KISSING DANGEROUS

Doctors Claim That Tonsilitis Is Contagious Through Kissing.

Is tonsilitis contagious? is a question which has been puzzling many prominent physicians of late.

During the past two years a great increase in the number of cases has been noticed, and at present it almost resembles an epidemic, but hitherto this has not been considered a contagious disease.

In an interview with a prominent physician I learned that the only way of overcoming its progress is to protect against kissing. These are his own words:

"Any charming young lady pressing a sweet, rosebud mouth, with a color upon which phlegmonic has fastened itself, cannot be kissed without phlegmonic being the price paid by the person who takes part with her in the final bliss. Her perfumed breath, with its silvery tones and soft whispers, is filled with contagion, in which microbes of marvelous form fly to new fields of pasture. Hosts of cunning but riotous bacteria linger upon her coral lips waiting to board those of the unattached one who recklessly approaches."

Thus it is very plain that young gentlemen and their sweethearts should be very careful that no kissing is done before it is learned by both parties whether tonsilitis has settled in the throat of either.

"Phlegmonic," said the doctor, "is a sort of tonsilitis. The ordinary mucous tonsilitis is not contagious. Indeed, the ordinary form is merely an inflammation of the tonsils, which are glands in the back of the throat with secretions aiding the process of swallowing. An inflammation of the glands by hosts of lipbothrax, a bacillus, which is normal in the mouth, are the cause of this most troublesome inflammation. They are a vegetable microbe, which is always raging in the mouth and is nourished by the saliva and bits of food that get into the holes of decayed teeth. This is the reason why people who have had bad teeth are more apt to be troubled with tonsilitis."

The doctor paused for a moment and continued:

"Although phlegmonic is an inflammation of the tonsils it is vastly different from the ordinary tonsilitis, as it is contagious and the inflammation extends all through the entire mouth and throat tonsils. Then too, the ordinary tonsilitis very seldom lasts longer than a week and can be cured in about twenty-four hours, while phlegmonic lasts longer, is more severe and harder to cure.

"Many great singers have been troubled with it, among whom are Patti, Nilsson, Lucca, Campanini and others."

Thus it is evident, if the decision of prominent physicians may be believed, that kissing is really a dangerous pleasure, and that those who take part in this dual bliss should be very cautious not to approach their mal coeur or a friend with open arms only to be deceived by the friendly greeting of its spy who awaits them with a fascinating smile, while behind the scenes an army of bacteria is impatiently waiting the time which is sure to come when they can spring upon the innocent person who is conquered by its cunning, scheming ways.

But will this advice of these physicians be considered?—New York Herald.

The Polar Bear.

Thanks to the high latitudes which it inhabits, the polar bear is not likely to be hunted off. The polar bear is an enormous animal, weighing about as much as a fair sized ox, but it is not at all fierce, and will always run away, so that it is not hard to kill. I once saw an Aleut woman dispose of one in a very remarkable manner. She saw it asleep on the ice, and approached it with great caution from the leeward side, having previously improvised a weapon by fastening the knife she carried to a stick with strings of seal leather which served to hold together her garment. Having got close to the unconscious beast, she thrust this spear deep into the body behind the left foreleg. It died almost without a struggle. It is a curious fact that the liver of the polar bear is actually poisonous, though the meat is very wholesome, and toothsome as well, resembling beef somewhat.—Chicago Herald.

A Beautiful Charge.

Some twenty years ago, when pronunciamentos for "ritualism" were in vogue, a high church clergyman was appointed to a country parish near to a low church town. He was youngish and unmarried, and so was his curate. The local newspaper, ever zealous for evangelical truth, soon informed its readers of the new rector's crimes. He turned to the east; he bowed to the Gloria; in the pulpit he wore a surplice—that characteristic garment of the scarlet woman. And there was one woman who touched a note in the pastoral duet. "Will it be tolerated," said the pious prim, "that they openly practice celibacy, even in the public streets?" This was meant to arouse, and no doubt it did arouse, the spinsters and widows of the neighborhood to a timely realization of the rights of woman.—Notes and Queries.

The Pope's Annual Expenditure.

The yearly expenditure of the pope averages about £292,000, the chief items being as follows: The pope's privy purse, £20,000; the cardinals' £20,000; subsidies to poor dioceses, £16,000; prefecture of the apostolic palace, £72,000 (under this head is included the maintenance of the Vatican, the secretariat of state, including nuncios and delegates, £40,000); pensions to former employes of the Holy See who declined to take service under the Italian government, £20,000; schools and charitable objects, £36,000. Besides these regular items there are extraordinary expenses, of which the extraordinary expenses of the year of the Leonine Jubilee, which cost over £250,000, may be taken as a specimen.

A BOTANICAL POSER.

A Vegetable Mystery Pertinacious of the Day's Tooth Vision.

