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WHERE'S BILL?

Where's Bill? Yes, of course I'm glad to see him up and down once again;
When I turned to bed I had to
See my ma an' pull up a chair
I was that sore stumpin' roun'
Like a grasshopper on th' hill,
Lonesome as from th' moon!
I jus' had to— Say, where's Bill?

Know that mustin house? I guess ol
Ain't that where we used to go.
Th' boys! Seems ever so jes as
Like we was jus' up to class.
There's th' graveyard back behind it,
With th' old moss on th' hill
I believe that I could find it
If I tried to, now. Where's Bill?

When we two was boys, Bill showed it
To me one day, an' the year
Cut in it was— There, I knowed it
Wasn't far away from here.
Sho, it's old an' stained an' breakin,
Grass growed, too, an' scratched, still
It seems like some poor, forsaken,
Homeless thing that Say, where's Bill?

Bill an' me we often wondered
W'ose that stone was, for we guessed
It had down there a hundred
Years or more on top of it.
An' he used to say: "Now, I don't
Want no better tomb. I will
Lay there when I die." An' I say don't
Some o' you this say where's Bill?

Yes, ol' pard, this is th' stone, an
It's th' one you used to claim.
Pshaw! You talk about yer cows, an
Such fool things. Why—what's—this name
Here, ol' underneath the creepers
An th' moss? Why are you still
Ho comes! Here among th' sleepers—
An I— Well, I've found you, Bill.

—Carl Smith in Harper's Weekly.

MENTAL LOAFING.

Why Women Are Addicted to the Habit More Than Men.

A college man, whose mind was fresh from right drill, regretted the invalidism of his mother, which made physical loafing necessary and mental loafing excusable.

"Mother, dear," he said, drawing a "slipping" upon some good subject from his pocket, "I have brought you a 'mind improver,'" and he read it aloud to her.

It was a new subject for thought. Her brain absorbed it like a sponge. The next day the diet was continued, the next week, the next month, until her mind, well nourished and well fed by food for fresh thought, ignored the depressing details of every phase of her illness, the great more attractive and bright, friends no longer listened to lengthy accounts of what her doctor had said the last time he called, and she who had lain on her couch for a year was able to walk a block unaided.

Thus the mind affects the body, and vice versa.

Mental loafing is one of the most insidious, creeping and destructive of mind habits, and often increases with age. Always acknowledging that an emotion is but begun and not finished when tart books are laid aside, one of the first signs of "mental loafing" is the effort required to read literature that causes reflection, to follow a fixed line of thought, to prefer what might be termed mental deserts to a substantial feeding upon the stronger mind food, continually in one way. Deserts are good, delicious from contrast, but no one should require them exclusively.

Women, speaking broadly, are more inclined to "mental loafing" than men. A man's life to be successful must be a concentration of mind on some one line of bread winning. A woman's life, if it is in woman's sphere, mind needs be a distribution of thought to a thousand small necessities; but the very sameness of these demands, the self asserting trivialities of health, food, dress and family, unless actively interpenetrated by mind, and set as fingerposts along the road to "mental loafing."

It has been suggested that small talk is the result of mental loafing. No. Small talk to succeed must be natural, witty, lively. It must interest, excite and amuse. It must interest, excite and amuse to repartee. It is conversation in a lesson, compounded, sweetened, flavored, shaped to suit the taste of the recipient. Mental loafing does not make conversation tissue lustrous, nor small talk champagne.

One of the most intelligent, cultivated and thoroughly informed women; a woman who understands the lights and shades, the depths and diffs. ness of human nature, is the most sensitive, polished and vivacious of small talkers. Her mind has never a moment for loafing. A change of mental diet and sleep are all the resting required.

A trained mind, which has interested me, was so completely under the dominion of its owner, that he turned it off or on to a subject like a hydrant. Engaged to marry one woman, he got another more charming. How did he fight the battle and win? He completely turned his mind from all thought of another two, and remained absolutely honorable to his first mamorata. A mental loafer would not have done this.

One mental gymnastic is to think continuously upon some chosen topic. If the mind flits here and there, butterfly-wise, refusing to travel in a consecutive train of thought, it is becoming a mental loafer.—M. Carrie Hyde in Chicago Woman's News.

Truthfulness in Children.

Children are naturally truthful and generous, and what a comment it is on our attitude toward them that they so often become otherwise before they reach the school age. Children shrink from censure, and soon learn to hide their mistakes to avoid being blamed. Besides, many loving, intelligent parents deceive their children by act if not by word, and even a baby takes in this sort of thing as something to be ... and if he is bright, will return it tenfold. We also judge their baby prattle and reasoning from our standpoint, not from their ideal world, and so accuse them of that of which they were entirely innocent; then awaking and emphasizing what we would prevent. It takes wise insight to detect the difference between a half developed good that ought to be let alone and a fault that needs to be corrected.—Harper's Bazar.

