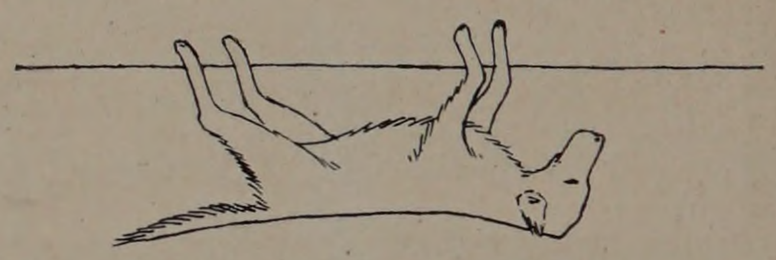
"Brownie."

JUST AN ORDINARY SLAM

Zanzig:—"Professor, do you want us to study our power plants by the common sense method, or by cramming."

Prof. Radtke:—"I certainly approve of the common sense method, provided you can use it."



A DEAD (S)CENTER

BEATY'S FORMULA

By which any two numbers may be proved equal.
Can you discover the mistake?

Let a and b be the two numbers.

Now, $a^2-a^2-ab=b^2-b^2-ab$, for all values of a and b

—That is, $a^2-a(a+b)^2=b^2-b(a+b)$

Adding $(\frac{a+b}{2})^2$, $a^2-a(a+b)+(\frac{a+b}{2})^2=b^2-b\,(a+b)+(\frac{a\div b}{2})^2$

That is, $[a-(\frac{a+b}{2})\,]^2=(b-\frac{(a+b)}{2})^2$

Extracting the square root,

$$a-(\frac{a+b}{2})=b-(\frac{a+b}{2})$$

Whence, $a=b$