HIST A MATTER OF INCUIRY.

Why Should People Entertain or Be Entertained When It Gives Them No Pleasure?

"In a periodical the other day," says the amateur philosopher of the Providence Tribune, I ran across a picture of what had evidently been a musical entertainment or musicale-I took it to have been a musicale for choice.

"The fiddlers had gone and so had the soloist or soloists and guests. There remained in the foreground the deserted room and a waste of empty chairs, along with the open grand

The host's head was resting on his arms on a table, the hostess had removed her shoes and was on the verge of collapse. In the background a butler was looking on commiseratingly.

Now there's a good deal of that sort of thing first and last the country over It was true to life, but I never could understand it. That is, nobody has ever explained to me why people who don't enjoy entertaining or being entertained persist in making martyrs of themselves; why anybody does something for pleasure that invariably gives pain?

"A person who puts himself out and wears himself out in the line of duty is comprehensible, but why you should sacrifice yourself when you're pretending to be looking for fun is beyond me.

The woman who said that her idea of a perfect life from the social point of view would be to be asked everywhere and to go nowhere doubtless expressed the sentiment of thousands, but why go anywhere if you feel that way?"

FACTS ABOUT MOTHER EARTH.

Points of Interest Concerning This Wonderful Globe, as Veuched for by Scientists.

Our dear old earth which seems immovable and solid as we go about our daily work or travel over its furrowed surface, is yet spinning, and rolling, and swaying in complex but orderly motion. Its axial rotation gives us day and night. Its circuit round the sun brings the seasons and the year. The circling of the poles produces the procession of the equinoxes. The planets perturb in its courses. The plain of its orbit sways up and down, and its perihelion is slowly shifted. The mean swings it around a center of gravity common to both, while the sun and all our system speeds onward to some far distant goal. And if the bright star in the Taurus is the central point round which this vast orbit sweeps then Alcyons is the center of the universe for us.

As far as astronomers can judge this motion through the vast abyse of intersteller space is at the rate of about a million miles a day, and it is Hercules. The motion through space is believed to be away from Argus and toward Hercules. Some have thought that Alcyona in the Pleiades is somewhere near the center of the vast circuit swept over by the sun and his attendant worlds. If this is true, that beautiful star as it sliently twinkles in the constellation Taurus becomes of surpassing interest to

Wood Chopping as a Sport.

In Tasmania is to be found a national pastime that is special and particular to that state alone—the sport of wood chopping. At Hebart and Laducesten they have their turf meetings, their cricket, football, golf, mycling, and so forth, but to a woodchopping contest people will flock from far and near-men, women and children—and watch the az wielders howing away at hugo blocks of timber as if like and reputation depended upon the issue. Thud, thud, thud go the axes, and the splinters fly in all directions, the judges calmly sitting mear taking note of the strokes, the spectators cheering the competitors from time to time as frantically as if they were race berses. To be a woodchopping champion means semething to a man in Tuessania.

Growding the Scohory. The late Elizar Macariney Lane, the nevelot, used to tell a story to illustrate the conviction she cherished; that a superfluous detail in a story to a blomich and a disappointment.

"Up in Gloucester one summer," said Mrs. Lane, "I remember the etermal amateur sat on the beach and produced a picture which included sea, aky, rocks, boats, wagons and people for a great artist to criticise. The latiter looked at it a minute and then said quietly: 'Why didn't you put in the city of Chicago?"

"I think most of us in our work to-day," Mrs. Lane concluded, "try to put in the city of Chicage."

tretand's King Record. When Iroland was in the king business it made a record which all the wrest of the world can't beat. Prom ...4 A. D. down until the English bogan their tricks Ireland had 76 kings, and out of the lot only six died in bed. Sixteen were killed in battle, seven were slain by their successors, six fell by plain accessination, three were killed by thunderbolt, two died of plague, four entered monasteries, two were drawned, one died of grief, two

Begins Scener. Bacca-When a man marries, his Egbort-Oh, well, with some fellows fe begins as seen as they ask the

Few Remarks Made by Senator-Elect Convinced Them They Had No Protest Coming.

