

The Cuckoo Scheme

By AD SCHUSTER

"I THOUGHT I would come over," said the Mr. Wilkins, "to have a comfortable little chat. There is nothing I enjoy so much as an evening of pleasant converse."

Mr. Parfinkle pulled up his nose. This was the first time the new neighbor had called within a week and upon each occasion the comfortable chat had dragged on to midnight. Confound the man! Was it possible he was using Parfinkle as a cure for insomnia? Mr. Parfinkle mused.

"Have you heard of Johnny Appleseed and have you considered the subject in relation to cuckoos?"

"If beg pardon?" the visitor looked startled.

"I have seen an interesting picture," and Parfinkle started waving his finger up and down as a man beating time. "A picture depicting the entrance of the cuckoo bird. It is astonishing; so much so that it has altered the whole purpose of my life, given me a new ambition, set my foot

"Yes, yes, the cuckoo is a very interesting bird," Wilkins, feeling that Parfinkle was bent on doing the talking and not relishing the prospect, interrupted, but the Parfinkle voice kept waving and the Parfinkle voice boomed louder.

"Don't stop me. This is important! The cuckoo, as you may know, lays its eggs in another bird's nest. You know that, but do you know that the three-day old cuckoo shows its little brother sisters and brothers out of the nest and it may monopolize all of the room and all of the food? Do you know that? I thought not, and do you know what the mother cuckoo does with the time she saves by not having to sit on eggs? Does not that strike you as an important consideration? Do you feel sorry for the displaced birds and give a grudging admiration to the lazy bird that is capable of making another assume its duties? I await the answer as one which reflects your psychological composition."

"Indeed, sir, I . . ."

"Exactly! Well, I have seen a motion picture of the mother cuckoo watching the nest of a little field bird, bidding her time that she may swoop down and deposit an egg in an alien abode. And then what? She took from that nest one of its natural eggs, carried it to a tree and devoured it. Does that suggest anything to you as a philosopher, a humanitarian, or a . . ."

"It suggests," Mr. Wilkins fumbled with his watch, "that the cuckoo suggests clock, and clock suggests time, it better be going."

"Don't think of it. Wait and listen. The great purpose which has come to me is still unexplained. I must have a constant, there must be some one in this world to share my secret and to explain when I am gone the meaning of what may seem to the unthinking a peculiar behavior. I mentioned Appleseed. He went around planting appleseeds which grew into trees along his trail and blessed mankind. Listen! Parfinkle's finger was within an inch of Wilkins' nose.

"The mother field bird comes back and feeds the impudent offspring of the cuckoo. She does not know enough to check him out and does not even realize her own feelings have been crowded from the nest. I propose to even the score—take up the cause of the other birds against the cuckoo."

Mr. Wilkins would have risen, but Parfinkle clamped him on the shoulder and forced him to his seat.

"My scheme is simple. I will trail the mother cuckoo. I will find her eggs. Moreover, I will advertise for cuckoo eggs, will pay handsome fees for all I get and then," Parfinkle whispered now almost savagely into the Wilkins' ear, "then I will place those eggs where the new-born cuckoo, the upstart generation of feathered squatters cannot work their mischief on innocent fledglings. Do you know what I will do? Parfinkle waited—Wilkins, staring wildly, wet his lips.

"I will place those cuckoo eggs, one at a time, in the nests of eggs and of the chicken hawks. Then," and Parfinkle shouted the words, "then let those young cuckoos try to get away with their step-brothers!"

"The front door slammed and Mr. Parfinkle dropped into his chair with a peaceful smile. Something told him he would have no more calls from that stout Mr. Wilkins.

Venerable Tree

The white-oak tree which was cut down in the Daggett's yard recently was 331 years old. It had to be destroyed because it was dying.

W. C. Coker, the botanist, ascertained its age by counting the rings in the trunk. There was 231 of them but the count was made about ten feet above ground, and Mr. Coker estimates that the tree must have been growing ten years before the rings began to form at that height, and so he places the tree's age at 331 years.—Chapel Hill Weekly.

Big Business

Footwalker (to impatient customer, leaving)—Can't you get waited on, madame?

Madame—No, I'm afraid I came at an unfortunate time; your salesladies are in conference.—Boston Transcript.

Men of Genius Noted for Large Appetites

It would appear that the man of genius usually requires a large supply of substantial food. Intellectual work demands full nutrition to repair the waste of brain tissue. Scott was wont to attribute his extraordinary capacity for continuous work to his good digestion and the wholesome remnants of his appetite to his wit.

"I have known an appetite poor as any man," he said, "but I know when to stop."

Mitochondria is said to have been a enormous feeder, eating as much as a normal man would eat in three ordinary meals. Talleyrand was also a noted eater. Goethe and Napoleon ate large quantities of food, but cared little for the quality. Bismarck was noted for his appetite, which was as good as his food was of the simplest.

