

THE DAILY MENTAL MENU

Assimilation and Elimination of the Contents of the Big Newspaper.

The meal is prepared for one person; the menu for many persons. Now, the newspaper is not a meal; it is a menu. It is not edited for one person but for many persons.

Not for "the mass" or "the masses;" that is a corroding superstition. There is no "mass" to read a newspaper—only individuals. But into the newspaper there is put a wide variety of things because there is a wide variety of persons in the world this year.

The man who wants only a bunch of grapes and a little tea and toast for breakfast cannot understand the individual next him who is of business, who demands buckwheat cakes, sausages and pie; yet the hotel must take in both.

So must the newspaper. The art of newspaper reading may be divided into two parts—elimination and assimilation, the St. Louis Republic says. No one individual is concerned in the making of newspapers; any business with the whole paper. The reader should select what concerns him in the day's news and read by the rest on the other side.

Failure to do that leads to the reading of much more than can be read carefully. Result: Misty impressions and vague, purposeless thinking. The real news of the day for any one human being is contained in not more than a dozen "stories;" choose the dozen that concern you and concentrate on them. Don't try to cover everything in the paper—not even everything on politics or sport. There are 20 different oyster dishes on a good menu, but to get enough nitrogen to keep from starvation a man would have to eat 14 dozen a day.

SCIENCE OF SCARPOLOGY

It is the Analyzing of Down-at-the-heel Condition of Your Fellows.

Those who have hitherto been interested in analyzing the down at heel condition of a section of their fellow creatures may be pleased to hear that they have been dabbling in a science distinguished by the name of scarpology, of which Doctor Garrier of Bern, Switzerland, is the chief exponent. It is the art of knowing men and women by the examination of their footwear.

Criminal investigators as well as others who wish to read character accurately cannot afford to disregard scarpology, says the doctor. Given a pair of shoes worn by their owner for at least two months and he can tell the character, disposition and habits of the wearer. By careful practice you may in a few minutes gauge a man at his worth simply by glancing at his feet.

Roughly speaking, the chief indications of character lie in the manner and proportion in which the soles and heels are worn out. Beware of the man who wears out the toe and the external edge of the sole simultaneously, says Doctor Garrier. He will always invariably turn out a crook. It is up to the crooks now to disguise their feet.

Curious Spoon.

At the present time you are familiar with all manner and shapes of spoons intended for diverse purposes, but some of the old-fashioned ones are certainly quaint. For instance, there is the long, narrow spoon, used a couple of decades ago for the extraction of marrow from bones. This spoon was made double, one end being employed for small bones and the other for those of larger bone.

Another odd spoon was used for sparrow-birds. This had a perforated bowl, and with this a little sugar was sprinkled on the berry, which was then conveyed to the mouth on the spotted end of the handle.

Very few coffee-spoons are seen these days. Teaspoons of the old type have long since gone their way, and with them disappeared the odd-looking spoon. The small, needle and pin spoons have long since gone out of use.

Yes Utteral.

"Do you ever think, George, dear," said she, and her voice was soft and low as he looked the perfect beauty of the night—"do you ever think how closely true happiness is allied with tears?"

"Well, that's a fact," assented George dear, "but I never thought of it before. After all, there's nothing but the soap"—idea.

Breakage No Less. A woman who keeps a restaurant in Washington square, New York, is looking to advantage the carelessness of her servant girls. Whenever out of her pail breaks a dish of figured china, the flat part of the dish or plate, with a pattern showing on it, is carefully laid aside. She has arranged these old pieces in a pretty mosaic pattern for her window, setting them in cement, and in a year or so she expects to have enough broken bits of plate to cover the entire floor of the restaurant as she has done the window.

CLUB TO MAKE NEWSIES GOOD

Omaha Business Men Form Organization to Stop Swearing and Tobacco Using.

Omaha, Neb.—How to keep the 400 newsboys of this city from shooting craps, swearing, smoking and forgetting to wash their hands and faces at proper intervals is a problem that has agitated the members of the Children's Home society. At last it is believed that a solution has been reached.

An organization for the welfare of the newsboys started eight years ago fell through, and since then the youngsters have been permitted to grow up and run wild. Now they are to be taken in hand and their condition bettered.

Probation Officer Bernstein has interested a number of business men of the city and a club has been organized, with E. W. Dickenson, capitalist; Rome Miller, proprietor of the largest hotel in the city; J. A. Cudahy, a packer; Rev. Father Burns, a pastor, who has always interested himself in boys, and Judge Sutton of the juvenile court as trustees.

