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MORTALITY OF SLANG

WORDS AND PHRASES THAT RUN WILD AND ARE SHORT LIVED.

The Use of Slang as a Habit Compared to Swearing and the Intemperate Use of Intoxicants—The Harm That Results From the Nonsensical Custom.

The Italian method of prefixing a word to give it a damaging significance can be employed with good effect in christening that wayward and degenerate offspring of English known as slang. In its present state slangness has attained to such a luxurious completeness that it warrants serious treatment. So copious and comprehensive has it become that there is hardly a human want, feeling or emotion of the heart that cannot be translated into the vernacular of the bootblack. In studying the philosophy of slang the first natural query is, How and why did it originate? To the first question one might give, with certain modifications, the same answer that would be given to the question, Why do people swear? The human animal, like a locomotive, seems to require escape valves for occasions when there is too much steam in the boiler. When a man is overflowing with admiration, anger or wonder, the ordinary adjectives do not (or he thinks they do not) meet the emergency. They do not relieve his pent up fullness any more than a sip from a dewdrop would quench a man's thirst. The natural man and the natural woman sometimes find relief under strong emotion in explosive utterances. In the case of anger the escape valve explosive is an oath unless the man in question happens to be a gentleman and sometimes, though very rarely, when he is.

It will thus be seen that slang, being of emotional ancestry, is a first cousin to the oath, and both are used by those who mentally resemble the man whose use of intoxicating drinks has made him forget or underestimate the attractions of pure water. Slang, in sooth, is a whisky distillation of language. It is so strong that it may be taken only very rarely with impunity, and herein lies the chief danger in its use. Not only does the slanguist find ordinary English tame, but he ends in not being able to find any English at all.

Another fatal characteristic of slang is the very one which at first secures its adoption—namely, its pungency. The same law that makes quiet colors and shades wear well in the world of fabrics has its counterpart in the world of speech. We tire very speedily of a startling costume, in high colors, and just as speedily do we tire of slang, which is startling, high colored speech.

Still another reason why slang can never gain a permanent foothold in the language is its utter lack of dignity. No subject can be seriously treated in language. Its sole function is to tickle by its patness or its grotesqueness. It reflects a fugitive iridescence upon current wit and humor, as like the bubble catches prismatic colors, but, like the bubble, it vanishes even while you behold it. Naturally there are slang phrases of all degrees of goodness and badness, ranging from the word which is only a slight remove from a forcible but perfectly decorous adjective to slang of the most daring, deep dyed order. At one end of the scale, for instance, one might place "fetching" and at the other end its superlative "rum." Again, the injunction "play ball" is gentle and seemingly, in comparison with the brusque command "get a move on." Along certain lines the slanguist seems to revel in extravagant synonyms and antonyms, especially in those expressing some infirmity in the upper story. The man who has "wheels" is also popularly known as "nutty," "cracked" or "off his trolley." Again, if he comes from the country, he is "corn raised," has "seed in his hair," or his "face doesn't fit him." "Gall," "nerve," "cheek," "sand," "brass" and "face" are also nearly synonymous terms for qualities whose universality has made them a target for popular satire. Equally prolific is the slanguist in coinage terms for money. "Dust," "tin," "sand," "rocks," "chink" and "spundicks" are only a few of the words that translate "filthy lucre."

Two of the slang phrases now in gallingly frequent use are, "That's right," and "That won't cut much ice." The latter, it must be confessed, has certain cool figurative qualities which give it a saving color of grace. But most of these phrases rely chiefly

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In all these we will lead at the lowest prices. Tremendous stock and need of money are the causes that will make our store for the balance of this year a veritable wilderness of bargains.

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Men's four-in-hand Ties, 3 for 25c.
Men's heavy Ulsters, \$3.95
Men's heavy Ulsters, fibre lined, 4.50
Men's beaver Overcoats, heavy, 4.50
Men's extra weight all wool Suits, special value, 5.50
Boys' Overcoats, good and heavy, 2.50

Men's fine imported Underwear, the best at the least money on P. E. Island.
Men's Fur Coats, \$13 50, 15, 18, 22, 25, 35 and 45.
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Boys' Knicker Pants, .45
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upon their condensed expressiveness, which is the trademark of their American manufacture. They are but one of the many devices of the masses to compass a succinct and avoid circumlocutions. Thus "snap" and "cinch" are time economy for a moneyed sinecure and an assured competence.

One of the surest tests of the rapid mortality of slang is the extremely painful sensation produced by hearing antiquated slang phrases used—and there are always people who are two or three or ten years behind in their use of such phrases. When other people are saying "Not on your tintype," the user of mildewed slang feebly ejaculates "I should smile." The piquancy and patness of certain phrases make it hard to declare that slang has no legitimate use. But concerning its misuse, there can hardly be two opinions among people whose opinions are worth anything. A careful study of the qualities of men and women who habitually interlard their remarks with slang will furnish anybody with a world of convincing conclusions in favor of pure English.—Critic.

How much business can a man do whose system is in a state of disorder? Headache is only a symptom. It is not a disease. The pain in the head is the sign of rebellion. There have been mistakes in diet and other abuses.

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ALMOST SECOND NATURE.

Cyclists Unconsciously Follow the Rules of the Road When Walking.

You can tell a bicycle rider by his walk. Not because of a peculiarity of gait, but for the reason that he unconsciously follows the rules of the road that he has learned while riding a bicycle.

