

What "Hamlet" Lacked.
 In a mining camp town "Hamlet" was one evening given by a strolling company, and this is the criticism that appeared next day in the local papers, written by the miner dramatic critic:
 "There is too much chinning in this piece. The author is behind the times and seems to forget that what we want nowadays is hair raising situations and detectives.
 "In the hands of a skillful playwright a detective would have been put upon the track of Hamlet's uncle, and the old man would have been hunted down in a manner that would have lifted the audience out of their cowhides.
 "The moral of the piece is not good. The scene where Hamlet sasses his mother is a very bad example to the rising generation.
 "Our advice to the author is more action, more love-making and plenty of specialties. The crazy girl scene should be cut out altogether and a rattling good song and dance substituted."

Charles V. at Table.
 Emperor Charles V. of Austria, by far the most powerful ruler of his day, was thus described as he appeared at table by Roger Ascham, secretary to the English ambassador, in 1550: "I stood hard by the emperor's table. He had four courses; he had sod beef—very good—roast mutton, baked hare; these he no service in England. The emperor hath a good face, a constant look; he fed well of a capon; I have had a better from mine hostess Barnes many times in my chamber. He and Ferdinand, king of the Romans, ate together very handsomely, carrying themselves where they list, without any curiosity. The emperor drank the best that ever I saw; he had his head in the glass five times as long as any of us and never drank less than a good quart at once of Rhenish wine." It was notorious that the emperor ate and drank immoderately, and as a natural result he suffered terribly from gout from the time he was thirty years old.

Game to the Last.
 Douglas MacDougal and his old enemy, Donald MacDougal, were once opposed to each other in a famous curling match, and the last two stones to finish the game were the two cronies'. Donald MacDougal, with enormous deliberation, threw his stone. He threw it well. He made what is called a pat lid and jumped for joy. Then it was Douglas MacDougal's turn. His case seemed hopeless, but such a splendid throw did he make that the pat lid was knocked off, and his stone lay at the side of the tee, winning the game. In his joy the old fellow jumped sky high. He came down so hard that he broke right through the ice. He sank, but, bobbing up again, he shouted from the cold water:
 "Hi, lads, we've won, and if I dinna come out o' here alive be sure ye pit that stone on my grave!"—Exchange.

Dirt and Death.
 When a celebrated Paris physician was asked how the city could prevent the coming of a plague then ravaging other European places he answered, "Boil your ice!" That tersely called attention to the necessity of utter cleanliness and that even ice made from impure water carried disease.
 "Yellow fever," said Henry Ward Beecher, "is God Almighty's opinion of dirt." The chief contributing cause toward modern efficiency in surgery is that surgeons have learned to keep clean. Nothing is so spotless as a good hospital. Everything is boiled and sterilized—beds, instruments, clothing, washrags, floors, hands and finger nails. That is why they save lives there. Nobody would die if he could keep perfectly clean. Death is the final triumph of dirt.—Chicago Tribune.

He Understood the People.
 One of Jay Gould's campaigns as a dealer in railroads was with the Wash system of railroads. He got control and after effecting a reorganization which increased the capital stock and also the bonded debt sold them out. It is related of him at this time that an associate said to him, "Mr. Gould, don't you think you are bonding this much higher than the property will stand?" "That may be," answered he, "but the American people are mighty partial to bonds."

She Has Positive Proof.
 The Cook—Sure, an' ye don't mane to tell me that ye think it's bad luck to break a mirror? The New Maid (earnestly)—I don't think; I know it. The Cook—Glory be! An' how do ye know it? The New Maid—Every time I break one I lose my job.—New York Journal.

Part of the Role.
 "Shall we pose as millionaires or as foreign dukes at the hotel?"
 "As the latter, my boy. As millionaires we might be expected to display some evidences of wealth, but as dukes nobody can possibly take it amiss if we skip."—Kansas City Journal.

Currying No Favor.
 "Lend a hand, Hiram, and help ketch the alderman's pig."
 "Let the alderman ketch his own pig. I'm out of politics for good."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Taken at His Word.
 Creditor—Suppose I'll have to wait till the day of judgment for what you owe. Debtor—Yes; call late in the day, though.—Fleigende Blatter.

Thought works in silence; so does virtue. One might erect statues to silence.—Carlyle.

mercury and mixed into a paste. The silver article to be gilded has been chemically cleaned, is rubbed all over with this paste, which has been placed in a silk bag, just as the blue used in washing is put in a bag. When the piece of plate has been rubbed over it is perfectly white. It is then put into an oven, and gradually the mercury goes off in fumes, leaving on the article a deposit of pure gold, which has practically become one with the piece of silver and will last for centuries.—London Cor. New York Post.

