



By the Way

PROPOS of the conundrum quoted in this column February 20, beginning "I am a noun of plural number," a subscriber writes that the answer is "carescaress," and says that the tradition is that more than a hundred years ago the conundrum was propounded to the British Parliament by a member who promised to give his landed estate to the fellow-member who should solve it before the end of the day's session. It was not solved-perhaps because no Member of Parliament was as ingenious as our correspondent, who says that as a boy he solved it in this way: He took a copy of Webster's Unabridged Dictionary and went through it, beginning at A, word by word, till Care was reached and the solution found.

Many other subscribers sent in the correct answer to the above-mentioned conundrum. One of them informs us that the author of the conundrum was actually a Member of Parliament-George Canning, who apparently amused himself by these trifles, as well as by writing humorous poems such as the well-known verses entitled "The Needy Knife-Grinder." We are also indebted to this correspondent for copies of two other conundrums of the same character. We may divulge the answers later:

There is a word in number plural, Whose character, unique and dual, Sets grammar at defiance;-

If it to singular we'd change We add an "s." 'Tis also strange That, by the same appliance, What first was masculine we make The feminine gender now to take.

I'm not a fruit, but this I'll say; A lemon that is juiceless I'm like in one particular,-I'm altogether useless.

Another point: I end in "s."

Remove this final letter, 'Tis singular I'm plural now, And useful, which is better.

From the Denver "Parrakeet:" Teacher-"Do you know what the little mouse does?"

Johnny--"Naw."

"That's right."

"Some years ago I got tired of working," a contributor to the "Rural New Yorker" says, "and made up my mind that as soon as I was able I would stop all work and have a good time. So, when the time came I sold out my farm and started in to enjoy life. I am deaf, however, and I find that idleness is anything but enjoyment for a man with my trouble. 1 have often wished myself back on my hill farm with a mortgage over me, so that I should be obliged to work, and plan, and put my mind on the job, for that is the only thing that I know of to give a man satisfaction after he has worked all his life."

The "Rural's" editor observes wisely: "This man got it right, not only for deaf people but for those who can hear a pin drop. A good healthy job that will interest the mind and keep it busy is the best thing that any one can have."

From the Hartford "Times," as quoted by the "Journal" of the American Medical Association:

Thomas F. Cooney, of Suffield Street, was painfully injured at the Dexter paper mill, Monday, while operating a power saw. A piece of wood thrown towards him by the saw penetrated his right liver.

What are the six most important words in the language? A correspondent of the New York "Herald" says that a college faculty selected these: Loyalty, courage, sportsmanship, self-respect, humor, and truth. He objects to the first two words because "evildoers can be loyal and barbarians can be courageous," and suggests these: Virtue, co-operation, love, justice, liberty, and truth.

From "Life:"

"Why do you say she has the hardest heart of any girl you've ever known?"

"Because it took a diamond to make any impression on it."

A large moving-picture concern announces that it is no longer in the market for scenarios by amateurs. It received and read four thousand of these efforts last year without finding one that repaid the time expended. It now proposes to return all such manuscripts without reading them. This announcement emphasizes the fact that the writing of scenarios is a specialized business requiring professional knowledge as well as a stock of general ideas. No doubt the plays produced are often poor enough, but at least they have the advantage of exhibiting technical skill which the average amateur cannot duplicate in his efforts.

A Correction

Through a mental aberration, to which even editors are occasionally subject, the experiments with embryo chicken tissues which were carried on by Dr. Carrel, were attributed in last week's Outlook to Dr. Loeb. The error was discovered while the issue was on the press, but too late for correction.

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