The committee having immediate charge of the welfare of the boys is made up of Joe Carroll, Tony Costanzo, Tony Monico and Sam Kalin, all of them were once newsboys, but now are prosperous business men.

The following rules have been adopted by the committee to govern the actions of the boys:

- No smoking, chewing, gambling or jumping on street cars.
- Must have clean faces and hands.
- No going into saloons.
- Must be loyal to one another.
- Must be off the streets at eight o'clock at night unless an extra is out.
- No boy under eight years of age shall sell papers.
- Every boy under sixteen years of age shall attend one session of school daily.
- No foul or profane language.

A large room has been rented near the business portion of the city. It has been equipped with a small library, tables on which games of many kinds can be played, tubs and shower baths.

The club will be self-governed and officers by the boys, but over its affairs the committee of business men will have general supervision.

It will cost the boys nothing to join the club. Each member is given a numbered badge for identification and as a certificate of character. If a complaint is filed against any boy, or if a boy becomes troublesome, a report is made to the juvenile court, when Judge Sutton will investigate and take the necessary action.

GIRLS TAKE BICYCLE TRIP

Two Americans, Making European Record, Take Majordomo for Real Prince.

Dresden.—Among the crowds of Americans who took part in the demonstrations in Berlin were two American girls engaged in the task of building up a European bicycling record.

They are Mattie Sherhorse and Maud Handley, both of Brooklyn, Landing at Cherbourg. They cycled through France, spending three days in Paris. Italy was the next country visited, and after Italy, Germany, Copenhagen, Christiania and Stockholm are also to be visited.

According to the account given by the travelers to a Dresden paper their journey up to that point was free from any disagreeable incident. They told, however, of an occurrence of an amusing kind if it also brought them a little disappointment. On one occasion, when they were near Cannes, a tire was punctured and they were threatened with being stranded, when the prince of Monaco's automobile came along and gave them a lift. There was a splendidly dressed gentleman in the car whom they at first took for the prince himself, but who turned out to be only his majordomo.

"After having imagined ourselves for twenty minutes talking with a live prince," said Miss Handley, "we were real vexed to discover our mistake."

\$150,000 DIAMOND IS FOUND

Excellent White African Specimen is Declared to Have a Weight of 104 Carats.

New York.—A fine white diamond weighing 104 carats and worth \$150,000 was the latest find at the Premier mine in South Africa, according to advices which reached Maiden Lane dealers the other day. The stone is described as absolutely flawless, being two inches long by about three-fourths of an inch thick. It tapers in breadth from one end and a fourth of an inch to three-fourths of an inch.

A Maiden Lane expert said that, judging from the description of the uncut stone, the largest perfect diamond that could be cut from it would be pear-shaped.

The finished stone will probably rank among the world's famous gems. When cut the diamond should be worth at least \$200,000. The Premier mine became world-famous in 1905, when the Cullinan diamond was discovered by Mr. Wells.

Water Wanted for An Airship.

Berlin.—Required, for the Friedrichshafen Airship company, an industrial and dexterous airship water; weight not to exceed 150 pounds; is the text of an advertisement in certain German newspapers.

LIGHTS ON THE SUEZ CANAL

Every Vessel Passing Through the Big Ditch Must Carry a Number of the Search Variety.

Every war vessel carries from one to twenty searchlights, and every vessel of any description whatever passing through the Suez canal has to carry one of special pattern. A searchlight consists essentially of an arc lamp of special form, a parabolic mirror and a base to hold the lot, the case being mounted so as to be capable of movement in two directions, viz., vertically and horizontally. In the hood, as this case is called, is made of sheet steel about 3/32 inch thick. The turntable trunnions, etc., are cast in gunmetal, the arms which support the hood are of cast steel. The lamp box is formed as part of the hood. The mirror is carried on springs in the back cover, and at the front of the hood is a "front glass" mounted in a gunmetal ring and the dispersion lens, when carried, is hinged on in front of this. Training is carried out by means of a worm and worm-wheel, or by a rack and pinion. Steering is effected by means of a pinion which gears into a crown wheel on the underside of the turntable, or else it is done directly by hand. The Suez canal regulations require that the projector shall be capable of giving the light required under two different conditions—in the first case a broad, flat beam of light illuminating both banks and the canal uninterruptedly, this being used when no other ship is approaching; in the other case they require a beam having the same angle of divergence and consequently the same width as the first, but divided into two portions, with a dark interval between, thus giving light at both sides but not interfering with navigation of the approaching vessel.

AN EDUCATED COOK NEEDED

Kitchen Experiments Are Often at the Expense of the Physical Well-Being of the Household.

