

JAPANESE COLOR PRINTS.

Wonderful Posters Produced in the Orient  
—Impressions on a Spectator.

Whoever thinks that Posterland was originally situated in Egypt should take a look at the Japanese color prints exhibited in the library of the Drexel institute, and be convinced that it was discovered in picturesquely Japan. Each of them is a handbill, an invitation to a dramatic performance, and shows some character or scene in the play, a quotation and the artist's signature, sometimes his seal as well, for Japanese artists at the end of the eighteenth century had regular seals. It is in reality block printing; the Japanese learned this color printing from the Chinese, who were adepts at it 2,000 years ago. To the ordinary person it would seem that such a hand bill would be enough without going to the performance at all. However, after one got used to such treats one would probably pass scant time with them, even though they were marvels both as to drawing and color. A lovely one, for instance, shows pink skies, terra cotta trees and a maroon building. Now, isn't that picturesque? And the skies vary from a very timely military blue to odd black twishes, which might be the tails of so many horses belonging to the Valkyries themselves.

This is a most admirable move, and one that will meet with the approbation of intelligent people everywhere. In all cities and large towns there should be botany classes and regular courses of lectures. The knowledge thus acquired would be of the utmost advantage in every household. To be able to discriminate between wholesome and pernicious vegetable growths of all sorts is a great point gained, and this is what a comprehensive study of botany enables one to do. If the time which is spent at table in useless, senseless and oftentimes vicious gossip about persons were occupied in the discussion of a plant, a shrub, or a tree, that had points of interest—and every specimen of vegetation has many—the world would be the gainer in two ways; first, by suppressing an existing evil, and second, by the diffusion of extremely useful information.

As a supplement to botanical studies, people living in agricultural districts could take up the investigation of scientific farming, horticulture, floriculture and dairying. Very few people who make their living at these occupations understand them thoroughly, and in almost all instances would be more than pleased if they could learn to make three dollars where now they make but two.

It is quite possible under improved methods, and with the scientific knowledge which is easily gained by practical farmers to grasp such new ideas and theories as will add greatly to the productiveness of their acres. N. Y. Ledger.

THE STUPID BOY.

Not Always as Stupid as He Looks—Often Stupidiy Judged.

Here is a lesson and perhaps encouragement for parents who have a stupid boy, for no doubt there are a few stupid boys in the world, even amid the lights of this closing century. It is said that when Isaac Barrow, one of the greatest of English preachers, was a boy his father thought him very stupid, and used to say if it pleased God to take from him any of his children he hoped it would be Isaac. But Isaac was not taken; he grew to be one of the greatest preachers of England, a professor in the University of Cambridge and a teacher of Sir Isaac Newton. It is well to remember that a boy is not necessarily stupid because he is pronounced stupid. He may be stupidly judged. The fire of intellect may kindle slowly; it may seem to be smoldering under a heap of ashes, hopelessly suppressed. Genius does not always shoot up like a skyrocket. It may come like the rising of the sun to meridian splendor, slowly, steadily. Do not be discouraged by the apparent stupidity of the boy or girl. Give him or her a fair chance. The first movements of the great sea-going vessel are apparently awkward and hesitating as she tries to turn to get out of the harbor. But watch her graceful, splendid movements as she plows the ocean or weathers the storm.

Moreover, a stupid judgment of a boy is damaging to him. To call him a dunce, a blockhead, an idiot is very unwise as well as unkind. It may discourage him, may for a long time paralyze his efforts, may even permanently affect his character. Give the stupid boy a chance, and it will be known ere long whether he is really or only apparently stupid.—Baptist Courier.

Cutting Acquaintance.

Wooley—Snithers says he makes no acquaintances among medical students.

Ketton—Why not? Wooley—He says he's afraid they'll cut him dead.—Nobury Gazette.

Not in Boston.

"Now, Bobbie," said the teacher in the natural history class, "what is a panther?"

"A man that maketh panth," piped Bobbie.—Boston Traveler.

May—Why, dearest, there won't be another leap year until 1904.—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

The Proper Sauce.

"You wouldn't serve mint sauce with Wall street lamb, would you?" asked the observant boarder.

"Certainly," replied the cross-eyed boarder. "Serve that variety of lamb with United States mint sauce. Brokers would not care for it with it."—Pittsburgh Chronicle-Telegraph.

Claire—Well, I have enjoyed 64 proposals so far in my life.

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Clara—Six years, yet? What do you mean?

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