CURED BY A LAUGH

It Was a Hearty One and Better Than a Dose of Medicine.

A STORY ABOUT A LECTURE.

It Ought to Have Been Funny and Seemed at the Time to Be Funny and Yet Afterward There Was Grave Doubt as to Whether It Was or Not.

"What's your book?" Squire Dumont asked of a neighbor as they sat waiting their turn in the village barber shop.

"'Innocents Abroad,' by Mark Twain," was the reply. "I just got it out of the library. I suppose you would call it pretty light reading."

"You needn't be a bit ashamed of it, Mr. Pinkham," said the squire, heartily. "It's a book that has done a lot of good. It has made thousands of people laugh, and a good laugh is often better than a dose of medicine."

"I've seen that proved," said Mr. Pinkham. "I went to hear Mark Twain lecture once," he added, with a reminiscent chuckle.

"You don't say so!" exclaimed the squire. "I never had that pleasure myself. It must have been a great treat."

"Yes, it was. I'm a great admirer of Mark Twain and have been for years. I had always wanted to see and hear him, and when I saw in a Portland paper that he was to lecture there on a certain evening it came over me that that was my time to go and hear him.

"I had just lost a lawsuit, and my wife was away from home with a sick sister. I was pretty blue and lonesome and felt the need of being cheered up.

"I took the afternoon train, calculating to get to my cousin Jim's in time for supper and then go to the lecture. But, as luck would have it, a freight train had been wrecked near Brunswick, and we never got into Portland until 8 o'clock. However, I hurried to the hall and paid my way in and got a good seat right up in front. I had missed some of the lecture, but I was thankful to get what was left. It wasn't so much what he said, though, as the way he said it that tickled me. I laughed more that night than I had for a year.

"Well, after the lecture was over I made my way to my cousin Jim's. He has means, and they live in some style. But I got a cordial welcome. Clara, his wife, told me that I couldn't see Jim that night. He was poorly, and she was a good deal worried about him. But while we were talking he found out I was there and sent for me to come to his room. I never saw any one more in the dumps than he was. I guess he complained steady for as much as half an hour. He was a very sick man. He didn't relish his victuals, and what he did eat distressed him. Night after night he got hardly a wink of sleep, and nothing interested him any more. Moreover, what the doctor gave him didn't do a mite of good. It was pitiful to hear him go on. Finally he asked me how I happened to be in Portland.

"'So you came up to hear Mark Twain?' says he, and his face brightened up. 'Did you like him?' says he, and I said, 'Of course I did.'

"'Now tell me honestly,' says he, 'was that lecture as funny as you expected?'

"'Well,' says I, 'it was funny, of course, and I guess when I have had a chance to think it over it will seem funnier. But there were parts of it that didn't seem so dreadful funny.'

"Then all at once Jim fell back in his chair and began to choke, and for a minute I was scared. As soon as he could speak he says: 'That wasn't Mark Twain that you heard. He lectured here last week. What you heard,' says he, 'was a lecture on the poetry of Robert Browning by Professor'— I forget now what Jim called his name. Then he took to laughing again, and I thought he'd never stop.

"After that Jim wanted to know how the people near me took my laughing so much at the lecture, and when I remembered that some of 'em did scowl a little he went off again.

"Well, naturally I felt a little cheap, but afterward I wasn't sorry. The next morning Jim said he had had his first good night's rest for a month, and he really made out quite a breakfast. About a fortnight after that I got a letter from him saying that he was feeling quite like himself again.

"I don't know as my visit had a thing to do with it, but I've always felt as if it did. In that case it goes to prove what you said, squire, that a good laugh is sometimes better than a dose of medicine."—Youth's Companion.

Hard to Keep Up.

"Fond of reading, are you?"

"Yes."

"Read all Shakespeare's works, I suppose?"

"I don't know whether I've read his latest or not. So much stuff coming out these days!"—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Keeping Wifey Dressed.

"Money isn't everything."

"No; there are ways of getting along. Take my case, for instance. I married into a family where there is a dressmaker. You have no idea what a help that is."—Kansas City Journal.

"It's a good thing to know when to stop, but quite another thing to take advantage of your knowledge."—New York Times.

THE DAIRY COW IS COMING INTO HER OWN IN MISSOURI.

Never until this year has the state of Missouri and the dairy interests of the state awakened to the importance of the dairy cow. At the Missouri State Fair at Sedalia, September 25 to October 2, there will be held the greatest butter contest ever staged in the Union, and for a purse of $500, made up by the creamery men of Missouri themselves. This contest will bring hundreds of dairy cows to the Missouri State Fair. To compete all that is necessary is a creamery certificate of sale of milk to a creamery or a creamery station. All purses in the dairy cattle classes have been materially increased this year.

