

**MAN.**

**MARVELS OF THE HUMAN BODY.**

While the gastric juice has a mild bland, sweetish taste, it possesses the power of dissolving the hardest food that can be swallowed. It has no influence whatever on the soft and delicate fibers of the living stomach, nor upon the living hand, but at the moment of death it begins to eat them away with the power of the strongest acids.

There is dust on sea, on land, in the valley, and on the mountain-top; there is dust always, and everywhere; the atmosphere is full of it; it penetrates the noisome dungeon, and visits the deepest, darkest caves of the earth; no palace door can shut it out, no drawer is so secret as to escape its presence; every breath of wind dashes it upon the open eye, yet that eye is not blinded, because under the eyelid there is incessantly emptying itself a fountain of the blandest fluid in nature, which spread itself over the surface of the eye at every winking, and washes every atom of dust away. But this liquid, so mild and so well adapted to the eye itself, has some acidity, which, under certain circumstances, becomes so decided as to be scalding to the skin, and would rot away the eyelids were it not that along the edges of them are little oil manufactories, which spread over their surface a coating as impervious to the liquids necessary for keeping the eyeball washed clean as the best varnish is impervious to water.

The breath which leaves the lungs has been so perfectly divested of its life-giving properties, that to breathe it, unmixed with other air, the moment it escapes from the mouth, would cause immediate death by suffocation, while if it hovered a bout us a more or less destructive influence over health and life would be occasioned. But it is made of a nature so much lighter than the common air that the instant that it escapes the lips and nostrils it ascends to the higher regions above the breathing-point, there to be rectified, renovated and sent back again, replete with purity and life. How rapidly it ascends is beautifully exhibited every frosty morning.

But, foul and deadly as the expired air is, nature, wisely economical in all her works and ways, turns it to good account in its outward passage through the organs of the voice, making of it the whispers of love, the soft words of affection, the tender tones of human sympathy, the sweetest strains of ravishing music, the persuasive eloquence of the finished orator.

If a well-made man be extended on the ground, his arms at right angles with the body, a circle, making the navel its center, will just take in the head, the finger-ends and the feet. The distance from top to toe is precisely the same as that between the tips of the fingers when the arms are extended. The length of the body is just six times that of the foot, while the distance from the edge of the hair on the forehead to the end of your chin is one-tenth the length of the whole stature.

Of the sixty-two primary elements known in nature, only eighteen are found in the human body, and of these seven are metallic. Iron is found in the blood, phosphorus in the brain, limestone in the bile, lime in the bones, and dust and ashes in all! Not only these eighteen human elements, but the whole sixty-two of which the universe is made, have their essential basis in the four substances of oxygen, hydrogen, nitrogen and carbon, representing the more familiar names of fire, water, saltpetre and charcoal. And such is man, the lord of earth!—a spark of fire, a drop of water, a grain of gunpowder, an atom of charcoal.

**An American Dish.**

An amusing story is told, of which it is averred that no less a personage than the late George Peabody, the celebrated American banker, was the hero. It appears that Mr. Peabody had invited three Englishmen to meet two Americans at dinner, and on this occasion, having received as a present ten ears of green corn, determined to renew the recollections of his youth, astonish his English, and please his American guests by having it served up in the well known American style. Accordingly, at the proper time, plates of butter and salt were placed before each guest, and the banker, with something of an air of mystery, announced that he was now about to treat his guests to a well known and delicious American dish of food, cooked in the American manner. It would be no novelty to his American guests, but the Englishmen must watch how it was disposed of by them, and follow their example and their manner of disposing of it. Then, at a signal, entered a stately butler bearing a large covered dish, which he deposited solemnly before Mr. Peabody. In a moment more in obedience to the banker's nod he whisked off the cover, and there before the astonished guests, was displayed a

pile of ten boiled corn-cobs! The banker gazed for an instant in mute horror and dismay, and then found voice to demand an explanation, which was finally reached when the cook was summoned—a fellow who had never before seen an ear of Indian corn in his life. He replied that he had followed his master's directions to "strip off all the outside," which he had done most faithfully, not only the husks which was intended, but kernels also, so the banker had only what is, in America, the plate evidence of the feast, to indicate what were his good intentions to his guests.

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