Social standing depends partly upon the nature of the individual's calling with regard to the preparation necessary to the exercise of his function. The civil engineer is presumed to be a more agreeable companion for cultured persons than the stable boy, because of his education. The lawyer is required to know more than the sewer. The surgeon is likely to be more widely read than the pugilist. The diplomat is, presumably, better informed than the chimney sweep. The cook, as at present constituted, belongs at the bottom rung of the social ladder, because her calling has no educational requirements. The individual may read Browning, Hogarth, Schopenhauer and Shakespeare, or interpret Wagner and Strauss. But the class is not required to know the difference between the meanings of "physiology" and "phlebology." The cook is not expected to know anything more about the ingredients that should enter into the composition of a corned beef than she can learn in the course of often-repeated experiments and at the expense of the physical well-being of the household. She neither knows nor cares what the effect of certain foods may be, and the employer shares her ignorance. It is said to be a fact that more persons die before their time from the results of eating than from drinking.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

A Nice Distinction.

He was hurrying for the train, somewhat impeded by a clumsy crate containing a large, live turkey. As he approached the gate the guard stopped him with a gesture.

"You can't take that through here," he said. "That'll have to be checked or go by express."

"But I can't stop," declared the passenger. "I've got to get this train," and he tried to push through again.

The guard held him back. "That is baggage," he said, firmly, "and it must go in the baggage car."

"Oh, no," replied the other, with a charming and confident smile, "it's luggage. Don't you see I'm luggage?" and he had slipped by before the astonished guard had caught his breath.—Youth's Companion.

Millionths of a Second.

In experiments with high-power explosives used in guns, British scientists have employed chronoscopes which registered the velocity of the projectile at ten successive points before it left the bore.

It is possible with this apparatus to register time to the millionth of a second. In the older experiments, where the velocity did not exceed 1,500 or 1,600 feet a second, the projectile recorded its time by knocking down a series of steel triggers projecting into the bore, but with velocities of 1,500 feet and more a second the trigger, instead of dropping frequently plowed a groove in the projectile and another device was necessary.

Dreadful.

An old Scotch peasant woman had heard that her minister had just been made a doctor of divinity, and so she went to him and asked him to cure her of rheumatism. "I'm not that kind of a doctor, Nanny," said he, and gave her a shilling. Further down the street the old woman was heard to complain that "it's an awfu' thing this makin' doctors o' bodies that ken naething at a' about bottles or blisters, pooders or pills."

COUNTRY BOYS, THINK TWICE

Should Ask Themselves What is Really to Be Gained by Plunging Into City Life.

Before making a plunge into city life, country boys should ask themselves what is really to be gained by it. Perhaps in their quiet, rural home some stray advertisement has reached them, promising to young men high salaries for light work.

Hundreds of advertisements are framed for the special purpose of deceiving the unwary. They accomplish their purpose, however, and a large number of young men rush up to the city, dazzled by the confusion of promises.

A boy from the farm answers one of these ads. Life may have been slow at home, but there was always good food and in plenty, and there was some one to care for him in the old farm house.

When he gets to the big city he finds that the "light work" consists in working all day in a badly lighted and ill-smelling workshop, where scores of other men and boys are employed at wages hardly high enough to keep body and soul together.

We all know what comes next. The boy has left home and is ashamed and unwilling to return and he must take the consequences and may find himself in some cold garret, lonely, overworked, despondent and miserable.

Better remain at home than risk the failures which attend so many young men who go to the city in pursuit of high pay for light work.—Jno. Barrett.

HIS WIFE'S MITT SCHEME

Had Reason to Thank the God of Silence and Glory in His Self-Represion.

The man who sometimes deludes himself for about five minutes at a time into the belief that he knows as much as his wife does felt somewhat ashamed when he saw the other women in the car who wore nice white gloves look quizzically at his wife's white gloves, which were covered with an extra glove that looked like a chesscloth baseball mitt. Several times he was on the point of alluding to those mitts and asking her if it wouldn't be just as well to take them off, but he didn't, and after they got to the reception he thanked the little god of silence, because while all the other women who had hung to straps and door jambs had soiled gloves by that time his wife simply peeled off her chesscloth mitts and displayed immaculate gloves which evoked enough glances of envy to make up for the ridicule of the trip downtown.

"What greases those other women are not to protect their gloves the way I do when riding in a car," said his wife sweetly, and the man, glorying in his former self-repression, said: "Ain't they?"

The Bower-Bird.