The Spider Cure.
 The request for a "nut to put a spider in to cure baby's whooping cough" which recently startled a Somerset shopkeeper recalls the spider "cures" of the past. There was, and indeed is, for instance, that Irish belief in the web as a remedy for cuts, warts and bruises and that superstition of the eastern counties which credited it with power to cure fevers. The weaver of the web, too, was looked upon as a doctor of medicine.
 A note from an ancient Notes and Queries gives the illustration. "One of my parishioners suffering from ague," wrote a Somerset vicar, "was advised to catch a large spider and shut him up in a box. As he pines away the disease is supposed to wear itself out." A similar belief prevailed in the south of Ireland, but there treacle had to be substituted for the box as coffin for the ague healer.—Westminster Gazette.

The Doctor's Joke.
 A physician who never goes out at night without leaving directions as to where to find him if wanted professionally was at a theater near Forty-second street recently with a friend. Just before the curtain went up on the second act an usher handed him a note reading: "Come to the office at once. Don't telephone. Come." The note was signed by a colleague, and the doctor lost no time in obeying the peremptory summons. Arriving at his destination, he was confronted by several friends, who coolly explained that he had been used to decide a bet as to the length of time it would take to cover the distance which he had traversed. The victim's anger was only slightly appeased when he was assured that the perpetrators of the joke knew no one else who was good natured enough to furnish the information looked for.—New York Tribune.

Putting the Owl to Use.
 There is a choice old recipe, in which the owl figures, "to make any one that sleethp answer to whatsoever thou ask," given in "Physick For the Poor," published in London in 1657. It says that you are to "take the heart of an owl and his left leg and put that upon the breast of one that sleethp, and they shall reveal whatsoever thou shalt ask them."
 The Hindus, however, declare that the flesh or blood of an owl will make a person insane who eats or drinks it. On this account men who are devoured by jealousy of a rival or hatred of an enemy come furtively to the market and purchase an owl. In silence they carry it home and secretly prepare a decoction, which an accomplice will put into the food or drink of the object of their malignant designs.

Wanted a Supply.
 "Politics," remarked a Washington official, "is a science as well as a circus. One of the funniest things I ever heard in that connection was about the cowboy delegate to the constitutional convention of Nevada when that territory was about to become a state. In the constitution was the stereotyped paragraph about the new state's having two senators to represent it in Washington. When it was read to the convention the cowboy delegate rose and yelled out: 'What's the use of limiting it to two? We're overwhelmingly Republican, and we can elect as many as we want.'"—Washington Star.

The Demons.
 "Critics are fine chaps," said an English actor, "but I must confess that when they condemn your play you feel annoyed."
 "I wonder why we call the people in the top of the house gods?" an actress asked an unsuccessful playwright once.
 "We do that," the unsuccessful playwright answered, "so as to distinguish them from the people in the bottom of the house who write the criticisms."

It Depends.
 An actor and a retired army man were discussing the perils of their respective callings.
 "How would you like to stand with shells bursting all round you?" the general demanded.
 "Well," replied the actor, "it depends on the age of the egg."

Poor Venies.
 Friend—And were you ever in Venice? Mr. Richquick—Yes. Slowest town I was ever in. The sewers were busted all the time we were there!—Puck.

A Warm Welcome.
 Saplegh—Are you positive that Miss Cutter is not in? The Maid—Yes, sir. I'd lose my job if I wasn't.—Boston Transcript.

A charming young member of a woman's literary club, who adds the distinction of being a bride to successful authorship, recently met a gushing stranger at a club reception.
 "Oh, Mrs. Blank, I am so glad to meet you. I enjoy your stories so much, and your husband's too." Then adding as an afterthought, "He is literary, too, isn't he?"
 "Thank heaven, no!" replied the bride. "He's in the coal business."—New York Press.

Progressing.
 "I think Arthur would have proposed to me last night if you hadn't come in the room just when you did."
 "What reason have you for believing that?"
 "He had just taken both of my hands in his. He had never held more than one of them at a time before."
Wide Hats In 1798.
 An artist has advertised that he makes up wornout umbrellas into fashionable gypsy bonnets. The transition is so easy that he is scarce to be praised for the invention.—London Times, July 7, 1798.

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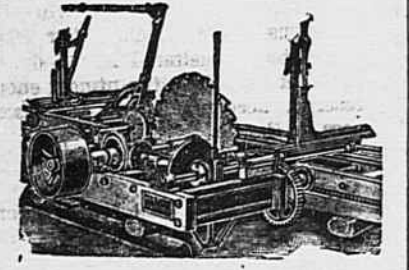
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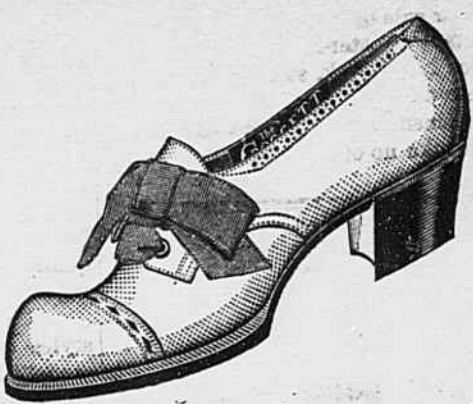
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