Many stories are told of the gross delight in food shown by the two Dumas, father and son, one of which is that the younger, being overtaken by a storm, took refuge in a hotel near Paris. Twenty-four turkeys were hanging upon the spit.

"And all for a single traveler," explained the waiter to the cuckoo bird.

"It is my father," exclaimed Alexandre, junior. And he was right.

Ambidexterity Not a Thing of Importance

For the last 30 years systematic attempts have been made to teach children to use both right and left hands indiscriminately. But the results have been amazingly unsatisfactory. The explanation apparently is that the power of the hand is intimately connected with the unfolding of the cerebral centers which regulate language and are located on the left side—that is to say, in relation to the centers which regulate the control of the right hand. The examination of thousands of human skeletons has demonstrated that in all cases in which the right arm is better developed than the left there is evident a corresponding superiority of the right hand. The left-handed persons must have less linguistic ability than the right-handed and that children obliged to use both hands indiscriminately will have diminished power of ready speech and an ability markedly less in learning and retaining language.—Washington Star.

Left Immortal Work

Peter Mark Rogge, who compiled the thesaurus which bears his name, was an English physician and scholar, born in London, 1770, died in 1809. He studied medicine at the University of Edinburgh and moved to Manchester where he became a physician to the insane asylum, the Asylum for the Deaf and Dumb, and the Asylum for the Blind. He settled in London in 1806, and was long secretary of the Royal Society. Among his works are "Animal and Vegetable Physiology" (1834) and "A Thesaurus of English Words and Phrases" (1802), which passed through 123 editions in the course of his lifetime, was edited by his son in 1870 and became a standard work of reference.

Famous Catacombs

The catacombs of Paris are vast excavations extending under the city of Paris, formerly the site of quarries which furnished the building material for the city. In the latter part of the Eighteenth century some portions of the city began to sink, and it was necessary to strengthen the roof of the quarries with masonry. In 1787 the catacombs were arranged to contain the bodies removed from other burying grounds, and it is estimated that upward of six million bodies are now preserved in them. The bones are arranged in varied designs along the sides of the galleries.

Simple Happiness Rule

A famous singer recently told how four other great singers, who were to sing together at a gala occasion, quarreled over the question as to who should go first on the stage. All four were rich and famous, yet they made themselves miserable about such a little thing. The girl who is wretched if she sees another honored before her, will sooner later find out what might be a happy life. "In honor preferring one another" may not be an easy rule to follow, but it will surely bring peace to the mind and heart.—Exchange.

Earliest Newspapers

It is hard to say when newspaper began, for the first papers, or pamphlets, publishing news did not appear with any regularity. They appeared when there was something important to tell. For instance, there was a French pamphlet published in 1502 telling of the surrender of Granada by the Moors to Ferdinand and Isabella. Possibly there was another edition when Columbus discovered America, but no record has been found of that.

What Appealed to Him

An Aberdeen received a letter from his son, who had emigrated to Canada. It read:

"This is a perfect spot. How you would love the view, the majesty, rolling prairie, backed by the glittering white peaks of the Rockies!"

His father replied, "I am very well content with the view at home here. From my front window I can look out on the head office of the North of Scotland bank, and from the side window I can see no fewer than four hotels."

Grain Trade Periled by Railroad Rebates

Serious troubles were encountered by Chicago grain dealers in the early days through the practice of accepting railroad rebates. The railroads of the time were keenly aggressive, and they inaugurated a war of cutthroat competition, giving rebates to favored and regular shippers—a sort of bidding for business. At first the rebates were welcomed by shippers, who were flattered by the thought that they were getting something for nothing. The practice became such an abuse that the whole situation added a trade hazard that was immeasurable.

The rebates ran from 10 to 25 per cent of the published tariff. It was, of course, difficult for the concern that was able to obtain only 10 per cent rebate to compete with the one that got the 25 per cent reduction. Another phase of the rebate system was that the rebate was merely a sort of "gentlemen's agreement" between the trader and some high official of the railroad. Nothing ever was written about the rebate. The "gentlemen's agreement" sometimes became a disagreement and there was then no way to force the railroad to live up to the understanding.—James A. Fatten, in Chicago Daily News.

Slurs "R." Guests Laugh;

Speaker Has Fit; Dies

Fola, Italy.—Slurring of the letter R in speaking, a harmless and sometimes even laudable vocal action, caused the death here of Bento Marcovich, twenty-one. It happened at a family dinner to celebrate the engagement of Carlo Ronchic. After the toast to the fiancée, Marcovich, cousin of the fiancé, arose to give a toast to the prospective bridegroom. When he reached his first R, the guests laughed so loudly and so suddenly that Marcovich fell to the floor in a nervous fit. His head struck a table corner and he died on the way to a hospital.

Americans Balk at Paris High Prices

Paris.—Americans are losing something of their reputation as the star spenders, the "easy marks," in France. Visitors from the country where the French seem to think every one is a millionaire are reported to be looking twice at the price of things—and not always buying.

