

SUCH A NICE MAN

The grandfather's clock in the corner of the club smoking-room had boomed out the hour of midnight, when waiters yawn and wish they were in bed.

Several members sat down, reading the evening papers and chatting together, but little Mr. Banks remained silent in his corner, wearing a worried look as well as a dress-suit.

To him came his friend Tanks.

"What's the matter, old chap? You look almost worried to death," said he.

"The truth is my wife is horribly ill—in fact, the doctor says she must on no account receive any sudden shock, and—"

"Then why aren't you at home instead of messing about at the club? I'm surprised at you, Banks—I really am!"

"That's just it, Tanks. It's only just after twelve, and I went home as early as this it would give my dear wife the shock of her life!"

THOSE CHICKENS

Pouter and Pooke dabbled in poultry. Most of their evenings were spent in relating stories to illustrate the intelligence of their own chickens.

"Wonderful creatures hens are!" announced Pouter one night. "And so adaptable! I have one boss-eyed old cackler who would hatch out a bottle if you sat her on a piece of broken glass! As a matter of fact, only a few weeks ago she hatched out about three pints of water from a piece of ice! It came in useful at the time, too!"

"Ay, ay!" answered Pooke. "It's a wonderful thing, is Nature! An old hen of mine—name of Virginia—don't care a brass straw what she's fed on, and last week, for a joke, my boy gave her sawdust every day. But she never said a word—not she! But she laid seven eggs right enough—and sat on 'em, too! When they hatched out six of 'em had a wooden leg a-piece, and the seventh was a wood-pecker!"

COURTEOUS, BUT—

A minister wrote to ask leave of an Episcopal clergyman to take a funeral service in the churchyard. The courteous clergyman wrote back by return of post:

"Dear Mr. Smith, please understand that I shall be delighted to see you in our churchyard at any time."

THE VERY WORST

The Damsel—So you're an old soldier? What was the worst engagement you were ever in?

The Merchant—When I was engaged to my landlady's daughter for three weeks, miss!

GOSSIP

"I've been terribly busy lately, my dear."

"What's going on?"

"Oh, nothing more than usual. But there are so many new families in our community, you know."

