

He Was Selfish.
 An Arabic anecdote illustrative of the subtleness of selfishness, which enables it to glide into the heart of a saint, is told of the holy Mohammedan Sakati.
 He said that for twenty years he had never ceased imploring divine pardon for having once exclaimed, "Praise be to God!" On being asked the reason for such persistent praying he answered:
 "A fire broke out in Bagdad, and a person came to me and told me that my shop had escaped, on which I uttered those words, and even to this moment I repent of having said so, because it showed that I wished better to myself than to others."

An Informal Introduction.
 When Mark Twain lived in Buffalo, he made the acquaintance of some neighbors under peculiar circumstances. Emerging from his house one morning, he saw something which made him run across the street and remark to the people who were gathered on the veranda:
 "My name is Clemens. My wife and I have been intending to call on you and make your acquaintance. We owe you an apology for not doing it before now. I beg your pardon for intruding on you in this informal manner and at this time of day, but your house is on fire!"

Not a Rosy Dreamer.
 "What would you do if you had a billion dollars?"
 "Oh," answered the languid man, "I don't see why I should expect to prove any exception to the rule. I would probably go to one of the usual extremes and either buy yachts or else walk to save car fare."—Washington Star.

Troubles of Her Own.
 Mistress—Mary, Mary! I've just broken my handglass. You know how unlucky it is—seven years' unhappiness.
 Maid—Oh, that's nothin', ma'am! 'Ow about me? I've just smashed the large glass in the drawing room."—Glasgow Evening Times.

A Success.
 Landlady—I believe in letting coffee boil for thirty minutes. That's the only way to get the goodness out of it.
 New Boarder (tasting his and leaving it)—You have succeeded admirably, ma'am.

In place of wedding cake in Holland wedding sweets are given—"bruidzuikers," they are called. They are handed round by children and are served in flower trimmed baskets.

A General Theory of Machines.
 In the Comptes Rendus of the Paris Academy of Sciences M. Koenigs has printed a sketch of a general theory of mechanisms. Every machine consists of a number of material bodies, resistances, joined together reciprocally, upon which natural forces act to produce a desired effect, and the effect may be either a state of rest or one of motion. The resisting bodies and their connections are the mechanism. Its effect is not known until we define the acting forces. The same machine will produce different effects according as different forces play upon it.

Machines are subject to three effects—static when the forces produce equilibrium; kinetic when the result is motion, and, finally, dissociative when the connections of the machine are changed. The latter effect is usually not considered, but it is essential to take it into account. A machine could not be built, in the first place, unless it was capable of dissociation. In some machines—locks, for instance—the parts are dissociated every time the apparatus operates. It is desirable to design most machines, however, so that the dissociative effects do not come into play during their operation.

Beware of the Cold Bath.
 The cold bath in the morning is not so popular as it was formerly. There is much energy expended in the reaction and just at the time of day when this energy is at its lowest ebb. Then, too, cold water has very little cleansing effect. Very hot water stimulates the nerves, which is the effect that we are seeking from the cold water, while it does not demand the energy of reaction of the latter. The duration of the morning bath should be as short as possible—hardly longer than the mere application of the water to the skin, followed by a brisk rubbing. However, many prefer a cool sponge bath in the morning, and if this is followed by a warm glow and a feeling of well being it certainly is beneficial. Many people are not strong enough to react well. A hot bath at night is most cleansing and restful. General bathing must be regulated by individual peculiarities.—Emma E. Walker, M. D., in Ladies' Home Journal.

A Little Too Late.
 The minister of a Scotch parish had a great wish that an old couple should become teetotalers, but they were in no wise eager to comply. After much pressing, however, they consented to try the experiment, but laying down as a condition that they should be allowed to keep a bottle of "Auld Kirk" for medicinal purposes.

About a fortnight after John began to feel his resolution weakening, but he was determined not to be the first to give way. In another week, however, he collapsed entirely.
 "Jenny, woman," he said, "I've an awfu' pain in my head. Ye might gie me a wee drapple an' see gin it'll dae me any guid."
 "Weel, guidman," she replied, "ye're owre late o' askin', for ever sin' that bottle cam' into the hoose I've been bothered sae wi' pains I'm held 'tis a' dune, an' there's nae drapple left."—Spare Moments.

Great Memories.
 Otto Schultze, a stenographer, wrote in the Brandenburg Schulblatt that Bismarck had a wonderful memory. "When he had delivered a two hours' speech and looked over our shorthand reports the next day, he remembered every expression he had used exactly and did not forget them for years."
 The novelist Spielhagen once told Schultze that he could recall vividly every one of the thousands of persons he had met in his life and every word spoken by casual acquaintances, together with their gestures and the cut of their hair and clothes.

A Hunting Story.
 Once Rogers was shooting where his boat happened to have killed a boy and a keeper in the same season, and he asked a beater whether his master felt the matter very much. The answer was: "Well, sir, he didn't care much about the boy. He gie his mother five pounds. But he were wery wexed about the man. He didn't go out shootin' for a whole week." This in Norfolk was considered an evidence of the climax of human emotion.—George Archdale in Temple Bar.

Buildings in Stockholm.
 Only two-thirds of the area of the lot can be covered in Stockholm except on street corners, where three-fourths is allowed. The remainder of the lot must be reserved for courts for light and ventilation. All chimney flues must be twelve or fifteen inches and must be swept once a month from October to April by official chimney sweepers.

Every Man to His Trade.
 The Green Bag tells of a lawyer who was about to furnish a bill of costs.
 "I hope," said his client, who was a baker, "that you will make it as light as possible."
 "Ah," said the lawyer, "you might perhaps say that to the foreman of your establishment, but that is not the way I make my bread!"

Why She Was Married.
 It is ~~now~~ ^{now} ~~traced~~ ^{traced} to the hold of convention and conventional considerations. They have a tighter grip and a wider influence than law, reason, sentiment or ethics itself. A woman whose marriage may be termed mediocrity successful admitted candidly not long ago that at the very last moment never, never would she have married her husband had it not been for the thought of all the conventional considerations involved.
 "On the way to our wedding," said the woman, "we had the most awful kind of a row that made me vow inwardly never, never to marry him. Then at the thought of the ceremony to come off at a friend's house, the breakfast that, thanks to her, was prepared and the invited guests, and how they would all talk at any change of plan, I grit my teeth and went through it. But it was the thought of the conventions alone that kept me up. No other possible pressure could have induced me to marry him after such a row as we had on our way to the wedding."—New York Sun.

A Circular Rainbow.
 A member of a party who made an ascent of Finsterrehorn some years ago thus described a novel sight which delighted the tired climbers: The day we mounted the Finsterrehorn we were treated to the rare sight of a circular rainbow, the phenomenon lasting nearly half an hour and forming a complete circle. There were heavy clouds lying some 4,000 feet below on the Aar glacier, and it was on these that the beautiful, brilliantly colored ring lay. A second circle was also visible. We were near the summit of the peak when the first of the party observed it, and from that point the face of the mountain on the Grimsel side is almost perpendicular, giving us a splendid view.

An Ideal.
 "It don't look like me."
 "Of course it don't. Didn't I say I waz makin' er ideal portrait of yer?"—Scribner's.



Merchant—I want a married man in this position.
 Applicant—I think I would be. I'm not married, but I am naturally a neck, submissive disposition.
 York Journal.



Medical Advice.
 "Your trouble is not serious. You only need rest!"
 "But, doctor, look at my tongue!"
 "Oh, give that a rest too!"
 gende Blatter.



A Rebuke.
 "Say, Tommy, if yer can't run faster dan dat I'll have ter let draw me."—Scribner's.

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