SUNSET IN THE FOG.

The cold gray fog of the winter day
Drifts out and land in shroud;
Before the vessel an unknown bay:
A spirit was over all.
The narrow lane of dark vessel bound
The black of their sphere;
Beyond was night! but a vortical sound,
A world of dreds not fear.

From the yards the sails hedragged forth
Reduced to strips of drab;
Feebly came from the halyards floats,
The ghostly remnants flow;
While the sentinel proved the misty gray
And vanished at the wave,
The curious seen but a step away
Were narrow prison bars.

But sudden a golden glamour stole,
As through a thin veil;
It spread till the gloy to the whole,
And fairyland been to hook.
Ea shadow fell from the rigging of light
The wind and we were still;
Twas then that the red sun sank from sight
Behind the distant hill.

Now it not as the golden ray
Gave place to tints of rose;
And the mists, no longer cold and gray,
Above so seemed to close.
They chase gave as the rose light died,
The same look on their faces;
And the gloom that came from either side
Told that the sun was down.
—Thirst Scott Mixes in Harper's Weekly.

Fastidious Speech.

How many people are there who pronounce any proportion of their words correctly, not merely by reason of slipping and mouthing, but by ignorance of good usage! We find them everywhere, and they lay the accent on the first instead of on the second syllable of acetimate, for example; they pronounce the second syllable of acumtiss, ess, instead of ess; they do not put the accent on the last syllable of adept, as they should do; they leave the n sound out of buoy; they pronounce duke with the sound of oo instead of with the simple long u, emphasize the first instead of the second syllable of enemis, and sound the t in often.

They are astonished to know that precedence has the accent on the second syllable, and phased on the last; that quay is called key; that sough is suf; that the t instead of the s sound is to be given in satellite, and the reverse in rice; that subtile and subtle are two different words; that the last syllable of tortoise is pronounced "tis" instead of "toiz"; that it should be used and not uz, and that it is not the "zoo," but the zoological gardens where one goes. It is quite time, we think, when we hear one of these talkies, for some of the fancy work and fancy studies of the day to be dropped, and a little hard work on the dictionary put in their place.—Harper's Bazar.

A Rattlesnake's Fangs.

You often hear of rendering a rattlesnake harmless by pulling out its fangs. Then, again, you read of cases where a serpent so treated has bitten persons fatally. The reason for this is that a poisonous snake is deprived only temporarily of its venomous powers by the extraction of the two incisors in the upper jaw, at the bases of which are the poison glands. Of course you know that the fangs are hollow, so that when the animal strikes the venom gushes through them into the flesh of the person struck. Now, by drawing the two teeth the snake may be rendered harmless for a few weeks, but after a short time the two teeth just behind the original fangs move up and take their places, making connections with the poison glands and thus becoming poison fangs as good and effective as the old ones.—Interview in Washington Star.

An Era of Elegant Phrase.

What has happened to the English tongue? Is not its simple vigor good enough to serve the needs of the present generation? Want has become of all the undertakers, that they should be supplanted by "funeral directors?" Are the barbers extinct, that their business should be usurped by "tonsorial artists," and is there no occupation left in the world for the useful and respectable night shirt that the "slumber robe" should be marked down to cost in every shop window?—Greenfield Republican.

Indianapolis has a unique citizen in "Uncle Billy" Jackson, who is well known to western railroad men. He is an excellent official, but his real claim to distinction lies in the fact that he once insisted on having his salary of $3,000, which he received as treasurer of the old Union Railway company, reduced to $1,000. The directors of the road gave a reluctant consent and his salary was reduced as he requested.

One hundred and fifteen servants is a great number to do the work of one house, but that is the size of the staff of the Manhattan club, of New York, since it went into the Stewart mansion. Waiters there are paid forty-five dollars a month and board. This is more than the clubs used to pay, but the Manhattan set the figure, and the others have had to follow it.

Vaccination should be compulsory. Where it is voluntary tens of thousands of persons neglect it. In Berlin, under compulsory vaccination, deaths from smallpox are less than 2 per cent, in Paris, under voluntary vaccination, they are nearly 20 per cent.

In your exercises avoid devoting too much time to one kind of work. Do not spend all your time, for instance, on the horizontal bar or on the parallel bars. What all would-be gymnasts should strive for is a symmetrical development of their muscles.

People have learned how to make tea as well as to drink it. In its first stage one Englishman had it served up as green, the water to which it was boiled thrown away.

Aluminum as a Bulky Metal.

Aluminum is almost three times as bulky as iron, weight for weight; it is nearly four times as bulky as silver, and more than seven times as bulky as gold. Thus if silver were $1 an ounce and aluminum $4 a pound, silver would be really fifty times more costly, bulk for bulk; aluminum at $1 a pound would only be twice as costly as copper at 12 cents a pound.—Bradstreet's.

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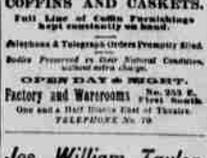

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