

Sign-Boards.

Some of the signs upon ians and ale-houses were adorned by very curious specimens of poetry. One man, having opened an ale house called the White Horse, near four others, called respectively the Angel, the Ship, and the Three Cups, wrote under his sign: "My White Horse shall bite the Bear, And make the Angel fly? Shall turn the Ship her bottom up, And drink the Three Cups dry?" Here is another which the author was determined should rhyme whether or no: "Stop brave boys shut quench your thirst, If you won't drink your horses' murrst." Another very quaint inscription was found under the sign of the Fox at a country inn:

"I ham, a cunen fox
You see, ther, his
No, harm, attached
To, me, it, is, my, Mrs
Wish, to, place, me
Here, to, let, you, no
He, sells, good, beere."

The origin of the striped poles which are still used as signs for a barbershop, and the three balls which denote a pawnbroker's establishment, are so well known, that we almost fear to speak of them here. As, however, it is possible that some may not have heard them, we will venture. The barbers' poles date back to the days when the remedy for almost every disease was bleeding, and then the barbers were the regular blood-letters. The patient who was desirous of being bled was obliged to grasp a pole, which was suppose to make the blood flow more freely. As the pole was liable to be stained it was painted red. When it was not in use the white linen bandages necessary in the operation were twisted around it, and it was hung outside the door, as the most convenient place of keeping it. In this way it came to be recognized as the regular sign of a barber shop, and the custom is kept up to this day. At one time barbers were obliged to put out a blue and white pole, and surgeons a red and white one.

The three balls of the pawnbrokers' sign are part of the coat-of-arms of Lombardy, from which the first bankers came. In old times bankers used to advance money on valuables, and thus were gradually transformed into pawn-brokers. At first the balls were always painted with a blue color, and it is only quite lately that they have been gilded.

The colored lights in the windows of the apothecaries of the present day are also a reminiscence of the days when street lamps were not, and those who would do business by night must notify the public of the fact in some such way as this.

A Case of Cold Temperament.

A case is reported of a man freezing to death the other day near Meridian, Miss., from exposure to the weather, and the summer is not remarkably cool in the south either. In fact the thermometer marked 90 degrees where the freezing was done. He was a young man named James Knox who presented this anomaly in nature. He had been suffering with cold continually for about a year, and required heavy wraps and big fires to exist at all. In the meantime the temperature of his body was nearly normal, and he was otherwise healthy and fresh looking. At home he was accustomed to wrap his head up in clothes and hold it in a blazing fire until the clothes were almost burned off, to get temporary relief. He sat by the fire all the time, and resorted to various expedients to get warm and keep warm, but he always felt as if he were freezing. The family doctor was greatly puzzled over the case, and recommended him to visit another physician living a distance in Livingston. The only question was whether he could make the trip without freezing to death. But he managed to make it, loaded down with clothes and piled over with robes. He came near dying with cold in Dr. Webb's office, and the doctor built a great fire and partially thawed him out. But the new physician could make nothing of the case and sent the patient home. It was on the trip homeward that James Knox froze to death under the hot sun of the south. His cold became unbearable, and he jumped out of the wagon and ran. The driver caught him, brought him back, and drove on rapidly. Presently the patient became quiet and sank in a stupor, and James Knox actually froze to death and lay a corpse in the wagon, bed under the blazing sun of Mississippi with the temperature at 90. It is an anomalous case for the books.

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