

CHILDREN'S IDEA OF BEAUTY.

In one of the lectures given the other day at the winter meeting of the College of Preceptors, a strange light was cast upon the aesthetic ideas of the small child, says the 'Westminster Gazette'.

Five children mentioned the moon and stars (one stipulating that it must be the full moon), two the sun, and one the setting sun. Two chose flowers, two certain scenery, two birds, and two (both of them lazy) fell back upon the last object lesson, viz., star-fish and sponge.

In some cases a revision was desired the next day. The girl who at first most approved the rain wished afterwards to change it for a house with snow dropping from it, a little street in front, and a postoffice at the end.

Another boy, who at first suggested a ship with sails, withdrew this in favor of a steamer, which he thought was nicer because of the smoke. Second thoughts was an improvement in the case of another, whose first choice of a steam engine (with the qualification, however, that it was running along in the sunshine) was withdrawn for a country scene he remembered, where there was a stream with golden bracken and the sun shining upon it.

The children who were thus interrogated were not city Arabs, but came from well-to-do homes. Yet one of them actually said that the most beautiful thing she had ever seen was a little toy house, "where a woman was sitting by the window and a man coming up to the door; the woman wouldn't let the man in because he was drunk."

A little boy who had been taken to many beautiful places most preferred a glass ball, which, when shaken, produced the appearance of a snowstorm inside it; and a girl, who had lived for three years under the shadow of one of our noblest cathedrals, set in the first place a monkey at the Zoo.

PECULIARITIES OF PUNCTUATION.

Many of the errors in books and papers arise from mistakes in punctuation. A writer in a ladies' journal states that "it has become quite the fashion of late for ladies to take their tea in their hats and gloves." The ladies suffered more severely at the hands of a provincial reporter who, describing the costumes at a reception, had intended to say that "Mrs. B. wore nothing in the nature of a dress that was remarkable."

A London paper reported on one occasion the capture in "mid-channel" of a large man-eating shark. A provincial journal, copying the paragraph, but less careful about the punctuation, gave a different version of the incident: "A large man, eating shark, was captured in mid-channel."

Herbert Spencer once wrote, "Whales are not fish because they possess fins and a fish-like tail"; but what the public read was: "Whales are not fish, because they possess fins and a fish-like tail," which truly is a most remarkable reason why whales are not fish.

But perhaps the most amusing instance of the ludicrous effects of wrong punctuation is afforded in the following description of the Jubilee procession, which appeared in an East Anglian weekly paper: "Next came Lord Roberts riding. On a grey Arab steed wearing a splendid scarlet uniform, covered with medals on his head, a field-marshal's hat with plumes in his hand, the baton of a field-marshal on his ragged feature; a smile of pleasure as he acknowledged the thundering cheers of the crowd."

A FRIEND'S ADVICE.

And what it led to.

It is not a common occurrence that a friendly word should be the means of giving nearly forty years of happiness and health to the person heeding the advice it carried. This was the case with Mary Lingard. At twenty-five she was dragging out her days in misery. At sixty-one she finds herself so active and strong she can do work that would shame many a younger woman, and looks back on thirty-six happy, healthful years of industry. But let her tell her story.

"Thirty-six years ago I had great trouble with my liver. The doctors allowed that there were tumors growing on it, and they blistered my side in an effort to give me relief. I was at that time earning my living as a tailress, but for five years, between the pain in my side and the blisters I was in constant misery, and work was a drag to me, with no prospect of relief; fortunately for me, however, a friend advised me to take Dr. Ayer's Sarsaparilla, and finally persuaded me to take a regular course of it. When I first commenced taking the Sarsaparilla my side was so painful that I could not fasten my dress, and for a time I did not get any relief, but my friend advised me to persevere and relief was sure to come, and come it did. This happened, as I say, thirty-six years ago. My liver has never troubled me since, and during these years I have passed through the most critical period of a woman's life without any particular trouble, and to-day, at sixty-one years of age, I am active and strong, and able to do a day's work that would unsettle many a younger woman. Ever since my recovery I have taken a couple of bottles of Dr. Ayer's Sarsaparilla each spring, and am quite satisfied that I owe my good health to this treatment. I give this testimonial purely in the hope that it may meet the eye of some poor sufferer."