"A mild-mannered and genial Tennesecan, named Galloway, was elected to the state senate from Shelby county." said Secretary Dickinson of the war department, himself from Tennessee, "but there was a protest over it because, it was claimed. Galloway had been concerned in a duel in his younger days. The time came for swearing in the senators and the clerk called the roll by counties When' Shelby county was reached Galloway., wearing a long frock coat, stepped into the alsle.

"Mistuh president and senatuhs," he said, I have heard of this yere protest against my sitting in this body as a senatuh because I once engaged in an affair of honah. Now, suh, I want to say that I did engage in an affair of honah in my younger days in the state of Mississippi, and latuh in another affair of honah in the state of Arkansaw. Once again I engaged in an affaih of honah as second, not as a principal, in the state of Missis-

I contend, suh, that the state of Tennessee has no jurisdiction ovuh what is done in other states, and I am here to say, suh, that if any senatuh thinks otherwise and does not vote for me at this time I shall call him out, by gad, suh!-call him out and hold him personally responsible to me,

suh. That's all." "And they all voted for him."—Satturday Evening Post.

PRESENTED WITH A BIRTHDAY

Henceforth John Pruitt Will Celebrate Natal Day with Others on the Giorious Fourth.

It isn't everybody who can give a birthday present like William E. Berner gave to John Pruitt, colored, a

couple of days ago. Berner is the marriage license clerk at the county clerk's office, and as such he encounters all kinds of queer situations. The other day Pruitt came in to get a license to wed Eliza Clinkenbeard. Before a license can be procured nowadays one must answer in writing all kinds of foolish questions, among them being the date of birth.

Pruitt scratched his head when asked his natal day. "Fact is, Ah don't know," he said.

"Don't know how old you are?" Bernor saked. "Not for sure. Somewheres mear

40, I guess." "Haven't you a birthday?"

"Never had a birthday." "Well, I'll make you a present of a birthday right now," said Berner. Everybody should have a birthday. You are 40 years old and you were rn on the Fourth of July." And Berner wrote it dewn on the marriage

license papers that way. "New, remember." said Berner when Pruitt started to leave. "You were born on the Fourth of July and you musta't forget to celebrate your birthday when it comes around." "I won't," said Pruitt, highly pleased.—Indianapolis News.

Fletcherism and Walters. "Fletcherism may be good for the digestion of the diner, but it is bad for the pocketbook of the waiter," said a rectaurant proprietor. "People who chew according to Fletcher sit at the table so long that they keep other customers away, and so out down the number of tips. You don't see many of these scientific enters at linch time—even the Fletcherites don't have time to keep tab on the movement of their jaws then; but at night there. are many people abroad who eat by rule. You can pick them out in any restaurant. They count as they

"I have two regular customers who chew exactly 100 times on one bite of bread alone. At that rate you can figure how long it will take to get through a meal. Also, you can understand that the waiters don't think much of Fletcher and his disciples."

Fish Flow in His Boat. A. Paladini, the local fish merchant, the other day exhibited a flying fish which had been brought in by his fish-

ing steamer, the Henrietta. Fying fish are numerous in the waters of southern California, but they are rarely seen in this vicinity. While the Henrietta was steaming along about five miles beyond the Farallones the fish flow upon the deck and Capt. Alexander brought it into port. It is a foot long and weights nearly two pounds.—San Francisco

Epicurean Literary Man. M. Marcel Preveel, the French novelist and the latest elected academician, seems to be something of a Luculius. He likes ortolans, but "they must inve been fattened for six months in a cage in my own house." A certain "estoufinde de boeuf" seems a simple dich, but it "must have simmered slowly for two_days." When M. Provost has reasted saddle of lamb at home he will out only jamb that has been brought up since birth by two ewes, "devoted entirely to the service

Absent Minded. "Wilkins is the most absent minded cuss I ever met."

"Nov se!" "Why, the last time he got into the barber's chair be planed the newspaper around his neek and began to read the toyel."

STATESMEN SAW GREAT LIGHT I IS NEED FOR DEFINITE RULE

Writer In Woman's Publication Deplores Custom of Indiscriminate Gift Giving.

