

# THE FUN OF IT ALL

## BY GEO. FITCH



### BASEBALL.

Clam-like the batter waddles to the plate. Red gleams his neck, defiant in the sun. The score against the team is three to one. It is the ninth—two men have met their fate. Three men on bases like ripe peaches wait. O'er anxious to be plucked; while from the rear Twelve thousand panting fans ejaculate. A madhouse mutter, born of hope and fear. Racked with suspense they watch the pitcher sneer. As, coiled in knots, he salivates the ball: And pray, the while they live an anguished year. That one huge swat miles o'er the fence may fall. Thus we divert ourselves, yet think it queer That heart disease hangs o'er us like a pall.

### FROM T. R.'S DIARY.

**C**ONGO-BUNGO country, May 1st.—Marched all day yesterday in the jungle. Very hot. Twice today I extinguished my cork helmet which burst into flames on the slightest provocation. Lost a carrier today. He was run through by a mosquito. Took 19 grains quinine this evening.

May 2d.—Breakfasted on quinine this morning. At 11 o'clock several pronounced earthquake shocks seemed to traverse the country. Tstzjargngi Nzwamba, my guide, explained however, that it was only a herd of elephants having their morning chill across the Zumbumbum river in the Uganda country. Took 21 grains of quinine tonight.

May 3d.—Hooray! Shot my first big game this morning. About 9 o'clock I espied a huge mosquito feasting on a water buffalo in the jungle. Taking only Kermit and Tstzjargngi Nzwamba I crept silently forward, loaded my limited express 44, took careful aim and fired. After returning from where the rifle had kicked me I was delighted to find the mosquito in the throes of death. Kermit got in several good photographs before he expired. He measured 7 feet from tip to tip. Capacity 11 gallons. Took 32 grains quinine today.

May 4th.—Sad accident this morning. While my carriers were proceeding in single file one of them accidentally spiked a python while climbing over him. The business end of the snake immediately returned from where he was going to object. The offending carrier had by this time passed on, but the snake seized an entirely innocent carrier who was crossing him at the time and swallowed him, pack and all. We are in pursuit of the snake and have partially caught up with him—I mean caught up with the rear part of him—but I fear it will be too late. Had quinine pudding for desert this noon. (To be continued.)

### PENSIVE PONDERINGS.

Far too many people insist on spelling success as follows: "Succes\$\$.

Some women get rid of their husbands' money as if they were jealous of the females on the dollars.

Now that a prominent actress has announced her future husband before getting rid of her present incum-

brance, can we look for the introduction of the waiting list in the near future?

Viewed from latter-day business standpoints a mossback is a man who doesn't borrow any money.

We are authorized to deny the rumor that several large women's patriotic organizations are going to disband in the interests of universal peace.

### ESSAYS ON BASEBALL.

#### III.—The Catcher.

**A** BASEBALL catcher is a cross between a bomb-proof and an octopus. His duty is to stand up for nine innings each day and be shot at by a six-foot pitcher with shoulders like a coal digger, and a baseball for a bullet. He must catch this baseball instead of allowing it to perforate him and return it to the human seige gun. His job is like that of the octopus because he is not supposed to let anything get past him.

Being a catcher is pleasanter than trying to capture Port Arthur, but not much. The catcher is supplied with a half bushel of mitten for one hand with which to stop the ball. It is a favorite trick of the pitcher, however, to heave the ball on the off side of the catcher and make him stop it with his bare hand. In this manner a catcher soon acquires a bunch of fingers which look as if they had been braided up and frozen that way. No man who has been a baseball player can ever hope to be a good piano player unless he learns to play with his feet.

The catcher is the armored cruiser of the baseball diamond. He wears a mask to prevent him from trying to catch foul tips with his teeth and a chest protector stuffed with wind to keep stray balls from burrowing into his thorax and spraining his veriform appendix. Thus armored he is required to crouch behind the batter, brush the bat out of his eyes, watch the bases, dig wild balls out of the atmosphere, keep the opposing players from sliding home by letting them slide into his ankles with their spiked feet and quarrel with the umpire besides running half a block over small boys after a foul ball every inning. Some men do this for pleasure. But then, others dive off the Brooklyn bridge for pleasure too.

There have been some very great baseball catchers but none of them have been elected president and most of them have died young. Unless a catcher carefully removes all the baseballs that have been shot into his system, he is likely to become a hopeless invalid at a very early age and to be compelled to retire from baseball altogether or even play on the Washington team.

### HINTS FOR HANDY PEOPLE.

A fine repousse receiving tray can be made by removing the copper bottom from a tea table and assaulting it with a golf club for half an hour.

A clever aeroplane can easily be made by attaching an old awning to a sewing machine and gearing the latter to an electric fan for a propeller. It will not fly and can be operated by a mere child with perfect safety.