Let Out Cheerfulness.

The housewife who at night raises the shades of her prettily furnished parlor, that the world in passing may catch a glimpse of the happy picture within, does a good work for civilization.

Who does not admire such a picture? It does fall to have his love for home and its sweet influences increased by such sights? Who does not feel his soul expand as these happy visions flit before it? By all means keep the bright lamplights burning and open wide the shutters. Home should not be a darkened, narrow and exclusive place—that invites narrowness and selfishness in the individual. It should be a spot from which light and joy and good cheer radiate.—Woman's Journal.

FIGHTING INSECT AND FUNGI.

Let Those New Spray Who Never Sprayed Before.

Insecticides are of two kinds. The arsenites are for insects that sting the fruit and devour foliage. Paris green or London purple is used for them. One pound to 200 gallons of water, applied just after the blossoms dropped; then once or twice thereafter, ten days apart.

For the sucking insects, those that represent the aphides or plant lice, emulsions are used, made of a quarter of a pound hard soap or whale oil soap, I pint kerosene, 2 quarts of hot water. I part of this diluted with 12 parts of water and sprayed as soon as the first broods appear.

Fungicides are used for fungus attacks, such as mildews, rots, scab, etc. The two principal mixtures used are the Bordeaux mixture and ammoniacal solutions. The Bordeaux mixture, made by dissolving 6 pounds of sulphate of copper in 16 gallons of water, 4 pounds of lime in 6 gallons of water, should be applied to grapes early in the season. The ammoniacal solution is made by dissolving 3 ounces of carbonate of copper in 1 quart of ammonia, 22 degs. strength, and dilute with 25 gallons of water. This is effective for grape rot and apple and pear scab, and leaves no coloring upon the fruit; to be applied once before any foliage appears, then after foliage is out and fruit is formed three to six times, according to the season.

The Vermonet nozzles are the best. They throw a fine spray and use less material, and for high trees only a little longer hose is necessary, says the director of the New York Farmers' Institute, authority for the foregoing, which originally appeared in the Philadelphia Farm Journal.

The Flowering Quince.

The flowering varieties of the Japan quince rank among our choicest shrubs. Although of straggling growth, they bear the knife well, and with proper pruning may be grown in any form. As single shrubs on the lawn they are very attractive, and for the edges of borders or groups of trees they are especially adapted. Their large, brilliant flowers are among the first blossoms in spring, and they appear in great profusion, covering every branch, branchlet and twig before the leaves are developed. Their foliage is bright green and glossy, and retains its color the entire summer, which renders them tolerably ornamental. Special attention is invited to this plant for ornamental hedges by Barry, who says that it is sufficiently thorny to form a defense, and at the same time makes one of the most beautiful flowering hedges.

A New and Remarkable Orchid.

The accompanying illustration shows a plant of Cypripedium chamberlainianum, the new orchid from New Guinea, and named after Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, the illustrious English orchid fancier. New and beautiful cypripediums are constantly being produced, but Mr. Chamberlain's Lady's Slipper is, as the illustration shows, a wonderful departure from the usual type.

PLANT OF THE CHAMBERLAIN ORCHID.

No cypripedium which has hitherto been brought from the east has borne more than two blooms on a stem, says an English authority, whereas this species bears as many as thirty or more flowers on a single unbranched spike. The remarkable habit of the plant, however, is not its only attraction—the flowers, which are so plentifully produced, are in themselves extremely beautiful. The sepals are very hairy on the back, of a pale, yellowish white, distinctly lined with purple, and thickly spotted with purple at the base. The labellum is also white, spotted closely with rose. The petals are spreading and twisted, and uniformly mottled with crimson.

Fancy Caladiums.

Large quantities of caladiums are used for summer and fall decoration. These plants are readily grown in shaded positions out of doors. They ought to be started into growth about May 1.

Fruit Items.

The Katama Blackcap raspberry is a new variety from the state for which it is named.

The Lucretia dewberry is generally considered one of the most promising of this class of berries.

Wilson's white dewberry is from Texas, and it is claimed for it that it is hardy, productive and of good quality.

Mr. Ward, one of New Jersey's progressive fruit growers, on being asked what pears he would plant now for profit based on his experience, named Giffard, Sterling, Bartlett, Seckel, Clairgeau, Sheldon and Kieffer.

Worden's Seckel pear is considered a very promising fruit by excellent authorities.

The Boardman is a new apple, named in honor of the secretary of the Maine Pomological society.

The Lawrence pear is said to be one of the best for preservation for winter along the Atlantic portion of our continent. A very close competitor, however, is the Doyenne d'Angou.

A very sympathetic gentleman, who had the welfare of the ladies at heart, delivered a lecture on "The Duties of Husbands" to a Chattanooga audience. In impressive sentences he urged the gentlemen to treat their wives kindly, and had not completed his advice when an officer appeared upon the stage and arrested him for bigamy.

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