Just how much are the parents responsible for the indiscriminate giving of presents between boys and girls? Of course, certain rules of etiquette obtain in certain classes of society, but there is a mass outside, in the country and small towns, who are not governed by the rules laid down by Madam Grundy. There seems to be a tendency toward expensive gifts among the young people of today. Should a young girl be allowed by her parents to accept gifts other than candy, flowers, music and books from her boy friends? The question often comes up in the homes when some boy, all in good faith, gives the girl friend a bit of expensive jewelry. Some mothers, at once, compel the girl to return the gift and that ends the friendship and causes an embarrassing situation. Of course, there are girls, without conscience or that innate refinement which every good wholesome girl possesses, who just go with a boy for the sake of the gifts lavished upon her.

Now, does the responsibility of indiscriminate giving rest with the parents of the boy or the girl? If the boy was trained by his mother not to offer expensive presents to the girls until Miss Right comes along, it would save many a heartache. If the girl has been properly instructed, could not she, in an unobtrusive way. give the boy to understand that such gifts were not desirable? Indiscriminate giving between boys and girls often causes an innocent friendship to degenerate into mawkish sentimentallam.—The Housekeeper.

ONLY USED SAFETY MATCHES.

Tender-Hearted Man Explains Why He Has Given Up the Other Kind.

"I never carry any but safety matches," said the orator in the red, white and blue vest. "It's a matter of conscience with me." 'Why so?" inquired the drum ma-

"Because," said the orator, "when the world uses safety matches exclusively, phoesy jaw will disappear. You know what phosey jaw is? It's the rotting away of the jawbone, as horrible am lift as legrosy, that is contracted by the workers poor duffers in factories where strike-anywhere matches are made. Phossy jaw comes from white phosphorus. White phosphorus is the base of strike-anywhere matches, but in safeties there's not a grain of it, and so in safety-match fac-

tories phosey jaw is unknown. "It always seems to me," concluded the orator, "when I scratch a strikeanywhere match, that I am belping to give some poor girl or boy worker phoesy jaw. But when I scratch salety, then I feel like Flexner in his Rockefeller institute or Metchalkell in his laboratory—I am helping to rid the world of disease."

How to Inclose a Stamp. "There's only one decent way to inslope a stamp for a reply," said the bond of a large business, "and that is to use one of the stamps from the outside rows of a sheet with a blank margin that can be stuck upon the letter and leaves the stamp ready for use. Any other way either loses the stamp or else spoils it for use. But I found to-day a trick that is pretty good Most people inclose the stamp by sticking it down at one corner, and then you have to pasts that corner down when you use the stamp. The new trick is to wet the stamp in a little apace in the center and stick it there. It pulls of easily, set when you use the stamp all the edges have one enough to stick."—Farm Ma-

Plewers Without Feliage. One of the most extraordinary flowere in oultivation is Hall's amaryllis, which reverses the order of mature by blooming in midsummer without any feliage. Ordinary builts bloom in spring and rest in summer, but Hall's amorphis audiculy appears out of the bere ground during the dry season.

This entraordinary plant has fregrapt, resy Hisc fewers which are banded with yellow. In the spring the leaves make their growth, die down, and after a long interval of rest the flewer stalks appear with the strange effect here described .- Gardon Magazine.

Versatile Destiny. A man becomes a fan and soon leess his bearth and home. Another yearns to shuffe of this mortal coil and gets kicked into a pricon cell by his hasty father. Another learns to his surprise, as thousands have learned before him in various ways, that there are all kinds of unsuspected dangers in sitting on a sofa with a young woman. A wife may spring a divorce, a father may take a sudden notion to kick or spank, and lightning may yank an innecest young man away from his girl and make deats in the ceiling with him. Destiny is a surprisingly versatile thing, with a million and one ways of knocking human plans galloy-west.

A Bost That Fell Through. "Bases Fewersh was rather smal-

ing so to the det." "That wean't school broke the en-gagement," answered Mr. Cusares, "I den't object to seeing a young man look opt for his interests. But when be applied for a cash advance in order to buy an engagement ring, I must say it struck me as unbusiness-

WINS OR LOSES A PATIENT.