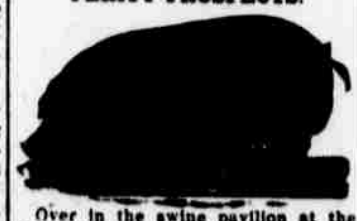
MISSOURI AND MULES ARE SYNONYMOUS AND INSEPARABLE.

Missouri State Fair without mules would be a travesty on the fame of Missouri, as the home of the best mules the world knows of. Every year the best of these animals are seen at Sedalia in competition with one another. No single feature at the Missouri State Fair from September 25 to October 2 this fall, unless it is the saddle horse classes, will attract more attention than the mule section.

THE FATTED CALF FARES FINE AT MISSOURI'S FAIR.

Missouri's State Fair at Sedalia always brings out the best among the fatted calves, whether they be grade or registered animals, and the premiums in the fat cattle section are attractive to feeders who are desirous of competing for honors with their best fat animals. From September 25 to October 2 this year, the Missouri State Fair will bring out the best collection and show of fat stock Missouri has ever seen.

HOGS HAVE HOLD ON MISSOURI FARMERS' PROSPERITY PROSPECTS.



Over in the swine pavilion at the Missouri State Fair at Sedalia every fall, one will find good crowds at all times as the Missouri hog is such a factor in the farmer's material prosperity that he is always an attractive show object.

During the state fair this fall, September 25 to October 2, the hog classes will share in the honors and awards to be made by competent and fair judges in recognition of their contribution towards Missouri's wealth and her position among the states of the union in point of industries and business activity.

A GOOD ARRANGEMENT.

Missouri State Fair Grounds Sectionalized for 1915.

A re-arrangement of the Missouri State Fair grounds will appeal to exhibitors this year in view of the fact that several important features of the big 1915 exposition are to have sections of the grounds exclusively to themselves. Silos will have an exclusive section as will fences and machinery. The silo school, maintained by the Board of Agriculture, will be particularly effective this year with all the exhibits concentrated in one part of the grounds, from September 25 to October 2, the fair dates this year.

THE LITTLE FOLKS AS WELL AS THE BIG FOLKS FIND THE MISSOURI STATE FAIR THEIR FAIR.

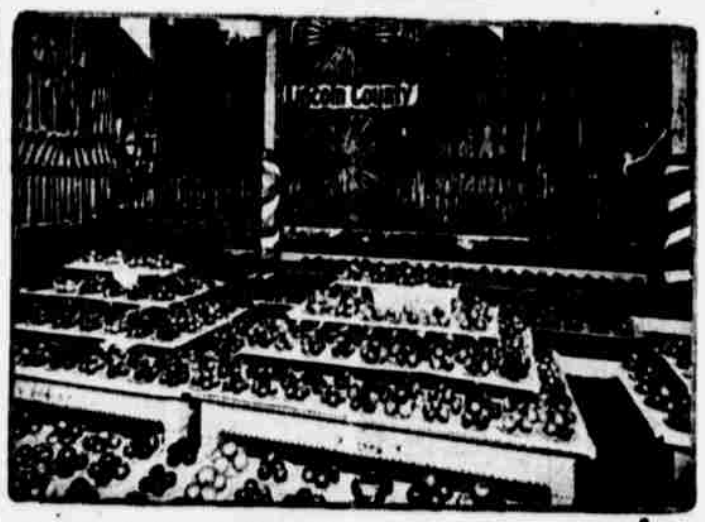
Little folks who are so fortunate as to be privileged to attend the Missouri State Fair at Sedalia find its crowds and its action and life great sights, but when they tire of the crowds and the big sights of the fair and seek childish recreation in play and rest it is to find that their every desire in this direction has been anticipated.

Not only is there a children's hospital and nursery in connection with the Woman's building, but there has been erected at the rear of the Woman's building, in a permanent and pleasant enclosure, a children's playground where all the most modern equipment is arranged for their amusement and recreation. Here mothers may "check" their little ones safe and secure in the assurance that they will not only be well and safely cared for, but that they are enjoying the most healthful exercise under the most pleasant environment. Children who are in Sedalia and the Missouri State Fair grounds from September 25 to October 2 will find the model playgrounds a delight and joy.

BEEF BREED CATTLE FIND MANY ADMIRERS AT THE MISSOURI STATE FAIR AT ALL TIMES.

Much of Missouri's wealth is traceable to the beef cattle industry for which it has long been famous. The solid beef breeds brought back to the farmer, when marketed, the money that enabled him to expand his holdings, to build more and better barns and houses, and still the beef breeds are supreme in Missouri, where they rove in knee deep grass. At the Missouri State Fair at Sedalia each year the beef breeds are seen at their very best and the prizes and trophies that will be carried away from Sedalia as the results of exhibiting there from September 25 to October 2 will be worth any beef breed owner and exhibitor's time.