Nature has curious and hidden ways in the vegetable as well as in the animal world. For instance, that pretty and very abundant spring flower of our lawns, the adder's tongue or dog's tooth violet, presents a problem which I have not yet been able to solve. This plant, you know, is a lily, and all the lilies, so far as I know, have a bulb that sits on top of the ground. The onion is a fair type of the lily in this respect. But here is a lily with a bulb deep in the ground. How does it get there? That is the problem.

The time book on botany says the bulb is deep in the ground, but offers no explanation. Now, it is only the bulbs of the older or flowering plants that are deep in the ground. The bulbs of the young plants are near the top of the ground. The young plants have but one leaf, the older or flowering ones have two. If you happen to be in the woods at the right time in early April you may see some leaves scarcely rolled together, piercing the matted matting of dry leaves that covers the ground like some sharp pointed instrument. They do not bent their nose long or lift it up, but grow through it like an awl.

But how does the old bulb get so deep into the ground? In digging some of these up in an old meadow bottom I had to always dig the trench down to a depth of eight inches. Some smaller ones were only two inches below the surface. A friend of mine tells me he has discovered how the thing is done. I hope other to disprove or else to confirm his observation.

The field of natural history has been so closely gleaned, so little remains to be found out about the habits of our familiar birds and flowers, that an unsolved problem like this is something to be prized. It is a pity that this graceful flower has no good and appropriate common name. It is the earliest of the true lilies, and it has all the grace and charm that belong to the order of flowers. Erythronium, its botanical name, is not good, as it is derived from a Greek word that means red, while our species of our flower is yellow and the other is white.

How it came to be called adder's tongue I do not know, probably from the mottled character of the leaf, which might suggest a snake, though it is no more resembles a snake's tongue. A horse is spotted, too, and "from fly" would be better than adder's tongue. The "dog's tooth" may have been suggested by the shape and color of the bulb, but how the "violet" came to be added to a purple, as it has not one tint are of the violet. It is only another illustration of the haphazard way in which our wild flowers as well as our birds have been named.

In my solitary spring rambles I have sometimes come upon a solitary specimen of this yellow lily growing beside a mossy stone where the sunshine fell full upon it, and have thought it one of the most beautiful of our wild flowers. Its two leaves stand up like a fawn's ears, and that feature, with its recurved petals, gives it an alert, wide awake look. The white species I have never seen.—John Burroughs in St. Nicholas.

Gettysburg and Waterloo Compared.

At Gettysburg there were present in action 93,000 to 94,000 Union troops, against of the Confederates some 62,000. At Waterloo there were 120,000 soldiers of the allies under Wellington and Blucher, and 72,000 French under Napoleon; or, there were about 190,000 combatants at Gettysburg and about 190,000 at Waterloo. In each case the weaker army made the attack and was defeated. Lee did not have to how such heavy odds as Napoleon; but, whereas Napoleon's defeat was a rout in which he lost all his guns and saw his soldiers become a disorganized rabble, Lee drew off his army in good order, his cannon unmatured, and the remnants of his formidable soldiers unshaken.

The defeated Confederates lost in killed and wounded 13,520, and in captured 7,467, some of whom were likewise wounded, or 23,000 in all. The defeated French lost from 25,000 to 30,000—probably nearer the latter sum—and the Confederates thus lost in killed and wounded at least 25 per cent of their force, and yet they preserved their artillery and their organization, while the French suffered an even heavier proportional loss and were turned into a fleeing rabble.—Theodore Roosevelt in Century.

Volunteer Potatoes.

A rancher in the San Gabriel valley is making his repasts appetizing with potatoes the seed of which was planted three years ago—that is to say, he is feasting on volunteer potatoes, a thing never heard of in any other country. It is no unusual thing in Los Angeles county to hear of potato vines that bear three and four years in succession. These facts, taken in connection with the circumstances that a man can raise three or four crops of potatoes, beans or peas yearly, with from six to eight crops of alfalfa, make southern California, or rather the more favored portions of that section, like Los Angeles, land truly garden farms.—Los Angeles Herald.

A Hair Tonic.

One of the best hair tonics is the following, which comes all the way from Germany. Any druggist will compound it, and it is said that its regular use will keep the hair luxuriant and in excellent condition. These are the ingredients: "One hundred grams acid salicylic, fifty of castor oil, two of glycerine and a little about a teaspoonful quinine." It should be thoroughly rubbed into the scalp about three times a week.—New York Times.

Not to Be Imposed Upon Again.

"I ain't going to send any more money out to the heathen," said Willie. "I seen a picture of one of 'em this morning, an' as far as I could see he didn't wear any pants, and so I guess I'm justified in using the money in."—New York Ledger.

Never Speaks to His Wife.