The highest priced motion picture house on the boulevards complains that Americans distinguish themselves at the box office by looking over the price sign—20 francs or 30 cents—and frequently fading away.

Several newspapers of late, commenting on slack business in certain lines, mention that Americans find prices high. They regret that these tourists will go home to spread word that Paris is expensive, even for them. Few recognize that, as the franc is virtually stabilized at 4 cents, world prices reveal here, and many things made in small, relatively inefficient factories here cost much more than similar products, made by machine and in great quantities, in America.

Champagne at 200 francs, or \$8, a bottle in the Montmartre cabarets is quite a shock to tourists. Large parties of stumblers now find courage to make one bottle enough for their visit to the night-life sing setting. American women, also, rather staggered at \$150 or \$200 for a Paris gown—plus the duty that may have to be paid—often don't buy, or buy fewer costumes and pick up exact copies of Paris models in New York on their way back, at far less cost.

Honor Paid to Mule.

Trustees of Berea college, Berea, Ky., have authorized the erection of a bronze tablet on a spring house near by, in honor of Ebenezer Baker, a Berea graduate, and "Tony," his mule. The memorial celebrates the fiftieth anniversary of the completion of a roadside drinking fountain which has proved a source of pleasure and help to thousands of travelers.—Popular Mechanics Magazine.

Whatever became of 'the' old-fashioned girl who used to spend Saturday mornings breathing into lamp chimneys and cleaning them with an old newspaper?

Venice, California, patterned after its Italian namesake, is to drain her canals, fill them in and pave them. It was inconvenient, walking back from gondola rides.

STATE OF MICHIGAN.

The Probate Court for the County of Oakland County.

At a session of said court held at the Probate Office, in the City of Pontiac, in said County, on the 15th day of July, A. D. 1922.

Present: Hon. Dan A. McGaffey, Judge of Probate.

In the Matter of the estate of DONALD J. BAXFIELD, Deceased.

George C. Gildemeister, Administrator of said estate, having filed in said court a petition, praying for license to sell the interest of said estate in certain real estate therein described.

It is Ordered, That the 15th day of August, A. D. 1922, at eight o'clock in the forenoon, at said Probate Office, be and is hereby appointed for hearing said petition, and that all persons interested in said estate appear before said court, at said time and place, to show cause why a license to sell the interest of said estate in said real estate should not be granted.

It is Further Ordered, That public notice thereof be given by publication of a copy of this order, for three consecutive weeks previous to said day of hearing, in the Farmington Enterprise (a newspaper printed and circulated in said county).

DAN A. MCGAFFEY, Judge of Probate.

A true copy: Clerk of Court.

Deputy Register of Probate.

July 19, 26, Aug. 2

NOTICE OF HEARING OF REVIEW OF ASSESSMENT ROLL OF ASSESSMENT DISTRICT NO. 117, 13-Mile Road.

Interested in said improvement and in the Townships of Farmington and Southfield and to the City of Royal Oak at large, and to the County of Oakland at large, and to the State of Michigan, are hereby notified that the Board of County Road Commissioners of the County of Oakland and State of Michigan, praying for the improvement of a highway traveling the said townships and city and lying within the proposed assessment district, as follows: Commencing at the intersection of the Thirteenth Mile and Woodward Aves. Roads in the Township (new city) of Royal Oak, thence westerly on the Thirteenth Mile Road between Sections 6 and 7 in the City of Royal Oak and Sections 1 and 2, 2 and 3, 3 and 4, 4 and 5, 5 and 6, 6 and 7, 7 and 8, 8 and 9, 9 and 10, 10 and 11, 11 and 12, 12 and 13, 13 and 14, 14 and 15, 15 and 16, 16 and 17, 17 and 18, 18 and 19, 19 and 20, 20 and 21, 21 and 22, 22 and 23, 23 and 24, 24 and 25, 25 and 26, 26 and 27, 27 and 28, 28 and 29, 29 and 30, 30 and 31, 31 and 32, 32 and 33, 33 and 34, 34 and 35, 35 and 36, 36 and 37, 37 and 38, 38 and 39, 39 and 40, 40 and 41, 41 and 42, 42 and 43, 43 and 44, 44 and 45, 45 and 46, 46 and 47, 47 and 48, 48 and 49, 49 and 50, 50 and 51, 51 and 52, 52 and 53, 53 and 54, 54 and 55, 55 and 56, 56 and 57, 57 and 58, 58 and 59, 59 and 60, 60 and 61, 61 and 62, 62 and 63, 63 and 64, 64 and 65, 65 and 66, 66 and 67, 67 and 68, 68 and 69, 69 and 70, 70 and 71, 71 and 72, 72 and 73, 73 and 74, 74 and 75, 75 and 76, 76 and 77, 77 and 78, 78 and 79, 79 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