COUNTY EXHIBITS ARE TO BE FEATURED AT THE MISSOURI STATE FAIR THIS YEAR.



Far famed for its productions of the orchard and garden as well as the feed lot and field, Missouri, through its State Fair is seeking this year to exploit the state by counties and to that end each county is being solicited to send an exhibit of the best it grows to be exhibited at Sedalia September 25 to October 2, the State Fair week. In the past several counties have made excellent displays of fruit and grains such as are shown in the illustrations, this exhibit being from Lincoln county and put on at Sedalia as one of the best showings in fruit production that has ever been sent to the state fair. Every effort is being made again this year to secure county exhibits for the 1915 exposition.

PERMANENT BUILDINGS FEATURE THE GROUNDS OF THE MISSOURI STATE FAIR IN PROMINENT WAY.

Permanency marks every feature of the construction of the buildings that dot the expanse of fair grounds at Sedalia. This is true, with the exception of a single wooden building owned by the state and one wooden building erected by a private exhibitor. Concrete and steel and brick and stone predominate in all other buildings on the fair grounds and now an all-steel fence, unclimable to the interloper who would visit the fair from September 25 to October 2 without paying admission, has been erected around the entire grounds. The Art building, shown above, while not the most pretentious in the grounds by any means, is an example of the splendid type of permanent construction which the state of Missouri has adopted.

AIRSHIP SCOUTING

The Aeroplane as a Range Finder In Modern Warfare.

AIDING THE MAN AT THE GUN.

How the Enemy Target Is Located and the Information Conveyed to the Artillery Officers—A Code System That Is Simplicity Itself.

Range finding by aviators is a recognized part of modern warfare, as carefully worked out as any other branch of the service.

The big gun's range is estimated in miles nowadays instead of in yards, as formerly. More often than not the gunners do not see the target at which they are aiming, and the men in the target do not see the spot whence destruction is being pumped at them. High hills and broad valleys probably intervene. But circling about in the air is the busy aeroplane which is establishing contact between the gun and its objective point.

It is essential, of course, that the man in the airship and the man at the gun have a constant system of communication. Seemingly difficult, this is a feat that is simplicity itself. The airship carries certain lights or smoke bombs with which it can convey information to the watchers on the ground. The gunners have great strips of white material which can be formed into letters of the alphabet and can be seen from the airship.

The rest is merely a letter of codes and mechanics. If the letter X means "observe for range" and the letter V means "observe for effect of fire" the air man can convey to the marksman whatever information they may desire.

The first thing, of course, is to locate the target. The air man goes up to a prearranged altitude and scouts about until he finds it. When he is directly over it he drops various lights in some understood combination of numbers or colors. The aviator's height is known, and the distance at which the lights are dropped can be ascertained by instruments. The distance then between the gun and the target becomes a simple problem of triangulation.

The location and distance being known, as well as the proper direction, the aviator gets the signal, "Observe for line of fire." A shell or so is thrown in the general direction of the target. As soon as the correct line is found the aviator gives the proper signal and then gets the signal to "observe for range." The first shell falls short. The second perhaps overshoots. The third perhaps reaches its mark. The aviator signals "Range," and the real bombardment is on.

If the gunner wishes to know whether his shells are timed to explode at the right place he signals to the aviator, "Observe for fuse." If he wishes to learn the effect of the cannonade he signals, "Observe for effect of fire." In this way a complete check of all that is going on is obtained.

Rarely, except on the preliminary scouting expedition, does the aviator attempt to fly over the enemy's position. Once he has located the target that part of his work is done. It is naturally the riskiest part, for his appearance is certain to make him the target for defensive aeroplane batteries and probably for a duel with a hostile aeroplane. So he flies back into a safer zone.

His subsequent position is decided largely by weather conditions. When the sun is shining he tries to keep from being between his battery and the sun, because if the gunners have to face the sun to find him it is hard for them to read the signals accurately. If the sun is shining toward the target the aviator gets behind his battery. If the sun is behind the battery the aviator gets between it and the target.

In the early maneuvers, when he is signaling the line of fire, he tries to fly in a regular ellipse at a stated altitude. When "observing for range" he flies in an elongated figure 8. The purpose of this is to enable him to move toward the target in his turns. In this way fire can be observed at every moment.

It is obvious that to insure the effectiveness of all this scientific and mechanical knowledge must be required. Modern shells are so constructed that they can be exploded at any desired height or distance. A shell that bursts too soon is practically valueless, while one that bursts too late loses much of its efficacy. An error of a few feet in the calculation of the aeroplane's height or in the target's distance would seriously impair the effectiveness of the fire.