One of the most remarkable creatures known to natural history is the bower-bird, which builds a miniature cabin made of small sticks and surrounds it with a perfectly kept ring or circus, composed of twigs and moss, studded with brilliantly-colored stones, fruits and insects. As the curious ornaments become faded they are constantly replaced by fresh ones, so that scientists are inclined to credit the bird with the possession of the artistic sense. In these decorated playgrounds the males meet and pay their court to the female, the bower being used purely for purposes of recreation and not as a nesting-place. These birds are chiefly found in the Owen Stanley Range of British New Guinea.

Dust in the Eye.

If dust or other foreign substance blows into the eye do not rub the eye nor endeavor to remove the irritating intruder for a moment or so. Close the eye, holding the lids together with the fingers until the tear duct begins to work. Then open the eye and, unless the dust has caught fast to the ball, it will be washed out by the tears. Those who ride often in open cars or through dusty streets should wash their eyes before retiring with a solution of salt and water or boracic acid and water, a teaspoon of either the salt or the acid being added to a glassful of water and a bit of absorbent cotton or the fingers used for the applying.

Gene Cheap in Brazil.

Firearms sell at comparatively low prices in Rio de Janeiro and other Brazilian cities, owing to the comparatively low duty and to the fact that many European and American manufacturers are reputed to sell their surplus products in this market at a low margin of profit. Retail prices for all kinds of firearms range from about 25 per cent. to 50 per cent. higher than in the United States, while prices of ordinary household necessities are 100 per cent. to 200 per cent. higher.

Effective Threat.

Mother (in the railway carriage).—Now, sit still, Johnny, or you'll have to be punished when we get home. Young Hopeful.—Mamma, if you punish me I shall tell my real age, then you will have to pay full fare.—Stray Stories.

Right in Order.

"Let me lose my money, and all my friends would desert me." "That would be the only course left for them."

Parried.

A mother of four daughters, one of whom had recently married, corraled an eligible young man in the drawing room. "And which of my girls do you regret, admira, might I ask?" "The married one," was the prompt reply.—Scraps.

THE DEADLY CURTAIN CALL

Times When It Completely Spoils the Dramatic Effect of the Scene Preceding It.

One of the American dramatic critics has discovered that it is not the automobile that is wholly responsible for the New Yorker's spathy toward theater-going; one has to reckon, he says, with what he calls the "deadly curtain call." He objects especially to the call that is taken on the open stage, arguing that it completely spoils the dramatic effect of the scene preceding it. With regard to serious drama we are bound to admit that our own actors and actresses are ill-advised as to their appearance on the stage at the end of the last act. The incongruity of the thing cannot but jar to some extent. One American critic supports this view by quoting the middle act of a successful play, in which the heroine outwits the lunacy commissioner who comes to her boarding house in order to commit her to an asylum. She is smuggled out in time, and when the officials arrive by another door, too late, the curtain falls on the effective line, "I think she has gone to Jersey." Instantly, in response to applause from the audience, the curtain is again raised to show the "baffled commissioners" and the star, "smirking and smiling in acknowledgment of the call." That is as good an example as any of the sometimes injudicious policy. Nobody suggests that the call generally should go. In musical comedy, for instance, it rather adds to the entertainment. But we feel that atmosphere in tragedy, created often so laboriously, is deliberately sacrificed by the practise.

WHATEVER IS WORN IS RIGHT

Fad of Clothes is Still in Its Prime and Gives Promise to Remain So.

Of all the fads that have interested this blasé world there is but one that is eternal, and that one is closely associated with the eternal feminine. In the days of the Pharaohs it was in high favor, and its popularity has not diminished with the succeeding ages. Today it is still in its prime, and gives promise to remain so until the end of time. This fad is clothes. All women have it. At an early age they mount this hobby horse and go galloping away in a mad steep-climb whose destination they do not know, or care to know. And very pleasant is this eternal fad to onlookers as well as to its devotees. Art contains nothing more lovely than a pretty girl, and her beauty is doubled when she wears a wide, flower-crowned hat and a graceful, rippling gown. In this fad it is difficult not to excel. The motto seems to be: "Whatever is worn is right." So no matter what size your hat or what shape your sleeves, be tranquil, for everything is accepted, and if you can manage to concoct a pattern never seen before, so much the better. Your sister faddists will look on with envy, and exclaim, "How original!"—Boston Traveler.

Racing in England.