MARY LINGARD, Woodstock, Ont.

Dr. Ayer's Sarsaparilla has won its way to every corner of the world by the praise of its friends; those who have tried it and who know they were cured by the use of the remedy. There is nothing so strong as this personal testimony. It throws all theories and fancies to the winds and stands solidly upon the rock of experience challenging every skeptic with a positive "I know." Ayer's Sarsaparilla with its purifying and vitalizing action on the blood is a radical remedy for every form of disease that begins its tangled or impure blood. Hence tumors, sores, ulcers, boils, eruptions and similar diseases yield promptly to this medicine. Some cases are more stubborn than others, but persistence with Dr. Ayer's Sarsaparilla usually results in a complete cure. Mary Lingard began with a bottle, and went on to a course of Dr. Ayer's Sarsaparilla. When she was cured she realized that a medicine that could cure disease could also prevent it. So she took a couple of bottles each spring and kept in perfect health. There are thousands of similar cases on record. Some of these are gathered into Dr. Ayer's Curebook, a little book of one page which is sent free by the I. C. Ayer Co., Lowell, Mass. Write for it.

FINES FOR DELAYING THE MAILS.

The fines stated in the contracts between the British Postoffice and the owners of ships which carry the mails, and which are deducted from the stipulated amount of payment for this service, are stiff enough to justify the peremptory action of steamship officers at the moment when the order "All ashore" is given to friends or passengers.

For example, a delay of twenty-four hours in landing the mail-bags at Adelaide after a journey from Brindisi or Naples means a fine of £100, or £4 per hour, and the penalty is even heavier for delay between England and Canada or China; £100 for every twelve hours late is equal to about £8 per hour. The tardy delivery at Brindisi or from China is punished by a fine of £200 per twelve hours—namely, £17 per hour late.

On the Holyhead-Kingston sea service the deduction for delay is stated at £1 14s. per minute; this means £102 for one hour. For the daily trip between Strom Ferry and Stornoway a milder phrase is used: "£20 for undue delay or deviation from course" is the wording, and it is one which admits of conveniently elastic interpretation. Scotch sea-deliveries of mail-bags.

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OUR FRIEND, THE BARBER, ONCE MORE.

Snyder, the calculating barber, has been figuring again. It seems that he said he had an afternoon off on Thursday, and in journeying to Kensington on a bus to see his best girl, was compelled to change his position on the seat three or four times to make room for the passengers. "It's a nuisance, this sliding up and down in buses," said Snyder, last night.

"Did you ever stop to think how much energy is wasted in that way? Every time you move to make room for somebody else you edge along perhaps six inches. Every time you travel in a bus you have to move three or four times. Call it three—that makes

181st. Something like 250,000,000 people rode in the omnibuses last year. If only half of them, or 125,000,000, were seated, the slide up and down amounts to the extent of 2,250,000,000 inches, or about 35,511 miles. Now, if all this energy had been expended by one man he could, in the course of a year, have slid around the earth, with over 10,000 miles to spare. Does the razor hurt, sir?"

Eruptions, boils and pimples have their cause in bad blood. Dr. Ayer's Sarsaparilla cures eruptions by curing the cause.

IT MADE HIM PARTICULAR.

"Save me! save me!" she cried, as her head rose above the water, and she grasped a plank floating by.

"I beg your pardon," he replied, from the bank, "but I want it distinctly understood that I'm a married man with seven children."

"Yes, yes; save me!" she shrieked. "Then there'll be no falling into my arms and calling me preserver, will there?"

"Oh, no, no." "And you won't insist on marrying me for my heroic conduct?"

"No, no; only save me!" "All right, I'll tackle the job," he responded, as he threw aside his coat. "You see," he explained, just before diving in, "I was caught by one of these dodges once before, and that's why I'm married; it makes me a bit particular now."

Silence is anything but golden to the poor girl who is dumb to the entreaties of a wealthy suitor.

When a man says there is no use talking you may as well prepare for a long-winded argument.

It is much easier to teach twenty men what to do than to be one of twenty to follow your own teaching.

After a man has had occasion to employ a first-class lawyer it is useless to tell him that talk is cheap.

The Philadelphia Record prints a report that the battleship Kentucky may be launched at once, notwithstanding the denials of Naval Constructor Woodward.

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