A novel shoe dryer can be made by fitting a number of tubes into a hot air pipe and hanging the shoes over the tubes. In case there is no hot air handy use a few copies of the recent tariff speeches in congress.

The cutting of kindling for winter

use can be made into a recreation by first making amateur furniture out of the boards. When this furniture is completed, making kindling out of it will be found a positive pleasure.

By saving your ashes and mixing them with cement you can make a cheap and handy concrete walk to the hen house. Mow the lawn before laying the walk over it and apply the mixture evenly with a pie knife. Smooth down with sand paper. If you have no ashes try coffee grounds.

### HOW TO KEEP A HIRED GIRL.

**A**S summer is approaching when the need of a hired girl will be badly felt in many American families, a few directions on the capture and retention of this rare treasure may be appreciated.

Select the neighborhood in which the girl is to live with great care. Hired girls are fond of a lively neighborhood. You will have better success if you move into the vicinity of the skating rink.

Choose a light airy room, well furnished for the girl's room. By putting the piano in it you can keep her from frequenting the parlor except when entertaining callers.

Now look over your family carefully and weed it down to the lowest limit. Two is the ideal number for a family which keeps a girl. By keeping the children in the attic and feed-

ing them after night you may be able to avoid trouble but it is dangerous. Better get rid of them.

Hire a strong, man-of-all-work to scrub porches, wash windows, sweep floors, tend furnace and run errands. If he has a wife so much the better. She can do the washing.

Having now prepared the home you may feel prepared to advertise. Remain at home for several days after the advertisement appears and receive your callers. Remember that patience and a little humility will often work wonders. Answer all questions put to you with quiet dignity. Do not resent any feeling of superiority. Remember you are as good as the questioner.

The matter of terms are simple. You should pay what is demanded. Hours are also simple. You should hold out firmly for Sunday morning off. Hold out also for the privilege of receiving callers providing they do not stay to dinner and insist on the use of the back porch. If the questioner objects to the color of the house, offer to repaint it. If she does not like the wall paper she should be given her choice. Be firm for your rights concerning the piano, however. It is all foolishness to get a new piano every time you change girls.

Magazines and books should, of course, be left to the newcomer's taste. With a little diplomacy and tact, you may avoid many concessions and yet obtain a good position as employer. Just plan your campaign carefully before hand. This is the main point.

## Washing and Wringing Clothes

2c WEEK

by Electricity

2c WEEK

Think, Madam—the time it takes to wash with tubs and washboards. Think, too, of the drudgery—the back-breaking work over the tubs—the muss and worry.

And then think of the wear and tear on your clothes—literally rubbing them to pieces on a rough metal board. That's why clothes wear out.

What a crude way to wash clothes— Isn't it? What a waste of time, strength and money—a waste because it's really so needless.

Needless, because the Thor Electric will do a big family washing, for two cents.

Will wash and wring and keep the suds boiling hot—all for two cents!

And it just can't wear or tear the clothes—because there is no rubbing nor straining.

The clothes are just flopped about in the cylinder, while hundreds of streams of hot suds are forced through every thread of each piece.

And while it washes, you can rest or read—for the Thor needs no attention—it runs itself.

You simply put in the clothes, soap and water; light the burner beneath the washer.

Press a button and the Thor begins the washing.

Return in a few minutes—press the button—the Thor stops, and your washing is done.

And it's done better than any crude hand-rubbing, back-breaking tub method—and your clothes last twice as long.

Now press another button—the 3 roll self-working wringer starts.

All you need do is feed it clothes—wash-day becomes rest-day.

We also furnish a simple rod, instantly connecting the Thor motive power to any ironing machine, freezer, meat chopper, emery or buffing wheel, churn, etc. Saves time—labor—expense.

We also manufacture the Thor Ball-bearing Hand Washer and furnish the Thor Power with gasoline engine.



The Thor is a Complete Home Power Laundry

### 30 Days' Free Trial.

We ask no money in advance—no deposit or security from any responsible person. We will ship you any style Thor you wish to try. It will reach you all ready to start washing the minute you get it. Nothing for you to do but put in the water and clothes—and press a button.

### Put it to Every Test.

Wash and wring—operate all the utensils you wish. Prove to your own satisfaction that it will save its cost three times over in the first year. And every year for a lifetime.

If you are not fully satisfied, return it at our expense. You risk nothing. If there is any risk we take it. If you are satisfied you can pay us in easy payments if you prefer. Send Coupon or a post card for our free booklets.

**Hurley Machine Co.**

164 S. Jefferson Street, Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A.

Name.....

Street.....

City and State.....

Call out and send this coupon to.....  
HURLEY MACHINE CO., 164 S. JEFFERSON ST., CHICAGO  
Please send booklet about the Thor Electric Washer & Wringer