The captive balloon is used for similar observation purposes, but it is not nearly so valuable as the aeroplane because of the latter's greater mobility and its ability to get right over the target and then get away again.—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

Biter Bitten.

"You don't seem to care much for original ideas," said the would be contributor, as he gathered up his manuscript.

"No," replied the cold blooded editor; "we'd rather have good ones."—Boston Transcript.

The Provident Duffer.

Patron—I want some dabbells. Dealer—What for? Patron—I'm going out golfing, and I want them to drive at the water hazards.—Judge.

Hasty climbers have sudden falls.—French Proverb.

TRENCHES IN WARFARE.

Tools the Soldiers Use to Burrow Into the Ground.

Trenches are imperative in land warfare, and so consequently are tools for digging. Therefore every soldier carries his own tools, with which he can throw up some sort of defense, if it is only six inches of earth, and which can be enlarged, if necessary, into a regular trench.

Curiously enough, the trenching tool was the invention of an American engineer, Brigadier General H. W. Benham of the Army of the Potomac. It was twenty-two inches long and weighed a pound and a half, and it is practically this same tool that is used today, although, of course, with modifications. The present model is usually lighter, the best design being that used by the Austrians. It is less than twenty inches in length, the blade being eight inches long by six inches wide, one side having a cutting edge and the other a saw edge. A tool of this kind can be used by the soldier while lying down, and a few vigorous strokes are enough to throw up some sort of temporary protection, which can easily be enlarged if the position is to be held.

Trenching drill is hated more than anything else by the soldier in time of peace, but that same soldier acquires a positive love for his little spade after he has once been under fire and so discovered for himself the salutary qualities of a little mound of earth in front of him.

The soldier in a good trench is absolutely safe except from well aimed shrapnel or from shells that happen to burst in the trench itself, which, of course, is a rare happening. Perhaps it is worth noting that the advantages of the trench were discovered by Alexander the Great.—New York Post.

THE COURT OF CLAIMS.

Various Kinds of Cases Over Which It Has Jurisdiction.

The court of claims of the United States was established by act of congress Feb. 24, 1855, and it was provided that it should have jurisdiction of all "claims founded upon the constitution of the United States or any law of congress, except for pensions, or upon any regulations of an executive department, or upon any contract, express or implied, with the government of the United States, or for damages liquidated or unliquidated, in cases not sounding in tort, in respect of which the claims of the party would be entitled to redress against the United States, either in a court of law, equity or admiralty, if the United States were suseable, except claims growing out of the late civil war and commonly known as war claims," and certain rejected land claims.

It has jurisdiction also of claims of like character which may be referred to it by any executive department involving disputed facts or controverted questions of law, where the amount in controversy exceeds $3,000, etc., and there is no appeal except on questions of law which may be sent up to the supreme court on the part of the defendants when the amount in controversy exceeds $3,000. The findings of fact by the court of claims is final.

There are provisions as to the statute of limitations after six years and many rules and modifications of the judicial code.

The court is located at Washington in the old Corcoran Gallery of Art, corner of Pennsylvania avenue and Seventeenth street. The term begins the first Monday in December each year, and cases may be entered at any time, whether the court is or is not in session.—Pittsburgh Dispatch.

A Woman and Her Signature.

One of the difficulties experienced by banks concerns the signatures of women depositors. In starting an account the specimen signature, for use of the bank, will read "Mary Emory." And Mary Emory is instructed that all of her checks must bear exactly that signature; no other and no additional initials. The first few checks are correctly signed, and then they begin to drift in "Mary E. Emory," "Mary Elizabeth Emory," "Mary Elizabeth Smith Emory," or with her husband's initials, "Mrs. M. F. Emory." Naturally trouble results.—New York Sun.

Where Maple Sugar Comes From.

Little wonder that first class maple sugar and sirup are scarce. Only one tree is tapped for every five people in our population. Counting both sugar and sirup, New York is the leading state for the values of its maple products, Ohio is second and Vermont third. But Vermont is far in the lead for maple sugar alone. The maple products of the country are worth over $5,000,000 a year.—Farm and Fireside.

Prank of an Earthquake.

There was one curious effect of a seismic shock in 1868. The cables connecting Australia with the outer world were suddenly broken by a distant earthquake, and the government, under the impression that an enemy had cut the lines, mobilized the naval and military forces in readiness to repel attack.—Pall Mall Gazette.

A Safeguard.

"Even if it does make you dizzy to go near the water you wouldn't be in danger if you fell in."

"How do you make that?"

"Didn't you say the motion of the waves always makes your head swim?"—Baltimore American.

Clean your finger before you point at my spot.—Benjamin Franklin.