In the northwestern part of the city lives a couple who for twenty-two years never addressed a word to each other. In 1869 the husband was a man of means, owning considerable property, but through penitentiary and Chinese generosity he became a sort of "Coal Oil Johnny." Houses and ground were given away without an instant's consideration. The wife expostulated, but in vain. Finally nothing was left except the little cottage which was their home and upon their place of abode. Fortunately this stood in the wife's name, and thinking he used every effort to secure possession of it, pleading with her and using violence and tenderness by turns, she remained firm and would not let him have it. As a consequence he swore a tremendous oath that he would never speak to her as long as he lived, and up to the present time he has kept his word.

From prosperity they have sunk to abject poverty. He makes what he can out of a newsstand which he keeps in front of his house. A son and daughter. One has been married for some years to a man of wealth, while the other lives at home with her parents, and seems to take the responsibility of both on herself. It is a pecular sight to see the old man every evening at 6 o'clock distributing his papers to the very houses which twenty-two years ago were his own, and by the gift of which he has made most little fortunes for many whose lives are in total ignorance of his existence. Year after year he toils on, daily becoming bolder, "forgetting the world and by the world forgot."—Philadelphia Record.

Lepers Can Be Cured.

Thomas, the apostle, himself was not more hard to convince than is the world in general with regard to the cure of leprosy. And yet, to reply to the many inquiries I meet, I can only reply that I have seen the most obstinate symptoms disappear, and I have seen people declared by the best consulting physicians "lepers," and the same brought up for examination after the lapse of some months and discharged by the board of examiners as "not lepers." The treatment carried on at the Kalihi hospital is no secret. It has been fully explained in the reports of Dr. Lois. Its originator.

I may say, however, that the most beneficial medicines used in the treatment of leprosy are salicylate of soda, and acid in high doses. There are also a variety of external applications suitable to the form of the disease and the peculiar conditions and constitutions of each patient. This treatment, besides having so marked an effect on the disease, seems to improve the general health and invigorate the lepers themselves. They often said they had never felt so inclined to hard work and exercise as since they came under the treatment of the sickness.—Sister Rose Gertrude in Ladies' Home Journal.

A Railroad in the Arctic Circle.

In one respect at least the Swedish and Norwegian railroad has outstripped on the Gulf of Bothnia, and Lofoden, on the shores of the North sea, is the most remarkable engineering achievement of the present century. It has the unique distinction of being the only railroad in the world situated wholly or partially within the Arctic circle, it being some 1,200 miles farther north than any railroad in Canada. An interesting meteorological fact stated is in relation to this boreal railway—viz., that snow falls much less frequently along the line and to far less quantities than at points on either side. At 1,000 to 2,000 miles farther south, the darkness of the long winter nights being partly compensated by the lights of the aurora.

The object in view in constructing this "North Pole through line" is to tap the enormous deposits of iron ore in the Gellivara territory, the situation of the ore in the Biffen field making it absolutely necessary that the iron workers find a new locality if the magnetic pole itself has to be undermined to get at the precious mineral.—St. Louis Republic.

The Growth of the Kindergarten.

"The growth of the kindergarten system of starting off young children in the race for knowledge is not astonishing," said a lady who has devoted considerable attention to the subject. "It is the school of practical training, the training of these little ones is more than we ever did before. You should see some of my four-year-olds getting up their wee little desks, tucking out their toes and going through their regular exhibitions. And they love it so, and think everything such great fun. We don't push them into books. They have nothing to do with books. Letters and numerals are merely incidental."—New York Herald.

This is what a Theosophist says hoping to you when you die: "When a person dies the mental, which is the same we have for the three higher attributes of the being—the divine spark, the spiritual soul, which is the vehicle of the divine spark, and the intellect or manas—is slowly released from the lower mass, taking from this mass whatever is good and pure and worth taking away." This adds two sorrows to the grave, really.

When you go to Germany be careful how you smoke. A holiday smoker was heavily fined and long since for whistling the "Marseillaise" in the street in a town in Lorraine. It was considered an insult to the German government. Probably if an unfortunate Yankee should whistle the "Star Spangled Banner" in Hamburg he would be locked on as the American big dog of the German emperor.

Twenty-five states have now adopted the Australian ballot system. The latest to swing into line was Delaware.

WOMEN AND MICE.

The reason why a woman is afraid of a mouse is because her husband is afraid of it. He has never been long enough married to learn a necessary, intuitive economy that the woman has learned in her maiden days. The cause of this unfortunate state of affairs is, of course, a mere matter of money. Money determines or controls everything. Money is the sinew of war, and it is the sinew of peace. It is the sinew of love, and it is the sinew of hate. It is the sinew of all things. Money is the sinew of the world. It governs everything and everybody. Money is the sinew of the world. It governs everything and everybody. Money is the sinew of the world. It governs everything and everybody