Little God of Love Is Responsible for Variations in the Income of a Dentist.

Cupid has more to do with making the dentist's income an uncertain and variable quantity than any other single influence. A dentist who from the girlhood of Gladys Vanderbilt yearly received fat fees for keeping her teeth in order remarked recently with regret at the loss of this source of revenue after she became Countess Szechenyi.

"A dentist never knows," he added, when marriage is going to rob him of one of his most profitable patients. I am proud that it has been my experience that persons who have come to me to have their work done always come back again if their teeth need attention-until Cupid comes in to upset my calculations "Whenever I hear of one of my pa-

tients planning a wedding I know that I am going to lose a patient or win a new one. The bride and bridegroom almost invariably go to the same dentist. From my standpoint it's a case of lose one or win both."

The element of uncertainty that such a condition provides makes the poor dentist uneasy at times about the size of future incomes.—Philadelphia Evening Telegraph.

DOG THAT TOLLS FOG BELL

Intelligent Animal is invaluable Assistant to Keeper of Isolated Light Station.

Off the shores of Alaska, on a small, rocky island, is a little light station, connected with which is a fog beil. During the continuance of dense fogs. which frequency prevail, the bell is used to warn vessels of the danger of approaching too near the island and coast.

The lightkeeper has a large and very intelligent shepherd dog that answers to the name of Don Carlos. This dog has been trained to toll the fog bell when the weather is very heavy. So well trained is Don Carlos that, when the fog comes rolling in, he rushes, unbidden by the keeper, to the bell and begins to tug at the rope and to sound the alarm.

Don Carlos often takes his turn at the bell during the night when the keeper is busy looking after the light.

"I do not see how I could get along without Don Carlos," the keeper declares. "I am all alone and have no other assistant; but I can always rely implicitly on my dog. He knows his duty and faithfully performs it, whether told to do so or not."

Our Real Leieure Class. Does any one think longingly of our harried and driven rich as the "leloure class?" Far from it are they. Dashing hither and you from dawn call of emulation, none has less leisure than they. To see the real leisure classes of America visit Central park. There, on the benches and on the grass, you will see them-auresmaids, sitting perfectly idle for hours while baby sleeps in his cab or frolics on the grass; grandma or grandpa keeping idle guard over the third, or even the fourth generation, and a miscellaneous collection of bums, stretched out wherever they can be most comfortable and caring not a whit that the world moves so long as they do not have to. They understand the rest thing in leisure.-New

The Fax Who Had Lest His Tail. A fox caught in a trap escaped with the loss of his brush. Thereafter feeling his life a burden through the ridicule to which he was exposed, be schemed to bring all other foxes into like condition with himself, that in the common loss he might better conceal his own deprivations. He assembled a good many foxes and publicly advised them to cut off their tails, saying they would not only look much better without them, but would get rid of the weight of the brush, which was a very great inconvenience. But one of them interrupting him eald: "If you had not yourself lost your tail, my friend, you would not thus counsel us."-Accep's Pables.

Strongth of Early Impressions. Grown people have in general a very inadequate idea of the susceptibility of little children. As a little tree is easily warped from its true shape, so is the heart and the mind of a little child.

Said Prochel: "If I pierce the young! leaf of the shoot of a plant with the, finest needle, the prick forms a knot which grows with the leaf, becomes harder and harder, and prevents it from obtaining its perfectly complete form. Something similar takes place after wounds which touch the tender germ of the human soul. It would have been far different with bemanity if every individual in it had been protected at that tender age."

Decaying Newspaper Files. Newspaper files are giving Merarians no little anxiety. For the last two decades or so the daily journals have all been printed on weed-pulp paper, which is not of durable quality. course of time the flor become so briffle as dry, this pine sharings. It to presented by some students and theoriese that the greater jeurgale, at least, print a few copies daily, after their regular editions are "ren off," an paper of the old-fashioned, everlasting sert, enough to insure the permebeacy of their own flee, and supplying other copies to the libraries of

GRATED ON JURY'S FEELINGS.

Lawyer's Oratorical Flight Well Meant, But It Did Not Tend to ... Help His Client.

