

Science and the Calendar

The average man has an idea that the first of January and the first of the year came together by some natural arrangement, and that the year begins on January 1 because it could not well begin on any other date. Yet as a matter of fact beginning the year on that date is entirely an arbitrary matter and as late as the year 1745 people in Italy began their year on the Festival of the Incarnation, which was placed on March 25.

History shows that for centuries European nations had many legal and official dates on which the year began. The first country to select January 1 was France, and this date was proclaimed as New Year's day first by the young King Charles IX, and only by slow degrees was it accepted by other modern nations.

Down until a hundred years after the discovery of America nations continued to use the old New Year date of our Roman empire, which Julius Caesar put on the first of March. Some nations for centuries began the year at Easter, and all of Europe began it at Christmas during the period of the early Crusades.

Years that began with a movable feast like Easter were the hardest for science to handle, as they did not end and begin on the same dates any two successive years. For example, the year 1347 began on the first of April, and ran over until the twentieth day of the following April, producing nearly 13 months and nearly two full months of April in that single year. There were 20 days duplicate dates, such as two April 1, 1347; two April 2, 1347, and so down to April 19, when Easter came and the year 1348 began on April 20.

Of course, such a method of beginning the year could not have existed where intelligence was of a fair order. The Romans never permitted so ridiculous a duplication in their annuals, although they did begin their year on March 1. But then, as a matter of fact, March 1 has many reasons in its favor, especially in a climate like that of Italy and Rome. It really began a new season and a season when nature started once more to grow and flourish and new crops could be obtained from the earth.

However, the fact which creates the year is the fact that the earth goes around the sun in a long, narrow ellipse in 365 days and a tiny fraction. It is evident that it is a matter of

choice or convenience what date is chosen. The ellipse the earth makes around the sun can be cut arbitrarily at any point by mathematicians, and at this point a new year may be begun for the purpose of dating and thereby identifying each day.

As a matter of his historical record the date of January 1 was finally taken because the French had for many years begun the year on Christmas day, taking the greatest of Christian festivals as the beginning of the year. Beginning a year in the middle of the month was seen by the gradually improving civilization as ridiculously inconvenient, and the smallest change possible was made—a change of seven days to January 1.

The matter of where to cut the solar year and so place New Year's day is entirely distinct from the matter of the old and new style of calendars—the Gregorian and the Julian calendars. This latter has reference to the correction of errors in the actual number of years themselves arising from the irregularity of leap-year days that must occur in various centuries past and future.

Never hesitate about giving Chamberlain's Cough Remedy to children. It contains no opium or other narcotics and can be given with implicit confidence. As a quick cure for coughs and colds to which children are susceptible, it is unsurpassed. Sold by all dealers.

The girls of Barnard college, the woman's school of Columbia, do everything that the men do. Recently they had a swimming contest, and that department of athletics is now receiving more attention than ever before.

John D. Rockefeller would go broke if he should spend his entire fortune trying to prepare a better medicine than Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy for diarrhoea, dysentery or bowel complaint. It is simply impossible, and so says every one that has used it. Sold by all dealers.

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BON VOYAGE REMEMBRANCES

"Why not," demanded one woman who makes frequent trips "across," instead of loading my stateroom with expensive flowers that have to be pitched into the sea within a few hours, send something substantial with which, when I am lying supine and suffering in my berth, I may placate an over-coked stewardess and win extra favors?"

The strong odor of flowers, and especially of several different kinds of flowers, soon becomes unbearable to the traveler who has the least tendency toward seasickness, and the period of remembrance and comfort which the costly roses, orchids, and violets are hopefully sent to produce, is necessarily very brief. On the other hand, the conventional bon voyage gift of fruit or any other edible remembrance should be selected also with hesitation. There is always some one thing the unhappy victim of seasickness can eat, but it is not at all likely to be the liberal offer of hot-house fruit which offends sight and olfactory sense before it is even tasted.

On the advertising pages of a weekly magazine read by the smart set in New York is presented what the advertiser evidently considers a chef d'oeuvre in the way of bon voyage remembrances—a tin hamper filled with a certain make of cakes. The tin box is provided with a padlock and key and the whole outfit, including the "delicious and appetizing cakes," is offered from \$5 to \$15. What must be the sensations of the pale green traveler who, amid the miseries of the first morning out, unlocks that tin casket and is confronted with \$15 worth of—cake! Then and then only would one realize fully the cake-maker's idea about the padlock and key, which would be immediately carried out in hastily double locking the fearful casket and pitching the key out of the stateroom window.

One used to be assured, upon embarking for a sojourn upon the deep, that a lemon was a sure cure for seasickness. The once fashionable lemon has now given place to preserved ginger, which really may offer be consumed when all else fails—or rather returns. One of the pretty little blue and gray ginger jars filled with the dainty makes a pretty gift for the traveler and will help to brighten up the stateroom without offending the sick nerves as a more obvious edible might do.

Comforts for the stateroom really make the most acceptable gifts, and such articles should be of an inexpensive character so that they may be thrown away, if the recipient desires, at the end of the voyage without any conscience-smitten pangs. One woman, just returned from a trip to the other side, declares that of all her bon voyage remembrances she treasured most a small pine pillow with a red sateen cover. The bright cover made it easy always to find the little pillow, and the



A BASKET OF FRUIT TEMPTINGLY ARRANGED.

strong, fragrant, whiffs of the pine woods which thus came to her in her deck chair saved her from yielding to seasickness many times.