On the sidewalks of the crowded streets of New York and Brooklyn a gentleman whose acquaintance among bicycle riders is quite extensive has, as a matter of curiosity, watched his cycling friends walking to and from business. Almost without exception they pass to the right when meeting other pedestrians and to the left when passing them from behind. When turning a corner, the pedestrian who has learned to cycle hugs the wall closely if going to the right and is almost sure to make a long turn if bound to the left.

If all pedestrians would observe the rules of the road on the sidewalks as well as the experienced cyclists observe them on the highways, there would be fewer toes trampled upon and fewer persons nudged in the ribs by protruding and sharp elbows.

There is nothing more annoying to the participants and nothing more laughable to the spectator than to see two persons dancing up and down and taking a series of side steps because both started to pass each other in the wrong direction.

The bicycle is unconsciously teaching people how best to keep out of each other's way. Any one who does not think the result is sure to be beneficial ought to attempt to stem a crowd coming from a theater or crossing the bridge at rush hours. There will be no polish left on the rash individual's shoes, there will be mud stains on his garments, and a feeling of deep, bitter resentment against all mankind in his bosom.—New York Journal.

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Jas D. Laphorne & Co., Makers
Makers of the Famous Royal Oak Soap.

Winter Coats.

In coat shapes for the winter both semiloose and fitted shapes are favored. The collars are still the familiar high standing bands finished with braided or braid edged tabs, crenelated strips of velvet, fur bordered points and other fancy shapes formed and decorated to conform to the rest of the garment. Most of the sleeves are very small coat shapes, or else very much reduced mutton leg styles, finished either with a flare at the wrists or turned back with a deep machine stitched cuff. The greatest novelty in wraps, aside from the widely popular Russian model, is the garment closely fitted back and front, the jacket slightly pointed, and reaching only a trifle below the waist line on the sides.

Over the very close coat sleeves fall loose open circular bell sleeves, which are silk lined and decorated in various ways to match the jacket trimmings. These little garments are designed to accompany a calling or church costume or for other occasions for which a small wrap is requisite. A few of these wraps fasten on the left side and are trimmed across the front with two rows of rather large buttons, giving the jacket a double breasted effect. These wraps are made of various materials, including velvet, brocade, pepped silk in heavy cordings or fine cloth, with a handsome trimming of braiding or passementerie in conjunction with fur.—New York Post.

Aluminium Wire.

Aluminium wire is made of various sizes and used for a variety of purposes. Among its newer uses is the manufacture of door and window screens. When exposed to the weather, such screens do not rust. Aluminium wire is used in the manufacture of hairpins. In a few cases in this city aluminium wire has been sold to be put up on roofs for use as clotheslines. The wire sold for this purpose was No. 6 gauge, which costs 60 cents a pound, and 1,000 feet of which weighs 24 pounds.

Aluminium pigs sell now at about 42 cents a pound, which is about half the price of a year ago. The sale of manufactured articles of aluminium is all the time increasing and things in great variety are made from it.—New York Sun.

DO YOU WANT CONSUMPTION?

Are you really looking for it? Inviting it? Then pay no attention to your hacking cough, and your weak throat. You can prevent it, though. Take Scott's Emulsion early, when the cough first begins.

BEES IN BATTLE.

The Contest as Viewed by a Spectator at a Safe Distance.

The movements of the combatants are so rapid in battle that it is difficult to follow them through all of their evolutions, but the plan of battle seems to be very simple, says The Chautauquan. Two bees from the hive are sent to kill one intruder, and the latter always tries to force an entrance, even at the risk of its life. Once inside, it makes room for others of its companions to enter and then, gathering up its abdomen in as small a space as possible, it assumes the defensive. Two of the hive bees pounce upon it and collaring it fiercely they seek to find a vulnerable point between the rings of its body to sting it to death. The attacking bee just as determinedly struggles to cover every unprotected spot. If sufficient time can be gained and the attacking swarm is large enough to force an entrance the badly mauled bees that have not been stung to death will suddenly assume the offensive and pursue the tactics of their enemies. The contortions and evolutions of the various fighters are interesting to the observer.

Should the battle go against the attacking body, the balance of the swarm flies away to seek safety, and the dead carcasses of their companions are thrown contemptuously out of the hive.

But in the event of an opposite termination of the struggle the poor inhabitants are slaughtered. When their fate has been practically decided, many of them turn traitors to their cause, and in order to save their own lives they join the forces of the attacking party and display great vigor in killing their former companions. But there is honest patriotism even among bees. In every hive there are some who fight to the last and prolong the struggle for hours.

What More Could I Do?

Oh, I vowed to her I'd love her
With devotion deep and true!
On my knees I fell before her—
What more could a fellow do?

And I begged, beseeched, implored her
In the sweetest words I knew
Just to promise she would wed me—
What more could a fellow do—

But the silly girl refused me,
Broke my heart, so fond and true,
So—well, now I love another—
What more could a fellow do?

—San Francisco Examiner.



UNIMPEACHABLE TESTIMONY.

When persons of reputation and prominence say a thing, they may be considered sincere. Prominent persons and eminent physicians of both Europe and Canada speak in glowing terms of

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Madame Marie Roze, London, England, says: "I have used your Abbey's Effervescent Salt with remarkable results. It is really wonderful."

Will Heriz, Secy to Madame Patti Nicolini, writes: "Madame Patti Nicolini (Adelina Patti) begs me to convey her best thanks for the great benefit she has derived from the use of Abbey's Effervescent Salt."

Dr. W. H. Wright, L.R.C.P.I., L.M., M.R.C.S.E., L.S.A.I., Medical Officer of Health, London, Eng., writes: "I take it every morning before my cold bath, and it keeps me in the best of health and spirits. I know of no better remedy than your Abbey's Effervescent Salt."

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