According to an Indiana lawyer, the verdict of the jury in a case tried in that state was distinctly influenced by an unfortunate break made by a youthful attorney in his closing ad-

The defense put forward had been that the defendant was an imbecile, and consequently was unable to distinguish between right and wrong in his summing up the young lawyer made clever use of this point; but, when about to close, expressed himself in this extraordinary manner: "Gentlemen of the jury, gaze upon

this unfortunate defendant. Regard, gentlemen, that receding forehead, the significant angle of those ears, the lack-luster expression of those eyes. Need I remind the gentlemen of the jury that these are unmistakable evidences of Nature's deprivation of the power to distinguish right from wrong? Ignorant of this distinction between right and wrong, gentlemen of the jury, how can this poor imbecile be convicted of the charge brought against him? Why, gentlemen, this unhappy man is like a twoyear-old child-he neither knows why he does a thing nor how. Therefore, gentlemen, it is with peculiar pride I reflect that, such are the institutions of this, the greatest and most glorious of all nations, that my client, imbecile though he be, to-day stands for a trial by a jury of his peers!"-The Sunday Magazine.

YSAYE GOT PRECIOUS VIOLIN.

Renowned Virtuoso Owes Possession of Instrument to the Generous Act of a Friend.

An interesting story is told of M. Eugene Ysaye. In his younger and poorer days he was very anxious to secure a Guadagnini violin which he saw in a pawnbroker's window in Hamburg. Although he had not the wherewithal, he asked the pawabroher to lay it aside, as he might be able to purchase it some day. The man agreed to keep it for a certain time. Yeave went back to his rooms with very mingled feelings. How could be raise the necessary money? That was the question which puszied and worried him. To his great surprice he met a friend who had just arrived from Belgium, and in despair begged him to lead him enough to buy the wonderful instrument, "It's a large sum to pay," said the friend, "and I haven't enough money with me." "Would you lead it if you had?" asked the violinist. "Yes," was the reply. "Look here, then," said Yeaye, "you deal in diamonds" "Yes." "Then leave a few diamonds as security and get me the precious Guadagnini." Yeave's Triend was surprised at the ness of the request, consented to do so. "In this way," says Yeaye, "I was married to my first love among the fiddles my Guadagnini."

On his estate in the Catakilis a New York man employs a great deal of local help, giving the farmers and their folk the preference whenever possible, in his big-hearted way. Not long ago, his cook needed an assistant and he engaged a neighboring farmer's wife to come over the next day. When she arrived at 7:20 a. m. she apologised for being late and explained that before leaving home she had got breakfast for the family of stx, had put up a lunch for her husband and one son, who were going to work in the field, and another lunck for three of the children who were going to school, had milked five cows. fed the pigs and chickens and walked a mile to the New York man's place. He said he would excuse her for not getting there at six.

Her Good Excuse.

Richard Wagner. "Every one finds some fault with Wagner, but that is because be is a mountain, a huge bulk of a soul with black caverus, scarred edges, barren wastes and empty craters. He has been weather-stained, mud-spattered, lightning-struck, dynamite-blasted, but still he is a mountain; his thrust is upward, the peak is snow and sunshine, and he commands the horizon. He belongs with the master heights of human glory, with Homer, Dante, Shakespeare, Milton, Michelangele, Boothoven; and he is of a bigness with the biggest."-Rupert Hughes in Smith's Magazine.

Dickons Family Lost Big Fortune. Dickens was one of the most succossful financially of all authors. His was no case of genius starving in a garret. "Pickwick" placed him above want at 25, and for a period of 20 years fellowing its publication in 1836-7 he received a princely income from his writings. His American tour brought him \$50,000. His estate at his death in 1879 was estimated at \$400,000. That his grandchildren should now be in need of the triding pension bestowed on them is a painful illustration of the vicinsitudes of mosily fortune.

A Dreary Land. The country from Jerusalem to the Jordan valley to as dreasy and dese-

Into as could be imagined. The-hills look like great hanks of rock and sand. Not even the Sahara Staolf looks more forbidding. It is the "payatry not tababited," the wildernoss into which the economist was diffeen. We are all glad we went, but name of us could be induced to go

THEORIST IN DEEP TROUBLE

He Cannot Understand Why Things Disappear When They Are Not in Constant Use.

