on any subject. She likes to think that she has seen it all."

"Why, you can twist any woman around your little finger by a judicious use of those five little words. You can get any favor granted by beginning: 'Now, you, as a woman of the world, will understand exactly what I am going to ask of you. Young and old, they swallow at that bit of flattery greedily. The younger women bite more eagerly, perhaps, but the older ones are not far behind.'"

And the woman to whom all this nonsense was told, says the New York Recorder, listened with polite, but firm disapproval, and then said: "Now, in return for your information, I'll tell you how to manage a man. Ask his advice first, last and always, ask his advice. Nothing delights a man so much as to have a woman defer to his opinions and accept his statements with an air of profound relief. He likes to dominate, and giving advice is a species of dominating."

"If you want to have him think you're the most sensible woman on the face of the earth consult him as to what you shall do about everything. If you break the mainspring of your watch, ask him to recommend a jeweler. If you have a cold in the head let him prescribe. If you're buying a new frock by all means give him the delight of designing the costume. If you acquire a new hat put it on and ask him what he thinks of it. Never mind how ridiculous his advice is, nor how absurd his criticisms. You aren't obliged to abide by them. Say nothing back, but do as you please. But Sunday, Monday and every other day in the week continue diligently to seek after his opinions."

"So shall you carry palms forever and your star have no descent!"

And they called it half a day and quit.

A Unique Case.

A Detroit man has a novel walking cane that represents the work of odd hours every day for six weeks. It is made of old postage stamps of various denominations and six nationalities—United States, Canada, English, French, German and Italian. It took five thousand and fourteen stamps to make the cane. The face value of the stamps was one hundred dollars. The surface of the cane, when the stamps were all on, was filed smooth and finished until it shined. A heavy gold knob, completely covered with the handsomest and most unique designs, is attached to the handle.

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\$3.50 Police Shoes; Farmers, Railroad Men and Letter Carriers all wear them; fine calf, seamless, smooth inside, heavy three soles, extension edge. One pair will wear a year.

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