The steamer bag is a well-known bon voyage gift which always brings comfort to the traveler. These bags are made of silk or cretonne and are designed to hang upon the wall of the stateroom and hold, in various pockets, etc., all the toilet articles that would be apt to slide around on a dressing table, because of the motion of the ship. The bag should be generous in size and at the bottom large pockets should be provided for slippers and deck shoes, handkerchiefs, gloves and veil; so that these articles may be clutched up hastily—without the necessity of fumbling in a bag under the berth—when a hurried trip into the open air is advisable.

Steamer rugs make handsome bon voyage gifts, but such a remembrance should be presented to the traveler sometime before the day of departure, else the rug will have been provided and one's gift will be superfluous. Soft, rich and rather dark colors should be the choice when buying a steamer rug for though the bright colored and plaided rugs are attractive on ship-board, the owner of such a rug may like to use it when the voyage is over, on a couch at home, and then the soft and subdued coloring will be much more desirable.

Books and magazines always make charming bon voyage gifts, and the friends who send a dozen new magazines and weeklies to the stateroom stands a better chance of being kindly remembered than he who makes his remembrance candy or flowers. Books sent as steamer gifts should be of the light and entertaining sort which may be enjoyed in lazy hours and then

passed on or cast aside when the grip is packed for "going ashore."

For the woman who delights in juggling down things one of the many "Records of Our Voyage," or other brief diary volumes of the sort may be had in all sorts of charming forms; some daintily bound in leather and with spaces provided for the insertion of picture postcards illustrating the progress of the trip. Postcard albums are always acceptable, though many travelers prefer to mount the cards bought during the journey after the return home.

When, however, one is sure enough of one's departing friend to risk the offering of something to eat, no gift is more acceptable than fruit. Two such baskets are illustrated and show the attractive way in which such baskets are now put up. Fruit that is not too sweet should be selected, and the slightly tart, while deliciously flavored mandarin orange is particularly liked by most travelers. Grapes are also acceptable and choice hot-house pears and peaches are treats that are appreciated.

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To Care for the Piano

In many households there is not a piece of furniture that is more sorely neglected than the piano, and every one who has studied the construction of the piano knows that its mechanism is more delicate, intricate and sensitive than any other musical instrument. It is no wonder that it requires a great deal of care when this is taken into consideration, and suffers severely from neglect. Some people are of the opinion that they are treating their piano well when they have it tuned once or twice each year, but it should be tuned no less than four times annually to prevent loss of pitch, and should be kept at a concert pitch all the time. To raise or lower it half a tone means to spell it immediately.

It is almost as important to place the piano well as to have it ruined. It should not be put too near the wall as this absorbs the tone, and it should be placed near the inner walls rather than the outer, to prevent dampness or cold from affecting it. Dampness is a staunch enemy of pianos; it rusts the wires, rots the felt, splits the hammers, and makes the keys stick. A changing temperature is almost as dangerous, and too great heat, such as caused by the proximity of a radiator or a fireplace, has also its bad effects. Heavy carpets muffle the sound; and this is one of the reasons why music rooms should always have hardwood floors and why pianos

should always be placed on little glass insulators when possible. A piano should be kept free from bric-a-brac, pictures and lamps, because they all tend to make the tone metallic. So often when a note is tiny or tremulous, it is because it is in sympathetic vibration with some object on or near the instrument. When the pedals squeak they should be greased and not oiled, or a little talcum powder may be puffed into the hinges. Broken hammers, if not badly damaged, can be repaired with hot glue and bound with cord. Broken ivories can be mended with a little household cement. Yellow ivories can be cleaned with alcohol.

Lion Fondles a Child.

In Pittsburg a savage lion fondled the hand that a child thrust into his cage. Danger to a child is sometimes great when least regarded. Often it comes through colds, croup and whooping cough. They slay thousands that Dr. King's New Discovery could have saved. "A few doses cured our baby of a very bad case of croup," writes Mrs. George R. Davis, of Flat Rock, N. C. "We always give it to him when he takes cold. It's a wonderful medicine for babies." Best for coughs, colds, a gripe, asthma, hemorrhages, weak lungs. 50c, \$1.00. Trial bottle free. Guaranteed by Missoula Drug Co.

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FROM BUTTE AND ANACONDA TO	
San Francisco and return, via Ogden	\$15.90
Los Angeles and return, via Ogden	\$17.40
Tickets on sale July 2 to 8, July 25 to 28, Aug. 20 to Sept. 7, Sept. 24 to 30. Final return limit three months, but not later than Oct. 31.	
San Francisco and return, going via Ogden, returning via Portland, or vice versa	\$55.50
Los Angeles and return, going via Ogden, returning via Portland, or vice versa	\$66.25
Tickets on sale June 1 to 5, July 2 to 16, July 25 to 28, Aug. 30 to Sept. 7, Sept. 24 to 30. Final return limit three months, but not later than Oct. 31.	
San Francisco and return, via Ogden	\$59.15
Los Angeles and return, via Ogden	\$61.15
San Francisco and return, going via Ogden, returning via Portland, or vice versa	\$67.65
Los Angeles and return, going via Ogden, returning via Portland, or vice versa	\$77.65
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All tickets good to stop over at any point going and returning. Rates via Portland apply either steamer or rail between Portland and San Francisco.

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