"Did you ever notice," asked the theorist, how a thing will disappear if you don't use it for awhile? Leave it around your room for awhile and it will vanish."

"Easy enough," said the practical man. "The servant sweeps it into the wastebasket."

"Not at all," said the theorist, "Try the experiment of having two of any thing and use one, and the other will disappear. I mislaid my pocketknife a few weeks ago and bought another. I found my old one that night and carried both in my pocket for awhile, always using the new one. In the course of time the old one vanished --- van ished magically from my pocket."

"You dropped it," said the practical man.

"Why didn't I drop the new one?" asked the theorist. "And why is it always that way? I had a new key made for my office deak, under the impression that there was something wrong with the old one. There wasn't. I carried both of them on a ring. After awhile the old one, which I didn't

use, vanished off the key ring. "At home I use an eyeshade for reading at night. I had two, one light and one heavy. Lately I have been using the heavy one alone, keeping the light one in a drawer. To-day I opened the drawer and found the light one gone. Do you think the maid opesed the drawer so as to find something to sequester for the wastebasket?"

"Bosh!" said the practical man. "Try it," said the theorist.

BLOSSOMS THAT DO NOT MIX

Fierist Tells of a Few Things He Has Learned in His Business of Handling Flowers. ---

The florist frowned as he took up an order for a table decoration. "That will never do," be muttered. After calling up the customer and suggesting a change, he told his new clerk a

few things. "You must never take an order that calls for a mixture of mignomette and roses," he said. "A centerpiece of those two flowers wouldn't last half through the luncheon. They simply wilt one another. I don't know why, but they can't get along together.

"It is true of many flowers. Passies, for instance, last twice as long as if they are not combined with any other flower, and the same may be said of violets. Josquils and defocils, on the other hand, seem to get a new lease of life if you combine considerable green with them. Carnations will go all to pieces if you combine them with roses, although the roses do not seem to be affected.

"It is more striking in combinations green with flowers. If you try to use an entirely different type of foliage from what the flower is used to, it won't last so long. So I never put feathery foliage with filles of the valley, for you know its natural fellage is a thick leaf. I never use thick leaves with carnations, for their felfage is of the feathery type. It isn't as though the flowers fought, but they seem to grieve at being misunder-

Calvin a Man of the World. Calvin had many advantages. He was not a scholar merely, he was a man of the world. He had traveled, was familiar with the life of courts, was on terms of intimate friendship with many of the most distinguished persons of his day. He had a commanding intellect, a literary style which was the envy and admiratioon of the learned. He knew law as well as he did theology. French as well as he did Latin. His grasp of a wide range of subjects and his attention to detail were things to mervel at. Add to these an inexhaustible patience and a buildeg tenacity of purpose, a vivid human interest and an emesing capacity for work, and we begin to understand how it was that this penniless and sickly fereigner, who came to Geneva in the first instance so wilerly unknown and without prestige as to figure in the records merely as "a Frenchman," ended by setting bis stamp so ineffacably upon the place that it remains there even to our own day.---Contury.

Opinions of Others. I never yet knew any man so bad but some have thought him honest and afforded him love; nor any one se good but some have thought him vile and hated him. Few are so thoroughly wiched as not to be estimable to some; and few are so just as not to seem unequal; ignerance, envy and partiality enter much into the opinions we form of others. Nor can a man, in himself, always appear ailke to all. In some, nature has made a disparity; in some, report has blinded judgment, and in others accident is the cause of disposing us to love or hats.--Owen Felitham.

Cajoling an Indian God. A story comes from Gorakbyur, India, to the effect that two boys went to the river alde to involte the water god Mahadee. They recited "menthras" at some length, but Mahedee old not uppear. Whoreupon the lade contrived to hasten his coming by. owerd, suggesting thousby: to the re-enlettrant that their lives were in dan-ger. This method of invocation proving abortive as well, they both jumped | into the river. Due was drowned, but the other returned to his right mind and see home to tell his story.

L'ABEILLE DE LA NOUVELLE-ORLEANS