Racing in England is a very different affair from what it was when Queen Anne, most sporting of English queens, instituted Ascot races, just 198 years ago, and ran her famous horses, Mustard, Pepper and Star. Horses intended for racing were always kept tightly shut, with the idea that it rendered them more swift; and as for feeding, the old-time trainer believed in giving them a liberal amount of soaked bread, supplemented a day or two before the race with fresh eggs. And the jockeys, instead of sporting light silk jackets, were incased in full suits of the stiffest taffeta, while, as if the applause of the crowd were not considered sufficient, drums and trumpets greeted the winner.

If No Substitute Be Found.

Mrs. Dorkins (calling from top of stairway).—John, have you locked all the rubber shoes in the safe? Mr. Dorkins.—Yes. Mrs. Dorkins.—Well, tie the dog near the rubber plant and turn out the light.

Apprehensions.

"You object to a government censorship of the theater?" "Emphatically," replied the stringing author. "It's hard enough to get a play under way without imposing the additional requirement of a political pull."—Washington Star.

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COULDN'T STAND THE RACKET

Philadelphian Who Went Up Against New York's Noise Soar Hit the Trail for Home.

A prominent New York broker tells a good story on one of his older brothers. For many years their lives have run along different lines and they have grown out of touch with each other. The younger is accustomed to burly burly city life, but his brother's course has been much quieter. Twenty-five years ago he received an appointment in one of the museums in Washington, and he seems to have become part of that institution. The particular section that he has in charge does not require him ever to leave town, and he has stayed right there in Washington.

Occasionally the younger brother would go down to the capital for a visit and would never leave without having repeatedly urged the older one to get out of the rut, if only once in a while and if only for a short time. He never achieved anything until a few weeks ago. Then he succeeded in getting a promise to come to New York, and the promise was kept.

The visitor was taken to see some of the sights and things that moved pretty swiftly. They traveled in taxicabs, street cars and "L" trains. The New Yorker did it without effort, but the big brother was in a state of breathlessness all the time. They turned in late and tired out.

Next morning the visitor was not up very early and when he did come down he said he was going out to the barber shop, and disappeared. For several hours nothing was seen or heard of him, and the anxious city brother was considering sending out a police alarm when a telegraph messenger rang the bell.

The wire was from Philadelphia. "Safe, by George!" was all it said.

FISH THAT PERFORM TRICKS

Finny Tribe Would Appear to Have More Intelligence Than is Usually Attributed to Them.

Fish have many times been taught to perform tricks, and it would appear as if they had much more intelligence than is attributed to them. J. A. Bailey of circus fame once had two brook trout in a small aquarium in his private residence that would jump out of the water and take flies held between the forefinger and thumb, and would also ring a little bell when they required food. They would also leap over little bars of wood placed about two inches above the surface of the water.

It was a very simple matter to teach the fish these tricks. At first a little tower containing a tiny, sweet toned allover bell was fastened to the iron work of the aquarium with a piece of string attached to the tongue of the bell extending into the water where the trout were. On the loose end of the string an insect or other tempting morsel was placed, which the fish would at once seize and, pulling the cord, the bell in the tower would naturally tinkle.

After this had been repeated several days, the fish would fish without food for some little time until they made the discovery that they could obtain it by pulling at the string to which the bellcocks had been attached.

This they never failed to do over afterward when they were hungry, and as that was nearly all the time, the little bell was constantly tinkling, as the fish were continually pulling the cord, and it was quite a pretty and novel sight.

A Mispread Title.

Among obvious misnomers one London theater is not in Drury Lane, theater is not in Drury Lane, and no reason can be assigned for giving it the name of that thoroughfare. The first theater built on the present site was at one time frequently referred to as the theater in Covent garden, on February 4, 1662. Peppercote. "I walked up and down and looked upon the outside of the new theater building in Covent garden, which will be very fine." In those days no theater existed in Covent garden, the predecessor of the present opera house having been opened in 1733.—London Chronicle.

Wife Justice.

On the bench Judge A. is very stern, but at home his wife is the disciplinarian of the family. One day, says Harper's Magazine, when the party was full of college at the judge's house the door suddenly burst open, and with a whoop the two young sons burst in, riding their pet goat.

The judge was vexed by the party to give the official rebuke. He rose to the occasion.

"Boys," he said, sternly, "take that goat out of here this instant! This is the library, where it belongs."

Why Sixty Minutes Made an Hour. The hour is divided into 60 minutes simply because in old Babylon there existed by the side of the decimal system of notation, another system, the sexagesimal, which counted by sixties. There is no number which has so many divisors as 60. The Babylonians divided the sun's daily journey into 24 passages, each passage, or hour, being divided into 60 minutes. The passage is about 2 1/2 miles to a German mile, and the Babylonians compared the progress made by the sun during one hour to the progress made by a good walker during the same time.